



The Commitment to Grow

A photograph of a stage with a black curtain and a spotlight on the floor. The text is overlaid on the image.

*Commitment is
an act, not a word.*

– Jean-Paul Sartre

Stephanie Epps
Executive Director

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*Let's
Talk*

The Commitment to Dream

A Message from our Executive Director Stephanie Epps



Can you look back and pinpoint a time of transformation in your life? A moment so formative you can identify it as the crystallization of a part of yourself that's now so inextricably ingrained in your identity it can never be removed? For me, that moment happened on a stage just like the Foundation of Arts': I learned how to believe in myself and my value as one member of many working toward a common goal. My ongoing desire to create and

unify can be attributed to finding my niche among people who shared my passions, even if they didn't share my opinions. Being part of an arts community is a powerful, formative experience, one that cannot be underestimated in its ability to enrich our community and build up movers and shakers. The Foundation of Arts has been the pinnacle organization for our arts community for decades, and its commitment to include and empower has created waves of impact on Northeast Arkansas, the lasting ripples of which are immeasurable.

So when you think back on your catalyst moment, what stirs inside you? Will you commit to partner with this organization that means so much to so many in your community? Will you commit to give generously so the FOA might continue on the exciting trajectory it's currently traveling? Will you believe in your value as one member of many working toward a common goal?

It's thrilling to dream about what we might accomplish and who we might impact if resources were more abundant and available. The Foundation of Arts is making the commitment to grow – will you commit with us?

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephanie Epps".

Stephanie Epps
Executive Director



The Commitment to Create

Our Mission

To engage people toward positive change for themselves through creativity as we enhance the quality of life of our community through the arts.



Our Vision

We envision a region unified through the arts despite their differences as each one discovers their inner artist and contributes to an ever-improving community.



Our Values

GROWTH & CREATIVITY

We honor the growth of the individual, group, and community through the creative process first and foremost.

EXCELLENCE & QUALITY

We strive for excellence and quality in our artistic programming while maintaining that these never supersede the creation process itself.

ACCESS & OPPORTUNITY

We value access to the arts for every person and offer opportunities to people regardless of their background or skill level.

COMMUNITY & INDIVIDUALITY

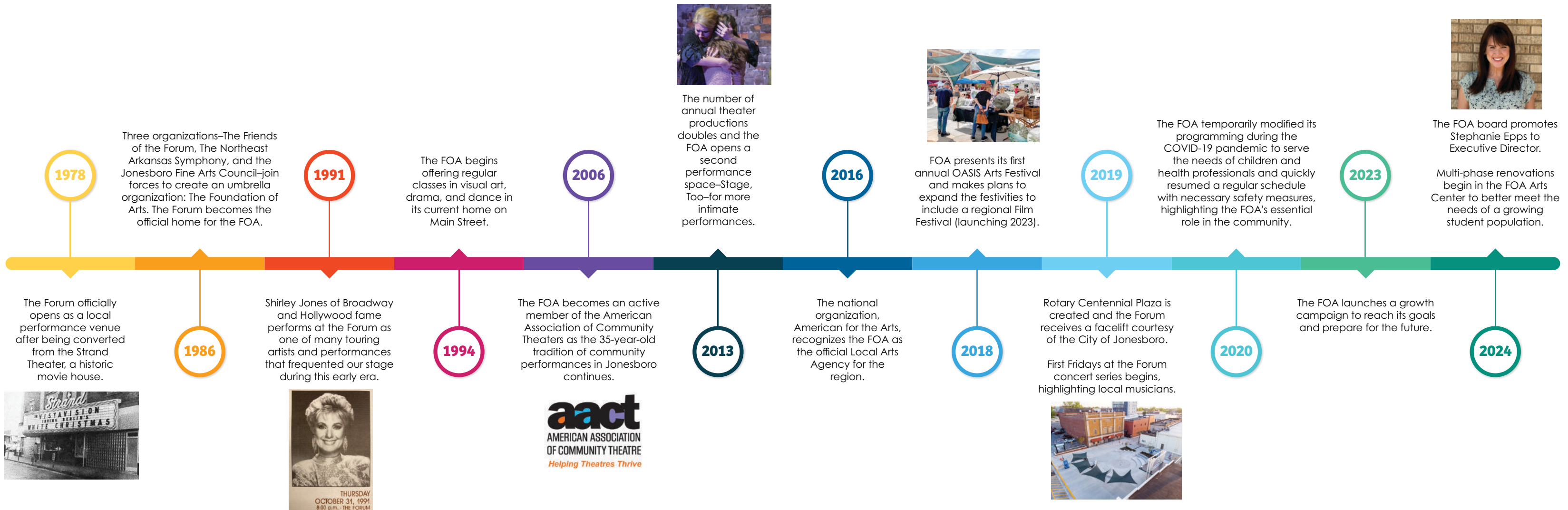
We produce activities that celebrate the community while believing in the power of the individual and their role within that community.

STEWARDSHIP & RESPONSIBILITY

We recognize and maintain our responsibility to be good stewards of the community's trust.



The Commitment to Lead



The Commitment to Inspire



Inspiring the Community

The Foundation of Arts has been a bright light in our city for many years and has changed the quality of life for so many. I have always been an advocate for their work to bring artistic experiences to citizens of all ages for little or no cost. It is refreshing and we should all be proud supporters of this wonderful organization!

–Cari White, Former Executive Vice President, Chamber of Commerce

The Foundation of Arts has given me opportunities to be creative, inspire, and give back to the community, and I have been blessed to be a part of this organization for 3 years. I enjoy working with students who crave to be creative and discover who they are. I enjoy working with staff and instructors to create a safe space for our community to thrive. I look forward to the FOA's future, and I am glad to leave my footprints here to continue to build the arts in Jonesboro.

