



## TRANSMITTAL MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Lacey G. Simpson, Acting City Manager

DATE: January 27, 2022

RE: **First City Players' Quarterly Activity & Financial Reports –  
October Through December 2021**

Pursuant to paragraph (a) of Section 14 of the 2021 Community Agency Funding Agreement between the City of Ketchikan and First City Players, attached for City Council review are copies of the agency's quarterly activity and financial reports for the period October through December 2021. Should Councilmembers have questions regarding the attached reports, staff can attempt to respond accordingly.



First City Players  
335 Main Street  
Ketchikan, AK 99901

(907) 225-4792 PHONE  
firstcityplayers.org  
info@firstcityplayersorg

January 27, 2022

City of Ketchikan  
Attn: Ms Diane Bixby  
334 Front Street  
Ketchikan, Ak 99901

## **Final Report 2021**

### **Projects completed or in progress January 1 – December 31, 2021**

As always, we are very grateful to the City of Ketchikan for their continued support of local live theatre. Producing theatre during COVID-19 was difficult, but not impossible. First City Players continued to find ways to bring live and streamed theatre to Ketchikan all year long.

1. **The Last Five Years** – This stunningly beautiful musical was magically performed by local actors Kyle G Bailey and Jillian Pollock. They were accompanied by a live band of five musicians. We performed live, to limited audiences, at the Kayhi Auditorium over two weekends in January. This performance is also available online until the end of April. It is a truly magical theatrical event.
2. **Mary Poppins, JR** – For the second year in a row, First City Players worked with the Ketchikan High School Musical Theatre Club to stage a musical for high school actors. After having to postpone the performance in both November and January, the kids were finally able to perform the show in March. They had two live performances to limited audiences and the show will be streamed beginning April 2<sup>nd</sup>. FCP provided directoral services, costumes, sets, lighting expertise, sound equipment and other professional services to the school to help make this event possible. Our artistic director spent two afternoons a week at the school working with students. We also sold tickets for the event, ran the box office, including COVID protocols that we set up for our performances and set up and are running the streaming through our website.  
We are very proud of the fact that through our efforts, the high school has now put Drama back into the curriculum and hired a teacher to build this program back. We are especially proud of the fact that the teacher they hired is a First City Players

member and volunteer. In fact he got his start in theatre through our youth programs. It is always wonderful to see one of our “kids” come home to share what they learned with future generations.

3. **Ticketing Service** – Since First City Players is the organization that sells reserved tickets to all of our productions, we have been uniquely set up to help other organizations with their performances during the pandemic. We have sold tickets and set up seating and box office systems as well as sharing our protocols with the Ketchikan Theatre Ballet and with the Kayhi Auditorium. We are happy to work with our community to help make theatre possible during this very strange time.
4. **All In the Timing** – We have cast, and are currently in rehearsals for a series of one-act plays by David Ives. We plan to record and stream these productions in May.
5. **You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown** – First City Players produced this charming musical for two weekends in June. It featured six talented actors. The show was well received, both in its live, onstage at Kayhi performance and its virtual streamed version. The community was excited to be able to see live theater once again.
6. **Cyclorama** – First City Players purchased a new seamless cyclorama for the Kayhi stage. A cyclorama is the large white curtain located upstage (at the back of the stage) and helps with lighting effects. The Cyc that was purchased by the school district a number of years ago was a cheaper “seamed” cyc, meaning that there were visible vertical lines that were very distracting to the overall effect of the lighting. The new cyc will benefit all users of the Kayhi Auditorium. First City Players is very happy we were able to provide this for the community.
7. **The Fish Pirate’s Daughter** – This summer, since the Civic Center was still unavailable due to Covid restrictions, we partnered with Allen Marine Lines and the Cape Fox Corporation and presented this show at the Beaver Falls (George Inlet) Cannery. Our audiences were ferried out and back to town by Allen Marine and enjoyed a lovely meal prepared by Cape Fox. The show was presented outside. It was a magical and wonderful experience for cast and audience alike.
8. **ArtsCool** – We had three sessions of this summer youth camp, based on age groups. A “mini” camp for kids 4 – 7 years of age; a Junior camp for kids 8 – 11; and a Senior camp for ages 12 -17. Both the Junior and Senior camps were able to perform in a show – *101 Dalmatians* for the Junior camp, the “mini” campers participated in this show as well. *Matilda the Musical* for the Senior camp. The shows were both successful and the kids had a blast. Unfortunately for the youngest group, there was a positive case of Covid and we decided to end that camp early. We were pleased that the kids were at least able to participate in one show.
9. **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ward Lake Theatre Walk** – for the second year in a row, we presented a number of short, original works around the lake. Small groups of audience members hiked around the lake and watched dancers, singer/songwriters, spoken words and other works as they traveled around the lake. In spite of the rainy weekend, everyone had a great time
- . **Pippin** – A cast of 26 actors, singers and dancers lit up the Kayhi stage for two weekends in November. After 9 weeks of rehearsal, the cast, crew and orchestra performed for live

audiences for 4 evenings and 2 matinees over 2 weekends. As always, Covid protocols were in place.

10. **Pippin Streaming** – Our production was streamed for two weekends over the Christmas holidays, allowing friends and family of cast members who live across the country and those who aren't comfortable going to large gatherings, to enjoy the show.
11. **Jazz and Cabaret Festival** – Most of December was taken up with planning this annual event, planned for January 2022. We very happy that we are going to bring this program back – live – to Ketchikan.

First City Players works on a fiscal, not a calendar year so I have attached a P & L for last calendar year as well as last fiscal year. I have also attached our last Annual Report, which cover our 2020/2021 season.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Nelson', written over a horizontal line.

