

L I V E R M O R E  
— arts —  
BANKHEAD & BOTHWELL



“All the performances of human art, at which we look with praise or wonder, are instances of the resistless force of perseverance.”

*Samuel Johnson*

2019 – 2020  
ANNUAL REPORT

## BY THE NUMBERS

Attendees from throughout the Tri-Valley region and beyond, across all ages and backgrounds.

47,000

19 Free Community Events including ArtWalk,

StarsDay, Lunar New Year, Art Exhibit Openings, Diwali, Native American Day, Holiday Family Concert, and more!

230

Events of all types throughout the year including shows, performances and the gala, as well as art exhibits, student workshops, and cultural celebrations.

Bankhead Presents shows featuring music of all genres such as rock, pop, jazz, country and classical, as well as dance, acrobatics, theater, film and comedy.

45

94%

were “Active Days” when the Bankhead and Bothwell were open with opportunities for everyone in the community to participate, engage, experience and enjoy the Arts in one of many forms.

Dear Friends,

For the past fifteen years, running has been my primary form of exercise. Most runners will tell you that you no matter how well you take care of yourself, eventually you will encounter an injury and I've had my share. I have learned that recovery does not necessarily mean rest. Alternatives can yield the same results while allowing the injury to heal and perhaps strengthen other muscles neglected by running. When you hit a road block, you can find alternate routes. The key is to continue to persevere.



I could not have guessed my first year as Executive Director would start out with a world crisis. We were running along well for the first couple months of 2020, but in March the world changed as the pandemic forced us to close. Suddenly I was confronted with many difficult decisions – a major staff reduction impacting 85 percent of our employees with a significant decrease in pay for the remaining team members. Despite this incredible challenge, the groundwork laid over the years helped us find an alternate route.

In 2014, we committed to a shift in focus towards philanthropy. Now, fully half Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center's annual revenue comes from contributions and we have worked hard to build that support. As a result, we will likely be one of the very few performing arts centers in the country with a net positive operating budget for the year. One key factor was our first-ever legacy gift from the estate of Jene and Isabelle Dupzyk.

Now more than ever, the joy and beauty of the Arts plays a role in the health and healing of the world. All the work we have done, together with the generous contributions of our members and donors, has cultivated a spirit of endurance that will support us through this difficult time. Our fiscal year may have ended in our greatest challenge, but it was still a year where more than 47,000 people were able to engage in the Arts through Bankhead Presents performances, free concerts and cultural events on the plaza, classes and camps at the Bothwell, and exhibits in the Bankhead Gallery and online.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center this year. Because of you, the Arts will remain vital and healthy as we run forward into a stronger future.

Chris Carter  
Executive Director

## At the start of any race, early signs can indicate the eventual outcome.

From the beginning, there were signals the fiscal year ahead would be exceptional for Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center in terms of ticket sales, fundraising, and community engagement. The announcement of the 2019-2020 *Bankhead Presents* season sparked record advance ticket sales. A diverse season was planned including country music hit makers Lonestar and Phil Vassar, Broadway star Lea Salonga, as well as the return of such favorites as Arlo Guthrie, Joan Osborne, Rita Rudner, and Aspen Santa Fe Ballet. In the months prior to the pandemic, 25 shows exceeded 80 percent ticket sales and 13 shows sold out completely.



The 2019 *Brilliance at the Bankhead* gala featuring Matthew Morrison, best known for his role on the television show *Glee*, exceeded ticket sale targets and raised \$500,000, breaking records both for LVPAC and among local non-profits. Improvements were made to the facility; solar panels and environmentally-friendly carpet joined LED lights, installed the previous year, and other improvements to achieve significant operational savings. Initial funding from generous donors allowed

*The star power of Matthew Morrison, accompanied by the Livermore-Amador Symphony and joined for one number by students from Livermore High School, helped the 2019 Gala break records for both fundraising and ticket sales.*

*Ticket sales for most shows moved quickly, but the touring show of television's So You Think You Can Dance set new records, briefly slowing the ticketing system and selling virtually every seat within weeks.*

acquisition of a new Steinway grand piano, selected with assistance from world-renowned pianist Jon Nakamatsu. Following the broad appeal of the “Man on the Moon” exhibit, visual art continued to bring new faces into the Gallery.

