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2014 Annual Report

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A Path to the Future

Our Vision

LVPAC, the heart of a vibrant cultural arts community.

Our Mission

The mission of LVPAC is to offer a broad range of arts opportunities and experiences to engage our diverse community.

2014 Annual Report

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Letter from the Executive Director



I think the actor Harvey Fierstein said it best:
“Art has the power to transform, to illuminate, to educate, inspire and motivate.”

Something happens in a theater setting that doesn’t happen anywhere else. The exchange between the artist and the audience carries with it a kind of electrical current that exists uniquely in the world of live performances. We all leave the theater slightly different from when we entered. Harvey is right. Art is transformative! When I arrived in Livermore in early December, I was excited by all the opportunities. Being given the ability to see the past and the future of the Center through new eyes was such a gift for me. I also had the benefit of inheriting an organization without financial shackles after the agreement with the City, County and Bank of New York Mellon had been completed. Thank you donors for all of your support. Without you, I wouldn’t be here today. We are all so grateful for and energized by this new beginning. Thank you.

Now that we can focus solely on our mission, amazing things are beginning to happen. The average attendance for the fall season of the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center Presents series was 86%, well above our goal of 65%. We look forward to continuing this trend through the spring and into the summer. We are busy planning a great 2015-2016 season, fully aware that our “work” is far from complete. Our team at the Center is committed to: improving our relationship with the community, elevating the quality of the artists we present and continuing to improve the standing of the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center in the regional arts community.

I have a confession to make. I am a huge musical theater fan, and have always drawn inspiration from lyrics. Since I started working here in Livermore, the same phrase, as cliché as it seems, keeps playing in my head - “Yesterday is gone, see the pretty countryside” from Stephen Sondheim’s *Merrily We Roll Along*. It energizes me every day, and the most exciting part is that tomorrow holds so much promise. We know that at the end of the day, we have the opportunity to transform our audiences, our artists, our community and ourselves. What a privilege this is for me and I welcome everyone to join me on this grand adventure!

Scott Kenison
Executive Director

LVPAC 2014 Board of Directors

EXECUTIVE

Philip R. Wente: Chairman
Joan K. Seppala: President
Denise Watkins: Vice President
Jean King: Secretary
Henry Huff: Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Dave Ackerman
Nancy Bankhead
Judge Mark Eaton
Charles Hartwig
Dale Eldridge Kaye
Steve King
Joseph Madden
Layne Marceau
Aaron Ortiz
Thomas Reitter
Barry Russell, Ph.D
Jean Shuler
Donna Wilcox
Leland Younker, Ph.D

EMERITUS

Phillip N. Dean
Patrick Kernan
Dr. Mortimer Mendelsohn



Tri Valley Repertory Theater - Les Miserables, Mark Aubel (musical director), photo: Rebecca Voropaev

Bothwell Arts Center

The Bothwell Arts Center serves as an incubator for the Tri-Valley's vibrant arts community providing a nurturing environment for artists, performers and cultural arts organizations to create and grow their art. In 2006, the Bothwell Arts Center opened and, four years later, added the Downtown Arts Studios, offering open work spaces in both that foster interaction and a rich exchange of creative ideas. Each October, LVPAC's Artwalk blankets downtown Livermore with exhibits by artists ranging from long-time professionals to emerging artisans in every type of media.

For artists, regardless of their level, access to affordable space, and the support and freedom to explore and expand their creativity is essential. The Bothwell provides "a place where art happens." Rental studios in both facilities, as well as space for classes, workshops, rehearsals, displays, and events, provide working room for teachers to share

their skills in areas from perspective drawing and watercolor painting, to music lessons and improv. The large room at the Bothwell allows performing arts groups ample space for rehearsals and practice sessions. Space to nurture the arts benefits the community as well, providing a taste of different art forms and a close involvement with their creation.

The Bothwell is uniquely able to support artists at different stages of their career, from those exploring new techniques, to those expanding the scope of their work. Manager Linda Ryan describes how the Bothwell's nurturing environment had a major impact on Jacob Hankinson, transforming a fledgling artist without direction, to an art school scholarship student. Encouraged to participate in Artwalk, Hankinson's success there inspired him to rent space at the Downtown Arts Studios, where engaging with other artists proved invaluable, sparking his creativity and helping him refine his technique. Today he is in a program at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco and looks forward to a future in the arts.