Elizabeth Nelson  
Executive Artistic Director

# First City Players

## Profit & Loss

### January through December 2021

	Jan - Dec 21
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
CONTRIBUTIONS	
415 - City of Ketchikan Grant (City of Ketchikan Grant)	14,500.04
411 - Grant Rev/Borough (Grant Rev-Borough)	23,090.00
412 - Grant Rev/ASCA (Grant Rev-ASCA)	11,470.00
414 - Grant Rev/Various (Grant Revenue)	40,262.14
421 - Memberships (Memberships)	23,576.20
422 - Donations (Donations-Unrestricted)	10,202.62
Total CONTRIBUTIONS	123,101.00
GROSS RECEIPTS	
401 - Ticket Sales/Regular (Ticket Sales-Regular)	43,049.79
402 - Ticket Sales/Season (Ticket Sales-Season)	65.01
404 - Workshop fees (Workshop Fees)	19,142.00
405 - Special Performance Reven (Special Performance Revenu)	5,281.59
423 - Donations - PAC (PAC donations received from Vendini or other donation venu...	840.00
424 - Gaming (Raffle)	16,001.01
481 - Interest Revenue (Interest Revenue)	20.05
Total GROSS RECEIPTS	84,399.45
SPECIAL EVENTS	
450 - Show Sponsors	13,450.00
451 - Program Sponsorships (Business Program sponsorship)	21,700.00
Total SPECIAL EVENTS	35,150.00
Uncategorized Income	619.21
Total Income	243,269.66
Gross Profit	243,269.66
Expense	
SALARIES	
700 - Wages and Payroll Taxes	164,502.57
709 - Payroll Expense	78.88
705 - Retirement	3,760.64
Total SALARIES	168,342.09
PROFESSIONAL FE	
733 - Professional Services (Professional Services)	2,500.00
Total PROFESSIONAL FE	2,500.00
FUNDRAISING EXP	
506 - Program Design & Printing (Program Design & Printing)	2,868.35
511 - Show Merchandise (Show Merchandise)	47.66
699 - Other Fundraising Costs (Other Fundraising Costs)	297.75
Total FUNDRAISING EXP	3,213.76
INSURANCE	
703 - Workers Comp. Insurance (Workers Comp Insurance)	3,009.00
797 - Professional Liability (Employment practices insurance policy - annual \$1,000 t...	13,610.74
732 - Participants Accident (Participants Accident Insurance, premium \$1150 throug...	500.00
Total INSURANCE	17,119.74
PROD. EXPENSE	
513 - Classroom Supplies	123.75
501 - Costumes & Makeup (Costumes & Makeup)	3,430.40
502 - Sets & Props (Sets & Props)	2,145.99
503 - Scripts & Royalties (Scripts & Royalties)	9,372.26
504 - Publicity (Publicity)	657.77
508 - Light & Sound Supplies (Light & Sound Supplies)	445.15

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Accrual Basis

# First City Players

## Profit & Loss

### January through December 2021

	Jan - Dec 21
509 - Cleaning Cost fo Shows (Cleaning Cost for Show)	6.99
512 - Volunteer Appreciation (Volunteer Appreciation)	5,092.55
532 - Dinner Theatre Food & Ren (Dinner theatre food & ren)	68.62
599 - Other Production Expenses (Other Production Expenses)	8,032.86
622 - Venue (show locales)	8,199.25
725 - Shipping NOC (Shipping NOC)	42.98
<b>Total PROD. EXPENSE</b>	<b>37,618.57</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES</b>	
789 - Credit Card FinanceCharge	1.64
852 - Website	306.76
722 - Postage & Mailing Fees	212.14
719 - Software (Software upgrades, new software purchases)	2,689.49
737 - Ticketing fees (Costs associated with the use of Vendini ticketing program)	926.24
794 - Parking Permits (Staff Parking Permits)	600.00
793 - Cash In/Cash Out (Cash Box)	0.00
792 - Gas for vehicles (Gas for vehicles)	173.11
791 - Storage (Storage Costs)	338.92
724 - Office Supplies (Office Supplies)	555.73
726 - Dues and Subscriptions (Dues and Subscriptions)	1,100.92
727 - Taxes & Licenses NOC (Taxes & Licences NOC)	252.00
731 - Annual Meeting Costs (Annual Meeting Costs)	272.83
736 - Credit Card Costs (Credit Card Costs)	3,258.07
801 - Equipment Purchases (*Equipment Purchases)	4,836.35
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES - Other	0.00
<b>Total ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES</b>	<b>15,524.20</b>
<b>RENT OR LEASE</b>	
713 - Electricity (Electricity)	4,688.53
714 - Garbage (Water, Sewer, Garbage)	803.28
716 - Building Repair/Maintance (Building Repair/Maintance)	907.74
721 - Telephone Costs (Telephone Costs)	2,089.78
RENT OR LEASE - Other	208.55
<b>Total RENT OR LEASE</b>	<b>8,697.88</b>
<b>REPAIR &amp; MAINT</b>	
751 - Equipment Maintenance (Equipment Maintenance)	798.69
<b>Total REPAIR &amp; MAINT</b>	<b>798.69</b>
<b>Uncategorized Expenses</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>253,814.93</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>-10,545.27</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-10,545.27</b>