In October, Executive Director Scott Kenison announced his departure and the board selected Chris Carter, Director of Development and Communications, as his replacement. The two had worked together since 2014 and Chris's dedication to the arts, his deep understanding of the organization and a multi-month transition allowed a graceful leadership transition, promising the continuity of long-standing values, while bringing a fresh perspective on the Arts to the community.



*Scott Kenison and Chris Carter's shared love for the arts and appreciation for both the serious and the fun aspects of the job made for a smooth leadership transition. (with Board Chair Jean King at Livermore Innovation Fair)*

*Part of the “Green the Bankhead” campaign, the installation of solar panels was completed in November, with 156 panels providing power during the day and helping offset costs at night.*





## Winning a long race is about endurance; planning and perseverance count.

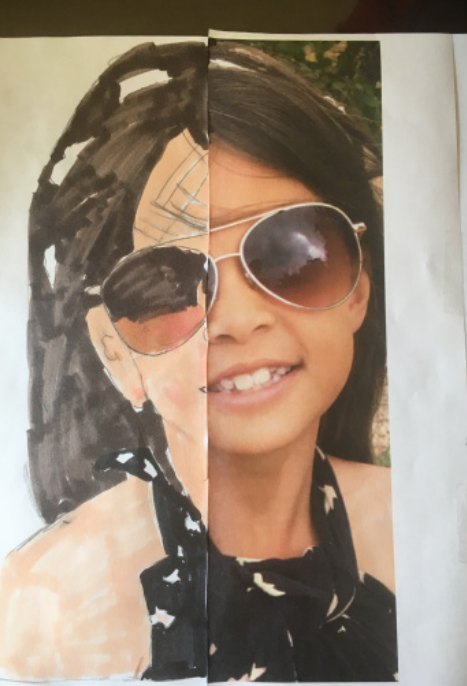
Although the year started prosperously, no one could foresee the astounding impact the pandemic would have on the arts. Even as the virus began to spread on the other side of the globe, events at the Bankhead and Bothwell ran through February. But on March 12, everything changed. Within a day, performances were cancelled, buildings closed, and staff was furloughed. Quick action made an enormous difference but inflicted pain. Resident company Livermore Valley Opera closed a successful

production mid-run. More than 50 shows, performances and films would eventually be taken off the schedule. Some artists cancelled tours entirely, others rescheduled, then rescheduled again. Staff hours and pay were reduced strategically, but soon the organization had a regular staff of just nine, down from 55.

We qualified for the Paycheck Protection Program as well as other financial assistance, banks cooperated with financing, and above all, donors at all levels stepped up to support

*Several much-anticipated tours from overseas such as The Tap Pack from Australia, Swiss-based Mummenschanz, and Japan's Drum TAO were cancelled entirely.*





*With a different project offered each day such as this half-and-half self-portrait, online art classes during spring break were very well received with between 50–80 students participating each day in classes led by Visual Arts Manager Anne Giancola. (Art: Rose Moniz)*

the organization. Their help was critical in securing our financial footing, even protecting health benefits for furloughed staff, helping set the stage for a return in the future.

Throughout history, Art has lifted the human spirit in times of need. Facing this pandemic, artists around the world offered virtual shows and recordings for us to share with audiences. We created online art classes for students caught at home, launched an online art gallery, and reformatted our Starsday “open mic” competition online. In times of challenge, Art perseveres, recreating itself to suit the moment.



*Recent Amador Valley High School graduate singer-songwriter Lauryn Marie won the online Starcatcher competition earning a cash prize and performance opportunity before leaving for college in Nashville.*

*Innovative exhibit “eARTh” had only just opened when the Bankhead had to close. Key pieces such as “Continental Drift 36” by Barbara Maricle were transferred to an Online Gallery allowing both old and new audiences to be reached.*



## The challenges the arts industry faces are a marathon, not a sprint.

Coming through the pandemic with our community safe and secure, able to once again share the joy of the arts, remains our top goal. Throughout the industry, artists and venues will have to rebuild the business, overcoming challenges that will require perseverance and dedication. We are investing in new cleaning equipment and filtration for safety, improving online

access, automating communications, and enhancing our ability to offer virtual events. ZOOM has allowed meetings but also enables artists to find new audiences and interact in new ways with them and with each other.

