

“ Downtown Dance is such a gift!! My husband and I are so grateful that our daughter can have this amazing experience! Her passion for dance is inspiring! ”

- Downtown Dance parent



HANOVER THEATRE  
& CONSERVATORY

**Downtown Dance**

Worcester children are given the opportunity to join our conservatory’s dance program at no cost. In its inaugural year (FY24), the program provided full scholarships and dancewear to 31 children. In June 2024, our dance faculty visited seven elementary schools in Worcester’s Burncoat quadrant (Burncoat Prep, Clark Street Community School, Lincoln Street School, Norrback Avenue Elementary, Thorndyke Road Elementary, Wawecus Road School and Worcester Arts Magnet) and evaluated students for the second cohort of this community program. The program is supported by the Fuller Foundation, Fred Harris Daniels Foundation and The Hanover Theatre’s Access to the Arts Fund.

# CULTIVATING ENGAGEMENT AND PASSION THROUGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS IN ARTS EDUCATION

“ Students loved the experience of going to a play and watching the story come to life. It really conveyed what we had talked about in class before the play. ”

-Kam Dealey, North High School

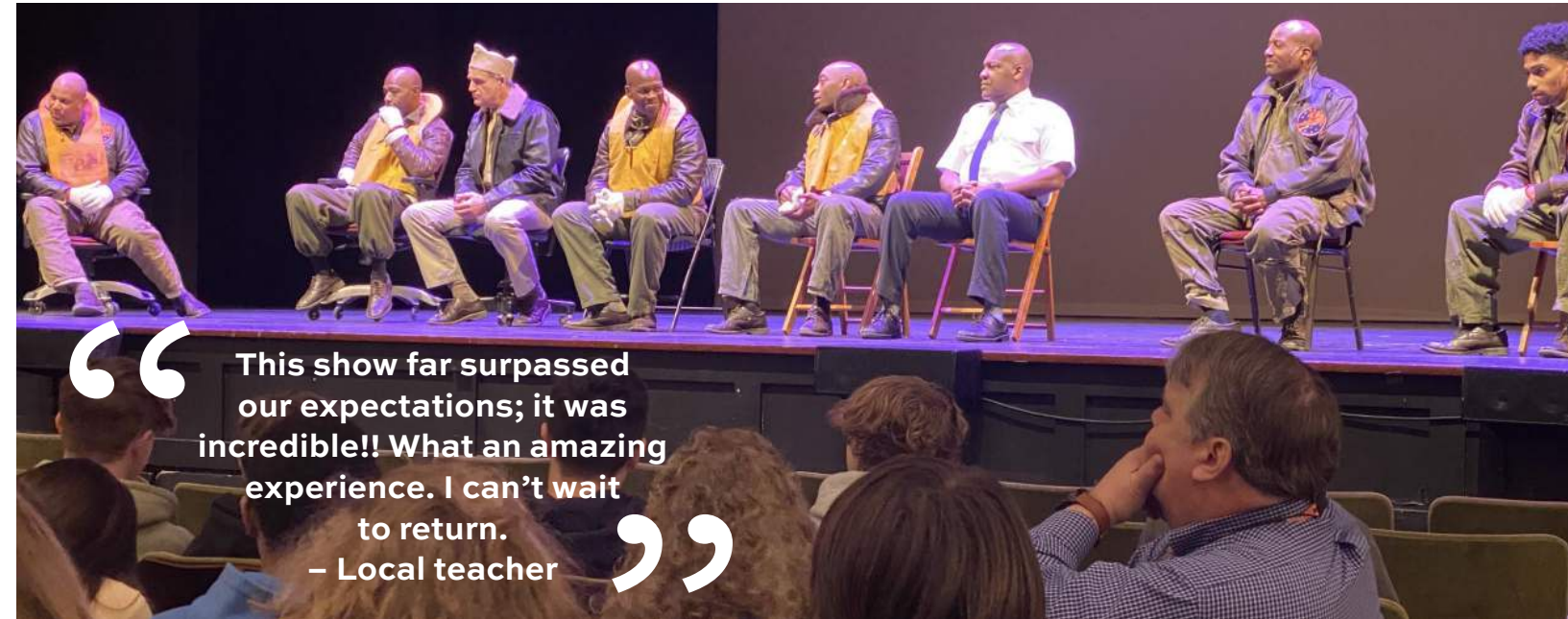


## Student Matinees

2023-2024 Arthur M. and Martha R. Pappas Foundation Student Matinee Series\*

- The Glass Menagerie*
- Percy Jackson's The Lightning Thief*
- James and the Giant Peach*
- Poe Double Header*
- Odyssey*
- A Christmas Carol*
- Black Angels Over Tuskegee*
- A Midsummer Night's Dream*
- Keep Marching*
- The Stories of Hansel & Gretel and Peter & the Wolf*
- Magic School Bus*
- Twelfth Night*
- Ada Twist, Scientist & Friends*

\*The Pappas Family Foundation generously committed to sponsor the student matinee series for FY23, FY24 and FY25.