On any given day, the Bothwell Arts Center and Downtown Arts Studios are filled with artists coming together to further their art, give free rein to their vision, and support one another, providing a community to truly grow the arts in Livermore.



Sycamore Strings Academy, photo: Goran Berg

Resident Companies

The nine Resident Companies form the backbone of the performing arts at the Bankhead Theater with more than 60 performances in 2014, from the crystalline voices of Cantabella Children's Chorus, to the fully-staged grandeur of the Livermore Valley Opera. Their members may be young emerging artists getting a start on their careers, volunteers whose interest in the arts is just a part of their busy lives, or dedicated professionals who want to share their skills within the community. Most Resident Companies have a long history in the area, and all have been enriched as the Bankhead Theater has become an entertainment destination. Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre, formerly Pleasanton Playhouse, broadened and grew their audience as a result of moving to the Bankhead, a change reflected in their present name. Valley Dance Theatre, which has operated in downtown Livermore for more than thirty years, stepped up from performing at the high school to offer dancers the invaluable opportunity to perform on the Bankhead's professional quality stage.

Sometimes the Bankhead and Bothwell provide the stimulus for change, sometimes they provide the backdrop. This year, major changes are transforming the 50-year-old Livermore-Amador Symphony. With the retirement of founding conductor Arthur Barnes, the organization has appointed Lara Webber, former associate conductor of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, to the post. A welcome guest conductor throughout the country, Webber also just happened

to be a Livermore resident. Webber brings a fresh perspective to the leadership of this dedicated orchestra and is eager to explore new horizons, building on the connection between the symphony and the community she knows and loves.

Whether they are performing on the Bankhead stage, rehearsing at the Bothwell, or planning their next event, the Resident Companies hold a special place in the community, providing opportunities both to entertain and to be entertained. Groups such as the Valley Concert Chorale allow local members to participate in making music, while others such as Del Valle Fine Arts provide occasions to hear superlative artists in the Bankhead's intimate setting. From the budding young musicians of the Sycamore Strings Academy, to the highly-skilled, professional musicians of the Pacific Chamber Symphony, the collective strength of the Resident Companies is thoroughly woven into the fabric of the Tri-Valley's arts community.



Resident Company List

Cantabella Children's Chorus
www.cantabella.org

Del Valle Fine Arts
www.delvallefinearts.org

Livermore-Amador Symphony
www.livamsymph.org

Livermore Valley Opera
www.livermorevalleyopera.com

Pacific Chamber Symphony
www.pacificchambersymphony.org

Rae Dorrough Speaker Series
www.livermoreperformingarts.org

Sycamore Strings Academy
www.sycamorestringsacademy.com

Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre
www.trivalleyrep.org

Valley Concert Chorale
www.valleyconcertchorale.org

Valley Dance Theatre
www.valleydancetheatre.com

Bankhead Theater

Since it opened in 2007, the Bankhead Theater has welcomed a diverse range of artists and audiences, bringing them together to share the rich experience of live performance. The *LVPAC Presents* series includes more than 40 exceptional performances throughout the year. Music of all genres is presented, from authentic western swing and the Great American Songbook, to classic rock, smooth jazz and world music, as well as dance, acrobatics, theater, and comedy. Together with performances by the Resident Companies, local community groups, and touring shows, events at the Bankhead engage, entertain, and inspire audiences of all ages.

Exposure to the performing arts has the potential to transform lives. Seeing, hearing and taking part in a performance can be exhilarating for children as they grow and develop, igniting their imagination and fueling creativity for the rest of their lives. LVPAC is dedicated to making the arts affordable and accessible; the season includes family-friendly shows and student tickets for nearly all *LVPAC Presents* events are priced at just \$16. In addition, educational outreach to local schools and other groups offer children and the underprivileged special opportunities to get close to artists and the arts.