*The 2020 Brilliance at the Bankhead gala starring the legendary Vanessa Williams, now scheduled for September 2021, was one of more than four dozen shows cancelled or rescheduled.*







*Familiar faces at the Bankhead, Jene and Isabelle Dupzyk's favorite seats will now be inscribed with their names to honor the lasting impact their legacy gift had during a critical time of need.*

Frequent ticket buyers but not large donors during their lifetimes, Jene and Isabelle Dupzyk's unexpected and enormous legacy gift helped provide the financial stability to weather the long dark months. All our loyal donors and community made an enormous difference, providing encouragement and emphasizing the value of the Bankhead and Bothwell to the Arts. Our board and staff took the opportunity not only to assess how to survive this crisis, but to update our strategic plan to better prepare for the future.

After a year of darkness, we can see the finish line and hope is on the horizon. We are planning performances, events and exhibits that will excite, entertain and engage our audiences when we're allowed to reopen. Our stage will be filled with music, dance, theater, and comedy, our gallery with art. Our optimism is undeterred. The Arts will return – renewed, refreshed, and ready to inspire a creative spark for the community once again.

*Captured in one glorious moment by photographer Doug Jorgensen, the Bankhead Theater looks towards brighter times ahead.*

*Part of the Livermore Mural Fest, Trent Thompson's larger than life work rose on the side of the Bankhead, providing a striking visual message to the world: The Arts are important. We will be back.*



# Financial Highlights

The COVID-19 pandemic has made an enormous impact on the Arts industry as a whole, and Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center was not immune to its effects. For the first three quarters of our fiscal year, we saw contributions and earned revenues following our anticipated budget, even while overall expenses increased.

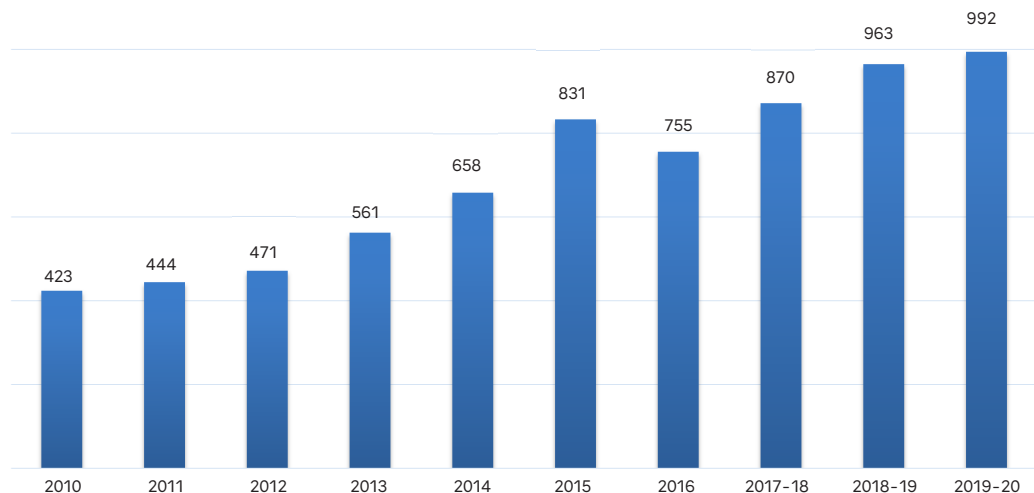
As a result of the necessary closure in March and loss of ticket revenue, we had to make some difficult decisions and reduced the number of staff by 85%. In spite of, or perhaps due to the crisis, we saw a 23% increase in

the total number of donations and a spike in new members in the final quarter during the closure. In addition, our first ever legacy gift, a home in Livermore, resulted in the timely donation of \$675,000.

Overall contributions were up for the year and exceeded \$2 million for the first time since 2011. The increase in contributions, along with successful applications for the Paycheck Protection Program and Small Business Administration EIDL loans, helped LVPAC weather the most tenuous early months of the closure.