# First City Players

## Profit & Loss

July 2020 through June 2021

	Jul '20 - Jun 21
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
CONTRIBUTIONS	
415 - City of Ketchikan Grant (City of Ketchikan Grant)	14,749.98
411 - Grant Rev/Borough (Grant Rev-Borough)	20,000.00
412 - Grant Rev/ASCA (Grant Rev-ASCA)	8,970.00
414 - Grant Rev/Various (Grant Revenue)	122,912.95
421 - Memberships (Memberships)	26,158.50
422 - Donations (Donations-Unrestricted)	10,413.40
Total CONTRIBUTIONS	203,204.83
GROSS RECEIPTS	
401 - Ticket Sales/Regular (Ticket Sales-Regular)	21,047.96
402 - Ticket Sales/Season (Ticket Sales-Season)	-107.69
404 - Workshop fees (Workshop Fees)	26,419.00
405 - Special Performance Reven (Special Performance Revenu)	10,002.59
423 - Donations - PAC (PAC donations received from Vendini or other donation venu...	840.00
424 - Gaming (Raffle)	16,363.44
452 - Special Events Revenue (Special Events Revenue)	26,991.94
481 - Interest Revenue (Interest Revenue)	23.92
491 - Show Merchandise Sales (Show Merchandise Sales)	20.00
Total GROSS RECEIPTS	101,601.16
Uncategorized Income	619.21
Total Income	305,425.20
Gross Profit	305,425.20
Expense	
SALARIES	
700 - Wages and Payroll Taxes	157,301.43
709 - Payroll Expense	73.20
702 - Payroll Taxes (Payroll Taxes)	-1,644.34
705 - Retirement	3,666.26
Total SALARIES	159,396.55
FUNDRAISING EXP	
511 - Show Merchandise (Show Merchandise)	836.18
699 - Other Fundraising Costs (Other Fundraising Costs)	297.75
Total FUNDRAISING EXP	1,133.93
INSURANCE	
703 - Workers Comp. Insurance (Workers Comp Insurance)	5,452.00
797 - Professional Liability (Employment practices insurance policy - annual \$1,000 t...	13,489.84
732 - Participants Accident (Participants Accident Insurance, premium \$1150 throug...	500.00
Total INSURANCE	19,441.84
PROD. EXPENSE	
513 - Classroom Supplies	632.59
501 - Costumes & Makeup (Costumes & Makeup)	1,074.27
502 - Sets & Props (Sets & Props)	1,148.36
503 - Scripts & Royalties (Scripts & Royalties)	8,219.54
504 - Publicity (Publicity)	166.18
508 - Light & Sound Supplies (Light & Sound Supplies)	152.82
512 - Volunteer Appreciation (Volunteer Appreciation)	5,643.87
531 - Scholarship Awards (Scholarship Awards)	925.00
532 - Dinner Theatre Food & Ren (Dinner theatre food & ren)	2,340.00
599 - Other Production Expenses (Other Production Expenses)	8,112.36
622 - Venue (show locales)	9,170.00
725 - Shipping NOC (Shipping NOC)	48.41
Total PROD. EXPENSE	37,633.40

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Accrual Basis

# First City Players

## Profit & Loss

July 2020 through June 2021

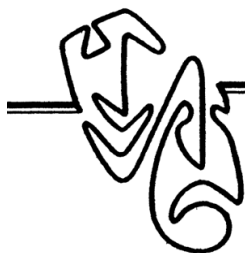
	Jul '20 - Jun 21
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES</b>	
789 - Credit Card Finance Charge	271.71
739 - Credit Card Balance	0.00
852 - Website	654.29
722 - Postage & Mailing Fees	170.14
720 - Board Expenses (Board authorized purchases for volunteers)	118.95
719 - Software (Software upgrades, new software purchases)	3,015.59
737 - Ticketing fees (Costs associated with the use of Vendini ticketing program)	1,056.78
794 - Parking Permits (Staff Parking Permits)	600.00
793 - Cash In/Cash Out (Cash Box)	0.00
792 - Gas for vehicles (Gas for vehicles)	29.00
791 - Storage (Storage Costs)	338.92
724 - Office Supplies (Office Supplies)	662.93
726 - Dues and Subscriptions (Dues and Subscriptions)	473.25
727 - Taxes & Licenses NOC (Taxes & Licences NOC)	183.00
729 - Bank chrgs/Check printing (Bank charges (overdrafts, monthly fees) or check/...	38.34
731 - Annual Meeting Costs (Annual Meeting Costs)	272.83
736 - Credit Card Costs (Credit Card Costs)	2,931.65
801 - Equipment Purchases (*Equipment Purchases)	5,012.56
<b>Total ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES</b>	<b>15,829.94</b>
<b>RENT OR LEASE</b>	
713 - Electricity (Electricity)	4,534.05
714 - Garbage (Water, Sewer, Garbage)	723.62
716 - Building Repair/Maintance (Building Repair/Maintance)	660.05
721 - Telephone Costs (Telephone Costs)	2,227.54
RENT OR LEASE - Other	208.55
<b>Total RENT OR LEASE</b>	<b>8,353.81</b>
<b>REPAIR &amp; MAINT</b>	
751 - Equipment Maintenance (Equipment Maintenance)	607.09
<b>Total REPAIR &amp; MAINT</b>	<b>607.09</b>
<b>TRAVEL</b>	
560 - Employee Development	50.00
<b>Total TRAVEL</b>	<b>50.00</b>
<b>Uncategorized Expenses</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>242,446.56</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>62,978.64</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>62,978.64</b>



# **2020-2021 Report to the Membership First City Players**



**Community Theatre for  
Ketchikan, Alaska  
December 16, 2021**



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# First City Players

Annual Meeting  
and Report to the Membership  
Thursday, December 16, 2021  
July 2020 - June 2021

## Board of Governors

### Officers

President	Glenn Brown
Vice-President	Lori Orłowski
Secretary	Deidra Nuss
Treasurer	Michelle Short