The Bankhead provides a rich environment for growth on both sides of the footlights. Performing in such an intimate venue benefits artists at all levels. The Grammy Award-winning vocal group Chanticleer has praised the Bankhead for its perfect acoustics, and artists seeking to make a transformation of their own have chosen to make it a stop on tour. Guitarist Jesse Cook included a concert at the Bankhead in 2013 to showcase his shift from the flamenco style that made him famous, to jazz R&B. And this season, actress Molly Ringwald, best known for her roles in such 1980s films as *The Breakfast Club*, brought jazz singing skills she has honed since childhood to the Bankhead, emerging as a skilled chanteuse with a charming take on the Great American Songbook.

Whether seated in the darkened theater, waiting backstage for an entrance cue, or enjoying a show outside on the Shea Homes stage, artists and audiences come together at the Bankhead Theater to share in the power of the performing arts.

Robert Cray
photo: Rebecca Schoeller



Why We Give: *A Conversation with Lori Souza and Bryan Balazs*

This is the first in a series of stories about the donors behind the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center.

Longtime residents Lori Souza and Bryan Balazs believe in the power of education, arts and community. When they talked with Development Officer Denise Bridges about how they became supporters of the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center, those three cornerstones echoed throughout our conversation.

Lori has lived in the Valley for over 35 years, and both she and her husband Bryan work at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and are very involved in community activities. Lori, a Rotarian, serves on the Rotarian Foundation Board and on the Los Positas College Community Foundation Board, and is active with the Advisory Council for the Tri-Valley Conservancy. Bryan received his PhD in Chemistry from the California Institute of Technology and is active with the American Chemical Society from the local to the international level and was recently elected President of the Board of Directors for the Pedrozzi Scholarship Foundation—a foundation that grants higher education and training scholarships for graduates of the four Livermore high schools: Granada, Livermore, Del Valle Vineyard.

While it may seem odd at first glance for two science-minded residents to be major supporters of LVPAC, Lori and Bryan would emphasize the connection between arts science.

“I often run into people at work who are physicists, but at the same time they’re musicians. A lot of times you’ll find that people who are really good at math are also really good at music; Einstein being a well-known example,” says Bryan. “In my own upbringing, my mother was a poet and my father was an engineer, so I got a double-dose of left brain, right brain that flowed from my parents. And although my path was chemistry and science in general, at the same time I also have a creative side, and I recognize that people often have both sides and need to express both.”



photo: Lisa Hermes

With her position at the Lab, Lori supports the *Science on Saturdays*, which is hosted at the Bankhead Theater. Yet, Lori’s passion for LVPAC and the arts in general far surpasses her professional responsibilities.

“I think the arts are a really important part of having a comprehensive set of community offerings,” says Lori. “The arts are essential to a well-rounded education, so that’s why I’m most interested in how we help young people get involved and stay involved in the arts. I think it’s part of what will help them be community-minded citizens when they become adults.”

Lori and Bryan think that having Bankhead Theater in the community is a “huge benefit” and believe that it “provides a sense of belonging.” They also recognize that LVPAC is bigger than just the Bankhead, even though that’s the showcase venue. They spoke about the importance of the Bothwell—LVPAC’s multi-purpose venue—and recognized that it’s a very important part of LVPAC’s arts offerings, and “a very important piece of the puzzle.”

As Lori sees it, “The Bothwell is helping our local artists stay vibrant because it doesn’t just start with something as large as a performance at the Bankhead; it always starts with smaller venues, you know, it’s the dance schools, the art classes, and our local artists being able to thrive. So I recognize that LVPAC is actually bigger than, “just the Bankhead.”

Looking ahead, Bryan and Lori are happy with the recent developments at the LVPAC. “I’m actually so impressed with the caliber of performers that you’re able to attract and bring in. We feel very blessed to have the theater in our community,” says Lori. “And I’m really excited about the new leadership in the organization. I’m looking forward to seeing what you guys put together as a team. I think it says a lot that you’re reaching out and gathering input from your supporters.”