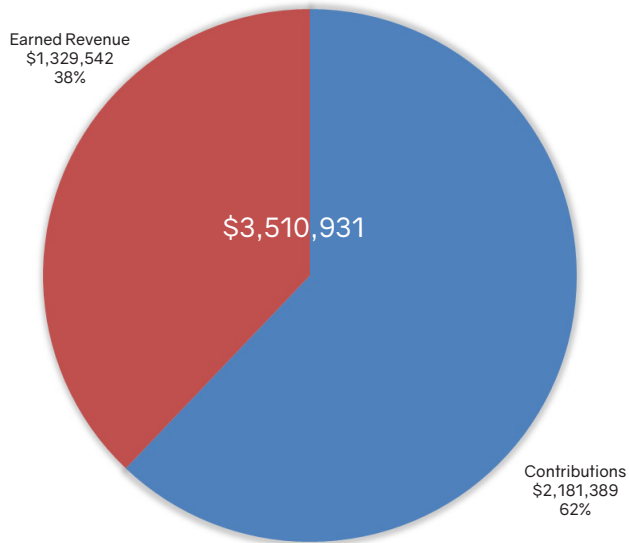


## Membership Comparison

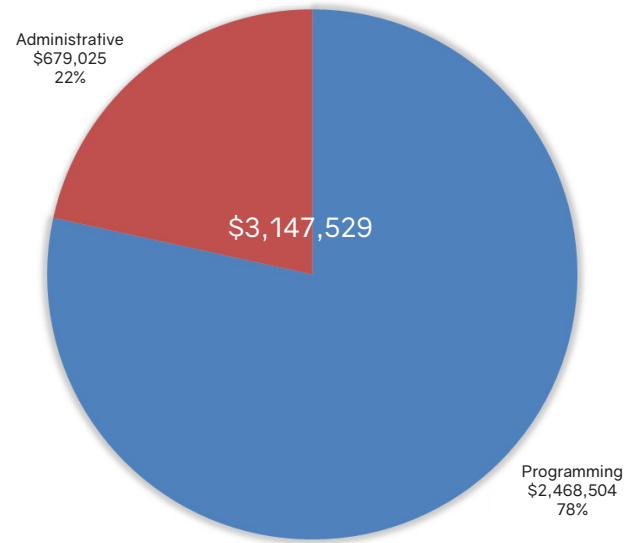


For a full audited report see [LivermoreArts.org/financials](https://LivermoreArts.org/financials)

## July 2019 - June 2020 Income



## July 2019 - June 2020 Expenses



## Contribution Comparison By Year



# **The mission of Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center is to offer a broad range of arts opportunities and experiences to engage our diverse community.**

## **EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

Jean King, Chair  
Denise Watkins, Vice-Chair  
Joan K. Seppala, President  
Leland Younker, Ph.D., Secretary  
Henry (Hank) Huff, Treasurer

## **DIRECTORS**

Dona Crawford	Jeff Kaskey
Kelly Cousins, Ph.D.	Layne Marceau
William Dunlop, Ph.D.	Jean Shuler
Judge Mark Eaton	Tim Stultz, Ph.D.
Charles Hartwig	Michael Weiner, M.D.
Ken Jones	Philip R. Wentz

## **EMERITUS**

Phillip N. Dean  
Patrick Kernan  
Dr. Mortimer Mendelsohn  
Thomas Reitter  
Donna Wilcox

## **HONORARY ARTS COMMISSION**

Wesley Arnold	Mony Nop
Elizabeth Arnold	Melody O'Shea
Jagbir Bhatia	Peter Poulsen
Jack Campbell	Jacky Poulsen
David Doyle	Lynn Reedy
Brian Gentry	Barry A Russell, Ph.D.
David Jonas	Barbara Steinfeld
Valerie Jonas	Linda Tinney
Dwight Lang	Elizabeth Trutner
Marianne Lang	Lara Webber
Anna Lim	Pat Wheeler
Joseph Madden	

## **MANAGEMENT**

Chris Carter, Executive Director  
Reanna Bradford, Director of Finance & Administration  
Eric Johnson, Director of Operations  
Gary Brunclik, Production Manager  
Carol Edwards, Front of House Manager  
Roberta Emerson, Marketing Manager  
Anne Giancola, Visual Arts Manager  
Julio Gomez, Facilities Manager  
Brittany Mulgrew, Membership Manager  
Debra Olson, Box Office Manager

## **LIVERMORE VALLEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

BANKHEAD THEATER  
2400 First Street  
Livermore, CA 94550  
925.373.6100

BOX OFFICE  
925.373.6800

BOTHWELL ARTS CENTER  
2466 Eighth Street  
Livermore, CA 94550  
925.447.ARTS

**[www.LivermoreArts.org](http://www.LivermoreArts.org)**