### Members-at-large

Matt Armstrong	Robin Ashcraft
Traci Biss	Jeff Fitzwater
Lindsey Johnson	Greg Karlik
Romanda Simpson	

# **FIRST CITY PLAYERS**

## **FY21 Paid Staff**

### **Permanent Staff**

**Executive Artistic Director**

**Elizabeth Nelson**

**Marketing & Outreach Director**

**Amanda Glanzer**

**Education Coordinator (part-time)**

**Jack Finnegan**

### **StarPath Teaching Staff**

**Dani Pratt**

**Clare Bennett**

**Krista Kegl**

**Liz Bolton**

### **ArtsCool Teaching Staff**

**Clare Bennett**

**Jack Finnegan**

**Elizabeth Nelson**

**Deidra Nuss**

**Intern: Andrea Short**

### **Guest Artists**

**Patrick Wiabel**

### **Technical Artists**

**Felix Wong**

**Spencer Hasty**

**Keith Smith**

# FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

December 16, 2021

Dear Members of First City Players,

I'm so glad you are gathered, in whatever way you can, to celebrate another year of theatre in Ketchikan, Alaska!

I will say that it has not been an easy year. The uncertainty of our world can often make every decision we have to make seem enormous. How do you plan when the playing field changes every single day? How do you keep audiences and volunteers safe when the information you get differs wildly? How do you keep your audiences and volunteer safe and happy when we all feel and believe such different things?

These are the challenges that have plagued us over the past year and indeed, continue to do so now. But in spite of that, I'm proud to say the First City Players has continued to find a way to make theatre happen for our community, and to do so safely while also listening and reacting in a way that makes the majority of our patrons and volunteers feel heard and engaged.

None of this happens easily.

It happens because we have a fantastic base of volunteers who believe in what we are making and who are willing to go the extra mile to do it safely and to continue to find a way to make it fun.

It happens because of the dedicated Board of Governors and staff. Because the idea of theatre is inclusion and we work hard every day to include as much of the Ketchikan population as we can.

It happens because we believe we can't do this alone so we open our arms to other organizations trying to make art happen in a crazy world. We are thrilled that Kayhi has a new drama department and is making theatre happen for students. We are over the moon that Schoenbar has an after school drama program helping more kids learn about the wonders of the imagination. Theatre can only grow stronger because of these new and exciting programs!

It happens, because you, are membership continue to support us and watch us and tell us, and the rest of the community, that we are important to this island life.

Elizabeth Nelson

*Elizabeth Nelson*

Executive Artistic Director

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

December 16, 2021

To the Entire First City Players Family,

Please accept my warmest wishes for a happy holiday season to each of you, and my offered hope for a healthy and prosperous year ahead.

The Year 2021 was yet another remarkable year for First City Players. The pandemic-related challenges to operations and revenue were manifest. These pressures along with COVID presented lots of reasons for sadness, fear and frustration, dashed plans and uncertain futures. It has been (yet another) one for the history books. But despite these tests of our collective mettle, I am pleased to report that reasons for joy and optimism abound. The Year 2021 provided another opportunity for First City Players to demonstrate itself to be the adaptable, dynamic, and resilient treasure that it is known to be in Ketchikan. And credit goes to all of us, together.

Through the creative thought and guidance of our staff, and the strong desire of the Board of Governors to see First City Players try to offer Ketchikan more glimmers of normalcy, First City Players fought to offer performances and entertainment in creative ways designed to be COVID-responsible. From outdoor performances in the beautiful setting of Ward Lake to the resumption of some fantastic productions in our more usual setting - but with reduced seating. The accomplishments of the year include great credit being given to our phenomenal staff in designing and carrying out an ArtsCool summer session that gave kids a very needed artistic outlet while doing it in full conformity with pandemic "best practices." Further credit goes to our education coordinator for emerging work in our schools and big plans for more adult-focused theater education in the coming year! Finally, through the blessings and support of YOU, our members, sponsors, and patrons that we remain defiantly solvent and ready to enter the new year with fresh ideas, fresh optimism, and unending gratitude for the joy we all share by way our involvement in First City Players. I believe First City Players to be the artistic and cultural soul of the Ketchikan performing arts community and am proud to be a small part. Blessings to you all for a healthy and prosperous 2022!

*Glenn Brown*

FCP Board of Governors

# FROM THE EDUCATION COORDINATOR

December 16, 2021

Dear Members of First City Players,

Education is a central component of our mission to promote and develop life-long artists and audiences for the performing arts, and it has been my privilege to hold the position of Education Coordinator since its creation in December of 2019. My first task on the job was to serve as FCP's dedicated liaison to Ketchikan's elementary and middle schools for jazz vocalist, pianist, and arranger Anne Phillips, who taught hundreds of Ketchikan-area students a dozen jazz standards—reaching more schools and more students than she had in the many years she'd come to town for our annual “Jazz & Cabaret” workshops.

Shortly thereafter, however, our educational programming became subject to the stops and starts of COVID-19. Though we managed to safely and successfully produce ArtsCool, our summer theatre camp on a highly modified basis, Starpath, our theatre classes, have been cancelled repeatedly in the face of spiking local case counts.

First City Players is determined to not only resume our established educational programs, but also to expand our offerings, including with adult classes, with in-school residencies, and through outreach to neighboring communities like Metlakatla. It has been frustrating to keep these plans on ice while we wait for clear indications that we can meet regularly and safely in person, which theatre education demands.

Until that time arrives, however, we know that the appetite for classes only grows. When we last attempted Starpath, all slots were filled within a matter of days. This year's reduced “Jazz & Cabaret” classes are rapidly filling as I write this letter. And we have secured agreements with teachers for our next round of Starpath for 2022, with parents already sending inquiries about getting their children registered.