If you would like to share your story, please contact Denise Bridges at dbridges@livermoreperformingarts.org or call 925.583.2304.



photo: Ashley Lyn Olson

Impact: Arts In The Schools with Cheza Nami

This past school year, Cheza Nami Foundation, in partnership with the LVPAC, successfully held 12 educational assemblies on African culture at 6 Pleasanton elementary schools through our Arts in the Schools program. Based in Pleasanton, Cheza Nami means “come play with me” in Swahili. Funded by a City of Pleasanton grant, the interactive assemblies engaged students in creative dance, drumming and play. Each 45-minute presentation was designed to meet the State of California’s visual arts, social studies and physical education standards.

Founder and president of Cheza Nami, Catherine Ngungu-Case, says that collaboration with the Center broadened their reach across an entire school district, “The collaboration with LVPAC was instrumental in helping us meet our long-term goal to reach over 2,000 students with a consistent and streamlined program.”



Nancy Mueller, LVPAC’s Director of Marketing and Education Coordinator, says, “In addition to the school assemblies, Cheza Nami provided free dance workshops at the Bothwell Arts Center, and during ArtWalk in downtown Livermore, Catherine and other teaching artists led a drumming circle in the kids’ area. We are always looking for opportunities to help other arts organizations that serve our community.” The Center intends to broaden the scope of its educational outreach to schools in Dublin and Livermore and increase partnerships with cultural arts groups based in our region.

For questions or donations to the Arts In The Schools program, contact Denise Bridges, Development Officer, at dbridges@livermoreperformingarts.org or call 925.583.2304. For more information on providing an assembly at your school, visit chezanami.org or email info@chezanami.org.



photo: Doug Jorgenson

Announcing the LVPAC Legacy Society

A powerful way to make a lasting impact on the arts in the Tri-Valley region is through a legacy gift. Simply naming LVPAC as a beneficiary in your will, retirement plan or life insurance policy ensures that the cultural and performing arts have a permanent home here at the Center.

In addition, your planned gift qualifies you to be a part of an exclusive circle of supporters, LVPAC’s new Legacy Society. Members will be recognized on the honor wall of donors, and will be invited to special events, such as the Chair’s Luncheon, honoring our most generous donors. We’d like to recognize our inaugural member, Aaron Ortiz, and thank him for choosing LVPAC as a beneficiary.

For questions, please contact Chris Carter, Director of Development, at ccarter@livermoreperformingarts.org or call 925.583.2305

Top Ten Ways to Support the Arts in Your Community

- 1 Renew or Become a Member** – Join us or give a gift of membership to a loved one. Member benefits include: a 10% discount on LVPAC Presents events, priority ticketing, 2 complimentary tickets to the annual Season Announcement Party, and much more!
- 2 Sponsor a Performance or Series** – Reach an educated, affluent audience and demonstrate your commitment to the arts. Take advantage of unique opportunities for brand exposure and more.
- 3 Get Involved** – Give of your time as an usher or greeter for performances. During normal business hours, administrative and publicity volunteers are also needed.
- 4 Be an Artist** – Partner with LVPAC to present your creativity. The possibilities are endless: sell your latest pieces at ArtWalk in October, rent affordable studio space at the Downtown Art Studios, rehearse at the Bothwell Arts Center, or reserve the Bankhead Theater for your group’s event.
- 5 Support an Artist-in-Residence** – Over 40 studio artists and cultural arts instructors call the Bothwell Arts Center and Downtown Art Studios home. You can underwrite an emerging artist’s studio or performance space for one month with a donation of \$400 or more.
- 6 Give to our Education Fund** – It just takes \$25 to underwrite one student ticket or you can donate specifically to our Education Fund to support our student outreach and family performances.
- 7 Name a Brick or Seat** – Personalize a part of the Bankhead Theater with an engraved brick or seat plaque. It’s also the perfect way to honor a loved one or commemorate a company.
- 8 Eat Lobster and Chocolate** – Save the date for our third annual Lobster Clambake at Wente Vineyards on Saturday, September 12, 2015! And now available through Mother’s Day, purchase See’s Candies at Main Street Designs Antiques to benefit the Bothwell Arts Center.
- 9 Join our Legacy Society** – You can take care of yourself and take care of LVPAC with a planned gift. Make a bequest or gift through your estate by including a provision in your will or living trust. See the above article for more information or contact Chris Carter, Director of Development.
- 10 Follow Us on Social Media** – Get connected to the latest happenings, contests and news. All of our social media pages are linked on our website: livermoreperformingarts.org.