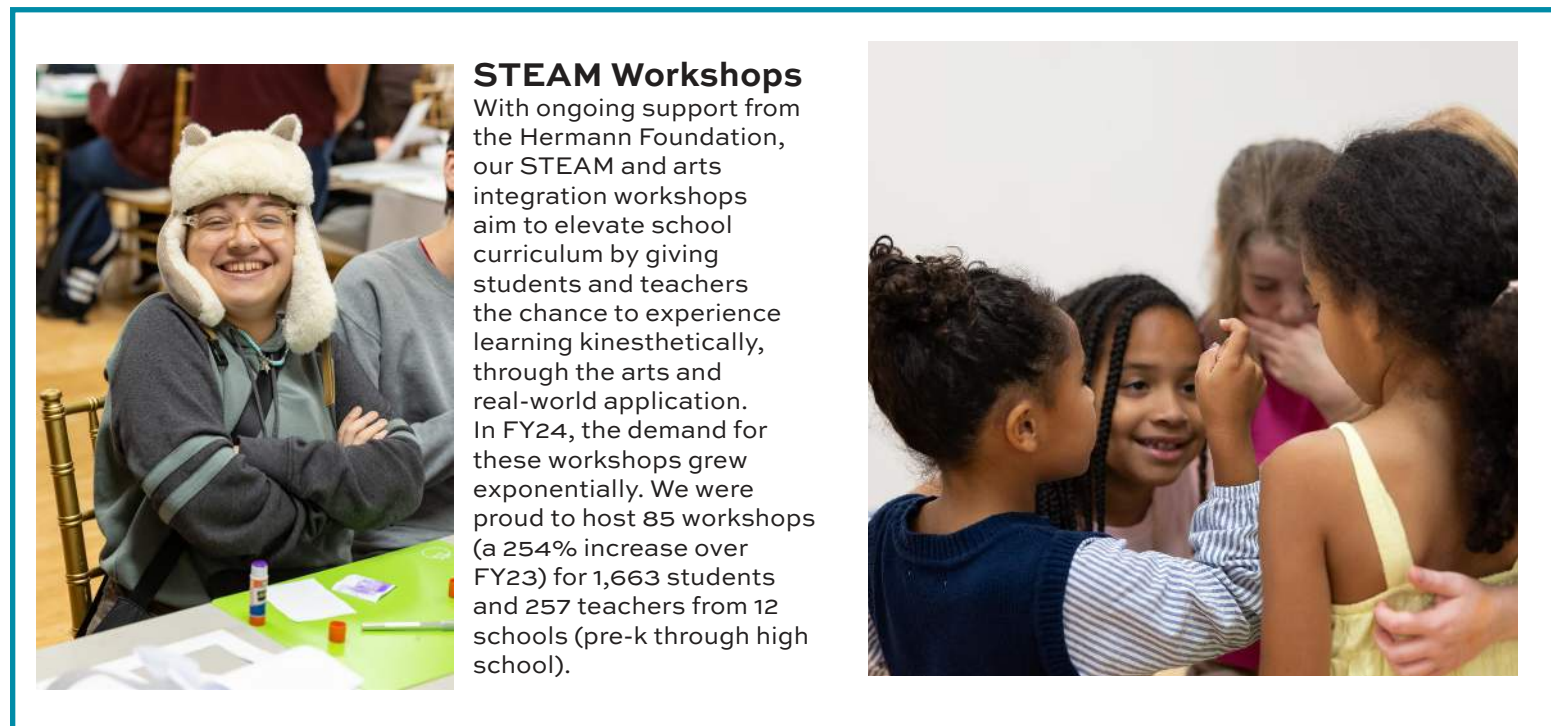
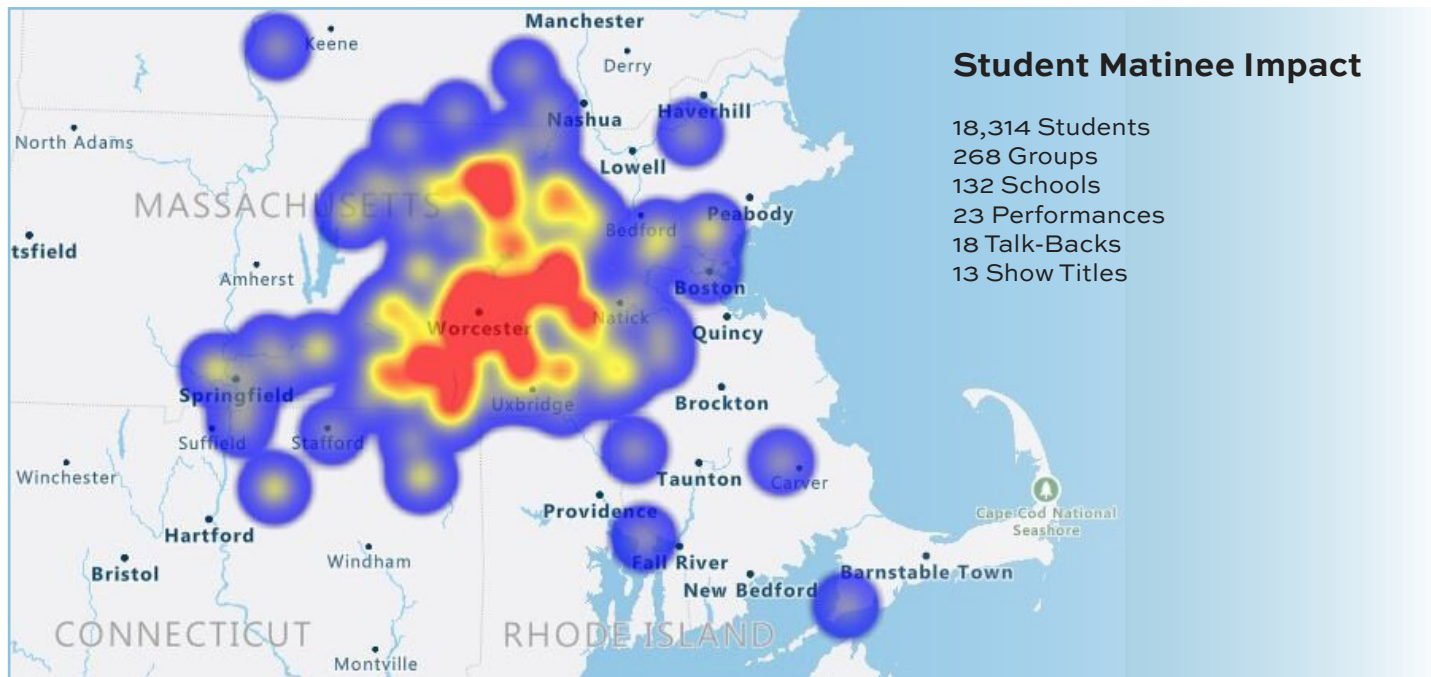
“ This show far surpassed our expectations; it was incredible!! What an amazing experience. I can't wait to return. ”  
- Local teacher