–Destinee Harris, Dance Instructor, The Foundation of Arts

The FOA has had a formative and deeply personal effect on every member of my family. It has brought us all into new and meaningful relationships with a diverse array of people from the community. Participating in the FOA is one of the most satisfying and emotionally uplifting things we do in our hometown.

–Dr. Gary Edwards, Associate Professor of History, Arkansas State University

A L.E.A.P. of Faith: Learning Expression through Arts Programming

Participating in the arts changes lives for the better. We see it every day at the FOA and, more specifically, two days a week at the Abilities Unlimited Adult Development Day Treatment Center. The Foundation of Arts has served the adult clients of Abilities Unlimited through its LEAP Outreach program for four decades and counting. Research indicates that arts-based instruction provides significant benefits for individuals with special needs, improving self-esteem, creativity, social and emotional development while promoting self-expression, engagement, and social inclusion. Each week, FOA instructors visit the Abilities Unlimited campus to teach art and theatre classes. And every spring, the students perform a full showcase on the Forum Theater stage with their artwork displayed in the Forum lobby. This free public event is truly a highlight of every FOA season.

When asked to pinpoint benefits of the program, LEAP theatre instructor Annie Roberts said, "One of the most significant transformations I have witnessed in the classroom is an increase in confidence. Many of the clients I have served over the past several years initially seemed reserved but, through their participation in arts programming, they have grown to express themselves more openly through movement and voice." Angela Hardaway, LEAP guardian, regarding her family's experience in the program, "The LEAP drama performances have had a profound positive impact on Jermaine and Jayshawn, both of whom have been diagnosed with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Performing has provided them with a creative outlet to communicate their emotions, tell stories, and engage with others in ways that go beyond words. Being part of a drama program has also helped them build essential life skills, such as teamwork, patience, and problem-solving. Memorizing lines,

following cues, and collaborating with fellow performers have strengthened their focus and cognitive abilities. The structured environment of rehearsals and performances has given them a sense of responsibility and accomplishment. Beyond skill-building, participating in drama has brought them joy and a sense of belonging. The applause and encouragement from audiences have boosted their self-esteem, reinforcing their belief in their abilities. Most importantly, it has allowed them to showcase their talents, proving that every individual, regardless of ability, has a valuable story to share. Their journey in theater has been a testament to their resilience and potential, inspiring those around them." LEAP art instructor, Matt Ball, reflecting on a special memory from class, said "One day, a client was carefully painting a picture, as he always does. Once complete, he told me he was 'so very happy right now.' When asked why, he replied 'because of my art.'"



The Commitment to Join

Our Achievements

26,200

people have participated in a show or enrolled in a class at the FOA since its inception



We are responsible for

70,000

trips to downtown Jonesboro every year



Our programs have reached patrons or participants from

24 States



18%

of our regular participants live outside of Jonesboro

500

families attend our classes and productions every month

Why Now?

We have only just begun!

As we prepare for the next 40 years of impacting this city, we need increased funding to reach our goals and accomplish our mission.

FOA Development Dreams

	2022-2023 Season	2024-2025 Season	Dream 2025-2026 Season	Dream 2026-2027 Season	Totals
INCOME					
Tickets, Tuitions, Rentals & Retail	\$320,200	\$370,100	\$385,000	\$400,000	
Grants, Sponsorships & Donations	\$254,500	\$183,900	\$205,000	\$225,000	
Major Gift Campaign Donations		\$177,300	\$200,000	\$215,000	
Total	\$574,700	\$731,300	\$790,000	\$840,000	\$2,936,280
EXPENSES					
Festivals & Concerts	\$92,800	\$57,600	\$65,000	\$75,000	
Theatre Productions & Performances	\$371,100	\$345,100	\$360,000	\$375,000	
TAC Education & Performances	\$134,300	\$139,300	\$145,000	\$150,000	
Total	\$598,200	\$542,000	\$570,000	\$600,000	\$2,310,200
CAPITAL INVESTMENT DREAMS					
Forum Seating & Decor					\$275,100
Lighting, Sound & Projection					\$236,250
Balcony Redesign					\$173,000
Loading Dock Expansion					\$78,750
Dressing Rooms					\$66,150
✓ Art Center Renovations					\$57,262
Construction of Additional Space					\$1,590,000
					CAPITAL EXPENDITURES \$2,787,126

The Commitment to Grow

FORUM THEATER ART CENTER ADDITION



MATT SILAS ARCHITECT
212 East Washington Ave. • Jonesboro, Arkansas 72401 • 870-268-0500 • mattsilasarchitect.com

Major Gift Opportunities

- Arts Center
- Atrium and Exhibit Space
- Black Box Theater
- Dance Studios (3)
- Scene Shop
- Art Classroom

Naming Rights

- \$3,500,00
- \$500,00
- \$1,000,000
- \$250,000
- \$150,000
- \$100,000

The Black Box Theater



Distilling the experience of live theater down to its essence, black box theaters are adaptable to a variety of configurations. Small and intimate, a black box theater within the new Arts Center will bring new and exciting opportunities for community theater and also serve as an ad hoc event space.

Dance Studios



The Arts Center will contain three new dance studios for instruction and rehearsal in ballet, jazz, and tap. All three studios will contain private dressing spaces and two will include retractable partitions, allowing the rooms to be used as rentable venues for weddings and private events.

Atrium and Exhibit Space



The new Arts Center atrium will serve as both the building's lobby, and also as a naturally lit multi-level exhibit space for featured local artists.

Art Classroom



The Courage to Create begins in the classroom. The new Arts Center facility will contain a state-of-the-art new visual arts studio for budding young creators.



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