For questions or more information, please call our development team at 925.583.2305 or email development@livermoreperformingarts.org.

Membership Info



R: Madison Adkins
L: Kindra Showers
photo: Jim Toshio

Becoming an LVPAC member is simple. You can even divide your membership contribution into monthly, quarterly, or semi-annual payments. Return the enclosed envelope today and we'd be happy to assist you.

For a tax-deductible donation of \$125 or above, your membership benefits include:

- 10% discount on *LVPAC Presents* events
- 15% discount on subscription packages
- 2 complimentary tickets to our Season Announcement Party
- Bankhead Theater Program (4x year)
- Recognition in the LVPAC Honor Roll and Donor Wall at the Bankhead Theater
- Invitations to the Chair's Luncheon*
- Meet and greet opportunities with *LVPAC Presents* performers*
- Ticket service with handling fees waived*
- Unlimited access to the Scott Haggerty Founders Room during performances*
- Priority ticketing, including events added during the season

**For Ovation Members at \$1,000 level or above.*

For more detailed information on membership levels and benefits, please visit livermoreperformingarts.org or call 925.583.2305.

LVPAC Stats and Fun Facts

- 1 Favorite Themed Cocktail:** Chantibaby—developed for A Chanticleer Christmas—Sparkling wine, orange juice and grenadine!
- 2 Interesting Artist Request:** Fresh ginger root—borrowed from Clay Pot Restaurant across the street—clears the throat!
- 3 LVPAC Volunteers:** **15,500+** hours in 2014—**650**, Most hours for a single volunteer—**168** Active Volunteers.
- 4** We host over **175 events** each year from professional touring companies, 9 resident companies, popular entertainers, special attractions and family performers.
- 5** Each year over **72,000** people attend performances at the Bankhead Theater.
- 6** **14,500** Children attending performances annually.
- 7** **60,000** community members have experienced the arts at the Bothwell Arts Center from 2006-2014
- 8** **450** aspiring artists and students take classes at the Bothwell Arts Center annually.
- 9** **15,000** participants experience the arts annually at Bothwell sponsored events in downtown Livermore.
- 10** **SOLD OUT! 16 LVPAC Presents, 14 Resident Company, and 3 Rental Performances! 33 total.**
- 11** **86** new LVPAC Members, **13%** increase.
- 12 Patron Who Traveled the Farthest:** from Tokyo Japan, to see Dave Mason!



Tri Valley Rep - Les Misérables
photo: Rebecca Voropaev



Guitarist: Eric Johnson

Financial Highlights



(unaudited)

2014 was an extraordinary year for the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center (LVPAC). Financially, we restructured our balance sheet by completing a four-party deal, ultimately leading to the elimination of our burdensome debt and debt service. Moreover we settled our Redevelopment litigation with the State of California. As shown below, LVPAC posted a cash profit of \$22,363,325 including the profit related to the debt restructuring (the buyout) and California State Settlement of \$22,308,823 and \$54,502 from operations. This profit was used to pay down debt of \$21,470,000, and would not have been possible without the support of our donor community.

We are pleased to report that our current season of performances are posting profits and we look forward to seeing you at upcoming shows. However, as with all community theaters nationwide, ticket revenue only covers a portion of our operating expenses, and we will continue to rely on donor support from patrons like you.

Revenue

Contributions	
Donations	\$1,059,810
HCIF Landfill Fees	\$362,240
Total Contributed	\$1,422,050

Earned Revenue (ticket sales, rentals, etc.)	\$1,596,019
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Other Income Related to Buy Out	
Donations	\$4,671,024
California Redevelopment Agency Settlement	\$3,649,396
Debt Forgiveness	\$7,500,000
Present Value of Future HCIF Fees	\$7,751,942
Total Other	\$23,572,362

Total Income/Revenue	\$26,590,431
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Expenses

Programming	\$1,028,318
Operations, Marketing and Administrative Costs	\$1,788,870
Bank of New York Mellon LC Fees	\$146,379
Total Expenses	\$2,963,567