## LEAP

Thanks to the support of two local family foundations, the Worcester Educational Development Foundation, Inc. is able to provide WPS students the opportunity to connect their classroom learning with the diverse cultural offerings and resources in our region. Each LEAP (Learning through Education & Arts Partnerships) is linked to the curriculum and includes pre-visit preparation, a field trip to an institution and post-visit projects and programs. THTC is the only cultural partner to serve two entire grade levels across the district.

In FY24, 11th graders attended a performance of *Keep Marching: The Road to the March on Washington*. Bringing collected oral history to life, this one-act play explores the historic 1963 March on Washington and the day that Martin Luther King Jr. made his famous 'I Have A Dream' speech

Grade 12 attended a performance of *Black Angels Over Tuskegee*, a story told in narrative of six men embarking on a journey to become pilots in the United States Army Air Forces. The play explored their collective struggle with Jim Crow... challenging their intelligence, patriotism, brotherhood and dreams of an inclusive and fair society.



## STEAM Workshops

With ongoing support from the Hermann Foundation, our STEAM and arts integration workshops aim to elevate school curriculum by giving students and teachers the chance to experience learning kinesthetically, through the arts and real-world application. In FY24, the demand for these workshops grew exponentially. We were proud to host 85 workshops (a 254% increase over FY23) for 1,663 students and 257 teachers from 12 schools (pre-k through high school).

## Free Family Shows

In October 2023, our Youth Acting Company presented performances of *James and the Giant Peach* on Francis R. Carroll Plaza and at two local elementary schools. In March 2024, the Youth Ballet Company remounted *The Stories of Hansel & Gretel* and *Peter & the Wolf* on our Main Stage. Both productions were offered for free to the public, and focused on developing young audiences and fostering family engagement.



## Worcester Youth Speak Honestly (WYSH)

WYSH engages Worcester teens in a devised theatre project. The group shares their unique stories and perspectives to create, rehearse and perform an original dramatic work. There is no cost to participants and food is provided at each meeting. The program culminates in three public performances at the BrickBox Theater each July, followed by a tour to WPS high schools the following school year. This year's cast included seven amazing young people who were then provided with scholarships for conservatory classes. This program is supported by Worcester Arts Council and Greater Worcester Community Foundation's Youth for Community Improvement Fund.



## Creative Movement with ASPIRE!

This movement class for individuals with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) or challenges related to brain injury is a partnership with Seven Hills. For the last eight years, we have adapted our dance curriculum for the participants' unique abilities, while fostering personal growth through gross motor development, physical movement, uninhibited self-expression and social connection. In the spring of 2024, 10 individuals participated in one-hour movement classes twice a week for 15 weeks.

# HANOVER THEATRE & CONSERVATORY

Top: The Youth Acting Company perform *James and The Giant Peach* on the Bank of America Stage. Middle: WYSH teens. Photos @UnityMike.  
Bottom: ASPIRE! students make things colorful in the conservatory.