Theatre education offers more than just skills for the stage: it promotes collaboration, sharpens critical thinking skills, encourages creative problem-solving, improves selfconfidence, and fosters a deeper sense of empathy. All of these are essential to maintaining the vibrancy of character that we find and love in Ketchikan. Your support of First City Players helps us to fulfill and sustain our vision of a Ketchikan in which theatre is as essential to our community as education is to theatre.

Yours sincerely,

*Jack Finnegan*

Education Coordinator

# FROM THE TREASURER

December 16, 2021

Dear First City Players Members,

What a year it has been... and yet onward we go! First City Players has been fortunate to continue to receive generous support from various sources throughout our history; this has included funding from state and local governments, grants from numerous nonprof-its supporting the arts, and of course generous support from our members.

The fiscal year ended June 30, 2021 was particularly challenging on the financial front, but we were fortunate to receive additional 'out of the ordinary' funding during this fiscal year:

1. Two \$20k grants from Ketchikan Gateway Borough (for a total of \$40k) provided by CARES Act Funds.
2. A second Paycheck Protection Plan loan (will be converted to a grant) totaling approximately \$32,000 was approved in January 2021; these funds were used to help cover payroll costs.
3. An additional \$15k grant was received from the Rasmus-sen Foundation.

If you take a look at the profit and loss statement included later in this report, you will see First City Players had a fiscal year net income of \$62K. Which is amazing! However, if we had not received the additional funding outlined above totaling \$87K, we would have had a fiscal year loss of \$25K. Clearly this additional funding was vital in the organization's efforts to 'keep the doors open' during this ongoing time of uncertainty.

As we move forward into fiscal year 2022, we continue to run as 'lean' as possible while providing safe, quality theater programs to our community. Thank you for supporting us, and we hope to see you at a show soon!

Sincerely,

*Michelle Short*

First City Players Board Treasurer

# **MISSION STATEMENT**

## **OF THE FIRST CITY PLAYERS**

First City Players is a non-profit community organization dedicated to promoting and developing lifelong artists and audiences in the greater Ketchikan community, and bringing them together for dynamic and meaningful experiences in the performing arts.

## **PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE FIRST CITY PLAYERS**

The objectives of the First City Players are:

1. To cultivate interest among children and adults in classic and contemporary theatre.
2. To provide Southern Southeast Alaskan audiences a wide range of theatrical experiences.
3. To provide educational opportunities in all aspects of theatre.
4. To enable volunteers and professionals interested in any aspect of theatrical production to become involved, to mature and grow in their particular field as actor, director, technician, manager or playwright.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership is open to anyone with an interest in theatre arts and the goals and objectives of the First City Players. Membership is an integral part of our organization and it is with great pleasure that we have watched our membership grow significantly over the past years. This year the board upgraded our membership levels and incentives.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

The FCP membership meets annually to elect the Board of Governors. The Board meets monthly to plan and make policy. The Executive Artistic Director implements the decisions of the Board and executes the day-to-day artistic business of the theatre. The Marketing and Outreach Director works closely with the artistic director on all aspects of the theatre's operations. FCP is funded in part by generous grants from the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, by the City of Ketchikan, by a season support grant from the Alaska State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency). FCP also receives generous support from the Ketchikan Community Foundation, The Monthly Grind, 1st City Rotary, corporate donations, business program sponsorships, memberships, private donations and season and individual ticket sales.



# HISTORY OF THE FIRST CITY PLAYERS

First City Players (FCP) is the Ketchikan area's community theatre organization. FCP was organized by a dedicated group of volunteers in 1964 and has been an active theatre for 55 years. FCP incorporated as a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization in August 1966.

For many years FCP produced plays in many different venues in Ketchikan, including the Kayhi Auditorium, Schoenbar Middle School, the Sons of Norway, and the Fireside Restaurant, to name a few. The group produced musicals, contemporary and classical plays, drama and comedy, as well as children's productions. In the past, FCP participated regional drama festivals and was always noted for their excellent productions.

In 1983 FCP took over management of what was to become the Main Street Theatre. In 1985 the theatre received a capital grant from the Alaska State Council on the Arts to begin renovations. With this grant, community fundraising and the work of many dedicated volunteers, the Main Street Theatre opened its doors in the spring of 1986 with the play *Painting Churches* by Tina Howe, directed by Carol Cairnes Shaffer. With the opening of the theatre it became necessary for FCP to hire an artistic director to manage the facility and to administer and direct a regular season of plays.

Since 1988 FCP has produced regular seasons of plays and workshops. The theatre began to sell season subscriptions for the 1989-1990 season. The FCP production schedule has grown from one winter show and a summer production of Ketchikan's original musical melodrama, *The Fish Pirate's Daughter*, to a full year-round schedule of theatrical events.

For the past twenty plus years FCP has been expanding its youth programming. Beginning in the summer of 1997 FCP began offering children's theatre classes. The first summer involved over 20 children in three different classes learning improvisation, storytelling and movement skills. In the summer of 1998 FCP joined with the KAAHC to start ArtsCool a summer fine and performing arts camp. FCP now enrolls up to 60 children ages 8 – 17 in classes that culminate in a fully staged musical production.

In the winter of 1999 FCP began a second children's program, ActOut winter children's theatre classes. These classes were for students from Kindergarten through 12th grades. These classes gave students opportunities to learn a number of different theatrical skills. Classes included Creative Dramatics, Improvisation, and Acting. Three years ago we changed the name of ActOut to StarPath Academy and are working to create year-round educational opportunities for adult and youth actors as well as workshops to teach technical theatre.