Other Expenses Related to Buy Out	
Bond Issuance Write off	\$604,908
Other Buy out Related	\$616,011
California State Settlement Related	\$42,620
Total Expenses	\$1,263,539

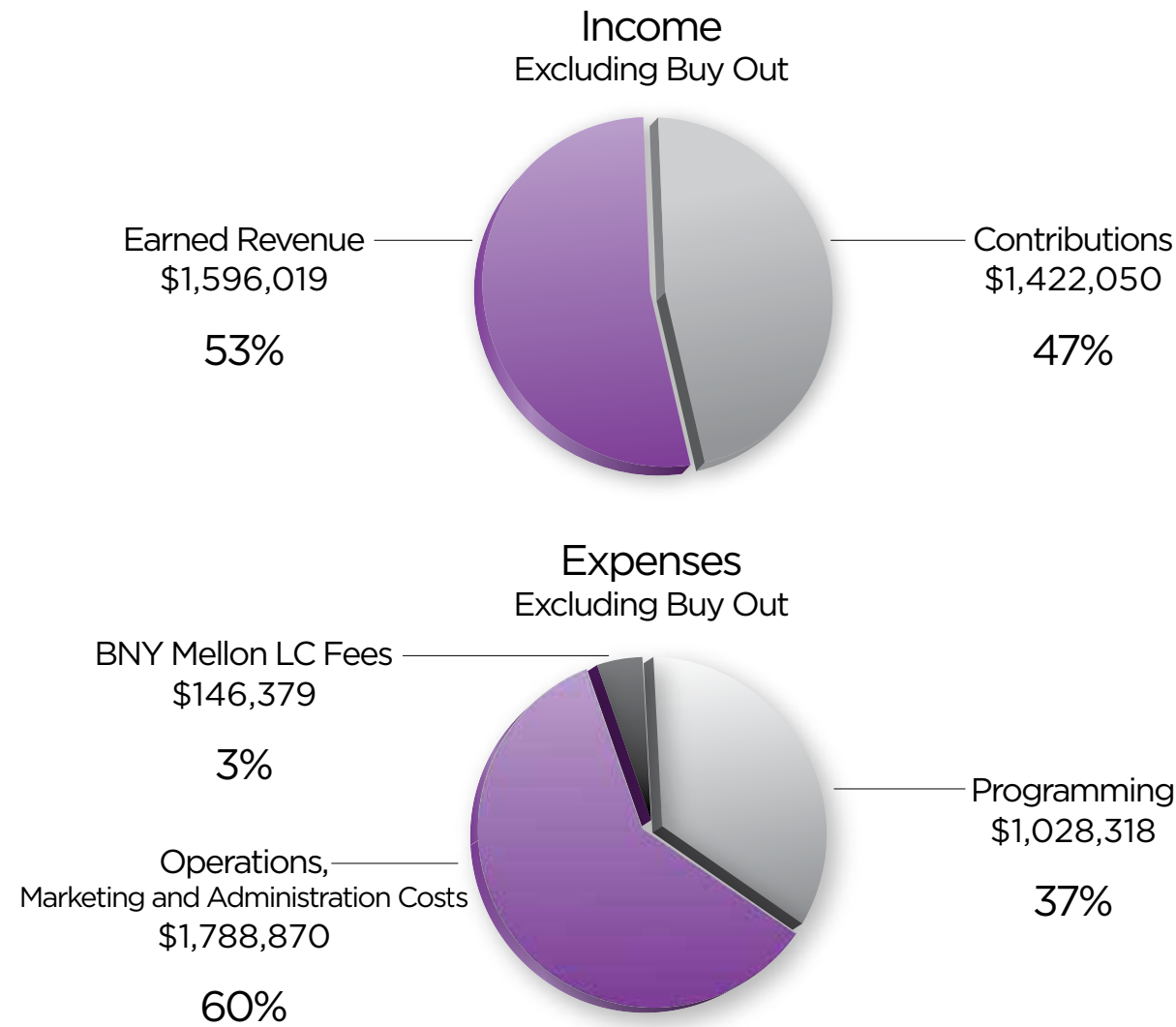
Total Expenses including Buy Out	\$4,227,106
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Net Cash Profit	\$22,363,325
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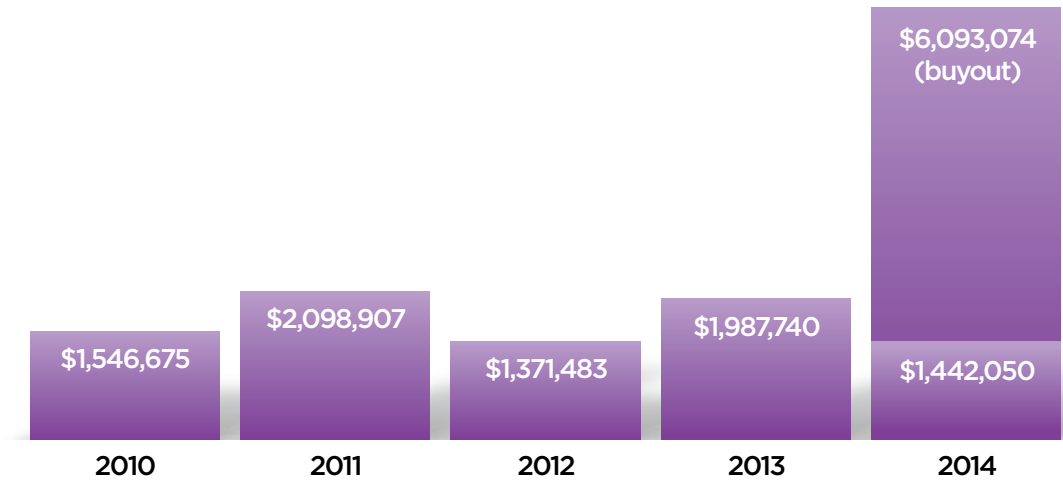
Net Cash Profit less Buyout Related Revenue and Expenses	\$54,502
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Financial Highlights