In the winter of 2002 FCP lost the lease with the longtime landlords at the Main Street Theatre. The office moved to 716 Totem Way in May of 2002 and staged the majority of productions on the Kayhi stage. In April 2007 FCP moved upstairs in the Plaza Mall and a number of productions were presented at the Plaza. In September of 2012 FCP moved into our new permanent office in the lower level of the future Ketchikan Performing Arts Center building.

## PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

For forty of its fifty-seven years, First City Players has pursued the vision for constructing a Community Performing Arts Center for Ketchikan. It began with a feasibility study for the Main Street School in 1974. The proof of the dynamism of the art center concept came in the very small Main Street Theatre and Gallery. Our 14 years of occupying The Main Street resulted in an extraordinary growth for the arts in Ketchikan and could have only been possible with an accessible committed community arts space. When we lost the Main Street, a multi-user performing arts space became a pressing need, and we attempted to develop the Coliseum Theatre, then the Spruce Mill Lot 10A, and then White Cliff School.

In 2009, with the help of City, Borough and State grants, First City Players, in alliance with Ketchikan Theater Ballet, purchased the 21,000 square foot Fireside Building at 335 Main Street, which finally provided some traction for realizing the vision. We developed conceptual plans for a two hundred and fifty seat theatre on its third floor; with dance studios, rehearsal spaces, office, and technical spaces on the second floor. At that time the cost of completion was estimated at \$4.5 Million Dollars. We partitioned and remodeled fourteen-hundred square feet of the ground floor for First City Players to move its office to the Fireside and use it for a small rehearsal space.

The challenge for completion is in the funding. We have identified funders that would be happy to help us finish the project, and the kick-start funding has been extraordinary from the Borough City and State. Our generous individual supporters have pledged and donated \$270,800 dollars to the project, which is more than has ever been raised privately for a community capital project. But the keystone funding, the first 50% of construction costs, or \$2.25 million dollars, remains elusive. 40 years ago, when we first began, it would have been easy; State and Federal sources existed then that were readily tapped for such a community project, but the funding climate has changed. At present, if the project is to go forward at all, the front end funding will need to come from local civic sources: such as CPV Funds, Economic Development funds, bond or sales tax initiatives; the same type of sources that funded the library, the pool, and fire station, but this is only possible if the community makes a performing art center a priority.

We continue to push the project forward. In 2009, we began with a conceptual design and budget for the building, but we never had an architect look at the project with the eye and expertise for an actual theatre, and several engineering questions remained unanswered. How strong is the masonry in the walls? What would it take to raise the roof? What will the 2020 price be for a building that is soundproofed with great acoustics?

Eight years ago we addressed these issues and contracted with John Fisher Associates and Linda Millard as the official architects of record. Phase One was to develop plans for the Center to 35% completion. Fisher designed the Sitka Performing Arts Center and has designed more theaters than any other architect in America. We are very excited

by the vision and expertise he is bringing to the project.

We love the initial design created by Fisher Associates and look forward to creating this wonderful venue.

## PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

FCP is a resource for scripts, play reviews, theatre arts competitions, auditions and information. Costume and technical use contracts enable the community to use the theatre's equipment. FCP also responds to individual and group requests for advice on theatrical, makeup and technical needs.

In a normal year, the following is how we work in the community and the programs we offer. Due to the pandemic, our services have been limited over the past year.

The FCP Executive Artistic Director and the Education Coordinator works in area schools, both in individual classrooms and in larger school settings, directing productions and giving workshops. As a Alaska State Artist in Residence Elizabeth Nelson has travelled to Shishmaref, Pilot Point, and Kodiak among other locations to teach theatre in schools.

In prior years FCP guest artists FCP produces a Jazz and Cabaret Festival in January. Due to Covid protocols this wasn't possible in 2021, we are planning a modified Festival for January 2022.

**Youth Programs:** FCP produces two youth programs each year. Due to the pandemic, we were only able to produce ArtsCool in FY21.

**ArtsCool:** This was the 21st year of this program, which is an intensive workshop/rehearsal that culminates with a musical production. For three weeks in the summer of 2020, 40 young people ages 8 – 17 were involved in creating concert performances of short musicals. To keep our classes small we separated classes by age. The younger “Junior” camp, ages 8 - 12 did a concert performance of *Frog and Toad are Friends, KIDS*. The “Senior” camp, ages 13-17 performed a concert version of *Into the Woods, JR*. During a summer when most camps and activities were shuttered, we were thrilled to be able to offer this activity for Ketchikan's youngest actors.

**StarPath:** FCP's winter children's program was planned for March of 2021, due to a rise in Covid numbers locally, we decided that it wasn't prudent to continue this series of workshops. We are planning to bring this back in February 2022.

**Season Selection:** The FCP season of plays is chosen by a season-selection committee comprised of diverse people of varying backgrounds, political affiliations, and religious beliefs. Because FY21 was a year of such uncertainty, we opted to just choose some small cast musicals that could be performed safely with minimum sets, costumes and props. We are excited to bring this committee back to life for the planning of our upcoming season beginning in the fall of 2022.

**The Ward Lake Theatre Walk:** The best thing to come out of the pandemic, at least for First City Players, was The Ward Lake Theatre Walk. This event was created in September of 2020 when we were so ready to have theatre, but performing inside didn't feel safe, gathering in a numbers didn't feel safe and we just needed to do SOMETHING. So we contacted the Ranger District and got permission to perform for one night at Ward Lake. We rented the shelters, we rented some camp sites, and we asked our local, writers, actors, dancers, singers to help us put on a performance. What was created was beyond our dreams. Small groups (10 or less) of audience members walked around the lake on a misty evening and were able to see original short plays, dance, spoken word, original music, and even a little Shakespeare. It was magical, and so wonderful to see friends and watch theatre in an environment that felt safe. In fact it was so magical that we have added this event to our yearly calendar.