(unaudited)



Contributions Comparison by Year



2014 Honor Roll of Donors

The Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center would like to officially recognize and thank everyone who made 2014 such an extraordinary year in so many ways. In order to help keep costs down, we have chosen to transition the list of donors from a printed format to one that is exclusively online.

You can find the listing on our website at livermoreperformingarts.org/honor-roll. If you would prefer to remain anonymous, or see that your name requires any edits, please contact the development office at 925.583.2305.



Ricky Nelson Remembered - Matthew and Gurnar Nelson
photo: Steve Epstein

LVPAC Leadership Team

Scott Kenison

Executive Director

925.583.2301

skenison@livermoreperformingarts.org

Reanna Bradford

Director of Finance

925.583.2303

rbradford@livermoreperformingarts.org

Chris Carter

Director of Development

925.583.2311

ccarter@livermoreperformingarts.org

Ed Estrada

Production Manager

925.583.2308

eestrada@livermoreperformingarts.org

Dennis Keefe

Ticketing Office Manager

925.583.2307

dkeefe@livermoreperformingarts.org

Nancy Mueller

Director of Marketing

925.583.2306

nmueller@livermoreperformingarts.org

Linda Ryan

Manager, Bothwell Arts Center

925.447.2787

lryan@livermoreperformingarts.org

LIVERMORE VALLEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

BANKHEAD THEATER

2400 First Street

Livermore, CA 94550

Tel: 925.373.6100

BOTHWELL ARTS CENTER

2466 8th Street

Livermore, CA 94550

925.447.ARTS

DOWNTOWN ART STUDIOS

62 South L Street

Livermore, CA 94550

925.447.ARTS

BOX OFFICE

925.373.6800

Parson's Dance

LVPAC 2014 Annual Report Team:

Denise Bridges
Chris Carter
Roberta Emerson
Scott Kenison
Nancy Mueller
Rebecca Schoefer

With Support From:

Ginny Hair, Echo Communications, www.echopr.com
Steve Epstein, S J Epstein Design,
www.sjepsteindesign.com

For more information, please visit: livermoreperformingarts.org



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Bankhead Theater
Bothwell Arts Center



Follow us on Twitter @bankheadtheater