**Ketchikan Orchestra Project:** Ketchikan has had a few orchestras in the past: Shoestring Symphony, Ketchikan Chamber Orchestra, and the Southeast Symphony. Mike and Mary Kurth started the Ketchikan Orchestra Project in 2017 and upon their departure from Ketchikan, "passed the baton" to Jeff Karlson, who has become the maestro, and Deidra Nuss, who has become the Librarian/Manager. Jeff and Deidra have partnered with us with the intention of creating an independent non-profit for the orchestra. The hope of this partnership, and eventual non-profit, is to create the opportunity for the orchestra to continue in Ketchikan for many years to come. First City Players is proud to sponsor, mentor, and support another performing arts organization in our community. We are cautiously optimistic that the Orchestra Project will return in the fall of 2022.



# PlayTime

*The 2020-2021 Season of Plays*

## Fish Pirate's Daughter: The 54th Season



1. The Fish Pirates Daughter: Ketchikan's original musical melodrama took to the boards for its 54th year. This show is typically performed for three weekends in July at the Civic Center, accompanied by a crab and salmon

feast. It is strategically important as a popular, fun, and forgiving play, making it a perfect first-time experience for community performers and a way for our seasonal population to become involved in a local event. FPD is the longest running play in Alaska and given the number of visitors who have seen the show, one of the best known. This year, we partnered with Alaska Sportfishing Expeditions to produce a scaled-down FPD at George Inlet Lodge. By retooling the script, we brought our cast size down from 24 performers to 6, with some actors playing multiple roles, and with all performers in masks that were painted by local artist Lori Orlowski to dramatize and highlight each character. Though the crowds were necessarily smaller, the enthusiasm was as high as ever! The cast included Leila Kheiry playing the Fish Pirate, Miss Woolwine and Tony the drunk; Patrick Wiabel playing Hopson, Sweet William Uprightly and Ed the drunk, Jack Finnegan as Kurt Von Ohlson, Dani Pratt as Violet LaRosa, Brieshan Kenoyer as Miss Maypole and Jeanette Sweetman as Little Nell. The show was fresh, funny and sold out!





# ArtsCool 2020

We are particularly proud that we found a way to make ArtsCool a reality during the difficult summer that was 2020. There were no protocols for us to follow, no plays had been finalized by the community and for them most part, we were all still in lockdown. However, we at First City Players knew we had to do something for our youth. So after hours of planning, consulting with our local EOC and talking with and listening to experts from around the country, we came up with a safe plan for the summer. We limited the number of participants, we produced concert style performances which limited choreography, costumes, sets, etc. and split our kids into two groups...which also meant two productions.

## *A Year With Frog and Toad, KIDS*

### A Junior ArtsCool Production

Music by **ROBERT REALE**, Book and Lyrics by **WILLIE REALE**

Based on the books by **ARNOLD LOBEL**



This charming, jazzy musical follows the beloved characters from Arnold Lobel's beloved books. The 20 kids, ages 8 - 12 who brought this story to life were a total delight. The cast, led by youth actors Kate Pader and Addie Epler in the titular role sang and acted their way into the audiences hearts. The show was directed by Clare Bennett, with musical direction by Deidra Nuss and assistance by college intern Andrea Short.

## *Into the Woods, JR*

### A Senior ArtsCool Production

Music and lyrics by **STEPHEN SONDHEIM**, Book by **JAMES LAPINE**



Caitlynn Ashcraft sings within a socially-distanced group of actors on Sunday afternoon in a matinee showing of the ArtsCool production "Into The Woods Jr." at Ketchikan High School auditorium. Actors used naming actions as a substitute for props that also eliminated mandatory set changes. If a performer's mask dipped below their nose during a prolonged bow, they lifted it back up without breaking character or key. Audience members complied with mask requirements and the first level of the auditorium was taped in sections that provided an appropriate cushion for social-distancing challenges. Ashcraft portrayed Cinderella.

The older kids performed the first act of this Sondheim masterpiece. The 20 13- 17 year old actors handled the difficult music and complicated story beautifully. Doing this production in a concert style allowed these young actors to concentrate on learning about character development, vocal production and acting styles. We were very lucky to have professional actor Patrick Wiabel offer special training in physical theatre and stage combat.

This production was directed by Elizabeth Nelson and Jack Finnegan, with musical direction by Deidra Nuss and movement by Bridgett Mattson.

# Divas Vs. Divos 2020



This fundraising event, first launched in 2007, is the most successful fundraiser First City Players produces, due to the Divas & Divos themselves. Even in a year marked by uncertainty Diva Director Sharolyn Krosavage found a way to make this event wonderful. Plus, she helped raise over \$26,000 for First City Players!

Thanks to Sharolyn's creative genius and the technical skills of KPU TV, we were able to produce this show virtually; we had phone lines open and voting happened live during the event.

A special thanks to James North, Hannah Karrick, James Vincent, Rudy Saccomanno, and Valerie McLaren for all their work and for sharing their talents with Ketchikan when we needed that boost the most.

Congratulations to Diva Valerie and Divo James North - both of whom get an extra year to wear their crowns!



# The Last Five Years

Written and Composed by **Jason Robert Brown**

Directed by **Elizabeth Nelson** Assisted by **Amanda Glanzer**

Musical direction by **Chazz Gist**

Starring **Kyle G. Bailey & Jillian Pollock**

First City Players produced this two person musical as a way to bring fully staged



live musical theatre back to Ketchikan, and boy did it fit the bill. This lovely long one-act tells the story of Jamie and Cathy as they fall in love, get married and eventually split up. But the play tells the story in two directions. We hear the story from Cathy, from the end of the relationship moving backwards in time. From Jamie, we watch the love story unfold from their first meeting to his final farewell. The simple set, designed by Keith Smith and the lovely lighting by Spencer Hasty enhanced the experience for

everyone. Originally scheduled for a November performance, we were finally able to put the show “on the boards” in January 2021.

The small live band was masterfully directed by Chazz Gist.

Following is an excerpt from a review written by Jeff Karlson:

*“The house dims to darkness as the stage lights reveal a minimalist set (designed by Keith Smith). An arrangement of various sized blocks, painted white, provide contrast and dimension to a backdropped silhouette of the New York City*



*skyline. With a subtle breath and a wave of his bow, Musical Director/Bassist Chazz Gist cues in the first notes of the show. A piano begins with a sweet and innocent sounding waltz, like something you’d hear while watching a child wave from a carousel horse, or perhaps like a melody from a music box with a ballerina in it. As a spotlight illuminates a woman on stage, the waltz gives way to sonorous strings playing a series of chords. The notes form a melody that sounds as if it’s overflowing with memory—and regret. The woman is looking down toward the floor as she fidgets with a ring on her left hand. Her voice is soft and burdened with disappointment as she reveals that her partner has moved on, and she is left brokenhearted.”*

You can read the rest of this review at: <https://tinyurl.com/TL5YReview>



# You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown

Based on the Comic Strip "Peanuts" by Charles M. Schultz

Book, Music & Lyrics by Clark Gesner

Additional Dialogue by Michael Mayer

Additional Music and Lyrics by Andrew Lippa

We were looking for a light-hearted small cast play to finish off the 2020-2021 season, something that would lift our spirits and help us confirm our belief in the goodness of the human race. The FCP staff heard the soundtrack to *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* and knew we had hit on the perfect play. The music is fun, the characters are familiar, flawed, yet at heart, kind. The series of short vignettes told

through word and song charmed audiences over two weekends at the Kayhi Auditorium. The talented cast was made up of veteran FCP actors and a couple of brand new faces. Divo James North took on his first role for FCP playing Charlie Brown, Dani Steepe joined us for the first time playing Lucy with great gusto. The remainder of the small ensemble, Amanda Glanzer as Sally, Niles Corporon as Schroedre, Peter Epler as Linus and Dani Pratt as Snoopy, and Addie Epler as "Blanket" were a delight to watch and were all so very happy to be back on stage, performing for our audiences.

Elizabeth Nelson directed the show with Bridgett Mattson as choreographer and Deidra Nuss as musical director. Clare Bennett directed the charming blanket dance. Sets were created by Brian Curtis, Barb Morgan and Keith Smith. The beautiful lighting was by Keith Smith. Felix Wong was in charge of sound.



**First City Players**  
**P & L**  
**July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021**

**Income**

<b>Contributions</b>	<b>203,204.83</b>
<b>Gross Receipts</b>	<b>101,601.16</b>
<b>Special Events</b>	<b>619.21</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>305,425.20</b>

**Expense**

<b>Salaries &amp; Benefits</b>	<b>159,396.55</b>
<b>Professional Fees</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Fundraising</b>	<b>1,133.93</b>
<b>Insurance</b>	<b>19,441.84</b>
<b>Production Expense</b>	<b>37,633.40</b>
<b>Administrative Expense</b>	<b>15,829.94</b>
<b>Rent &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>8,353.81</b>
<b>Repair &amp; Maintenance</b>	<b>607.09</b>
<b>Uncategorized Expenses</b>	<b><u>50.00</u></b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>242,446.56</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>62,978.64</b>

<b>In-Kind Donations</b>	<b>20,170.00</b>
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\*Detailed reports available upon request\*

# First City Players

## Balance Sheet

### As of June 30, 2021

	Jun 30, 21
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Checking/Savings	
Charles Schwab - KPAC	30,001.28
KPAC Checking (Ketchikan Performing Arts Center Checking)	1,202.47
KPAC Bank Account (Ketchikan Performing Arts Center Bank Account)	10,906.45
Scholarship - American Funds (Investment Account)	18,887.07
111 Checking Account - F.B. (Checking Account)	40,833.36
114 Gaming Account - NBA (Cash - Gaming Account)	1,302.24
121 Savings Account - F.B. (Savings Account)	14,412.40
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	117,545.27
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	552.65
<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	552.65
Other Current Assets	
Pledges Receivable-KPAC	750.00
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	750.00
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	118,847.92
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	
Performing Arts Center	
151.1 - Accum. Depr-Equipment (Accum Depr-Equipment)	-65,157.05
151 - Equipment (Equipment)	71,318.71
Land	30,000.00
Building	431,791.79
Performing Arts Center - Other	481.65
<b>Total Performing Arts Center</b>	468,435.10
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	468,435.10
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>587,283.02</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Accounts Payable	
Accounts Payable	2,787.50
<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>	2,787.50
Other Current Liabilities	
223 - City of Ketchikan Grant (City Grant)	7,250.02
Payroll Liabilities	-2,314.51
Retirement Payable	-160.83
221 - Season Tickets (Defr Rev-Season Tkts)	295.95
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	5,070.63
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	7,858.13
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	7,858.13
<b>Equity</b>	
Opening Bal Equity	32,366.91
Retained Earnings	484,079.34
Net Income	62,978.64
<b>Total Equity</b>	579,424.89
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>587,283.02</b>

