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Bill Stephan, CVE
Executive Director &
Chief Artistic Officer



The show must go on... and it did! Even with all the challenges of the last several months, a lot of truly wonderful things happened at the Lied Center. Just 3% of major performing arts venues in the nation presented live performances this fall, and the Lied Center was among them. Your continued support made it possible.

In September, the Lied Center became the first venue in the nation to host an Off-Broadway or Broadway touring show since March when we welcomed *NEWSical: The Musical*, a long-running Off-Broadway show that reunited its cast just to come to Lincoln. In October, Broadway star Derrick Davis performed an original autobiographical concert he created specifically for the Lied Center. Just a few weeks later, *Dixie's Tupperware Party* took over the Lied for a 7-show run that was among the nation's largest theatrical productions this fall. And in November, *On Broadway* brought its cast of Broadway stars back together for two exhilarating performances at the Lied Center.

Now we are setting our sights on the future, with plans to announce our spring season in the coming weeks and to reopen to in-person audiences in early 2021. The Lied Center will continue to lead the way in the return to live performances with exciting events including Mike Super: Magic and Illusion, Super Diamond, Kelli O'Hara, The Modern Gentlemen, Behzod Abdurimov, The Naughton Duo, Diane Schuur, and more. As a Friend, you'll be among the first to know.

The Friends of Lied have been integral in keeping the Lied Center moving forward, and it is because of you that we are looking confidently toward the future. You, the Lieders, are acknowledged on the cover of this issue of the Lied. I want to personally offer my sincere gratitude to each and every one of you.

So here's to the hope and joy that come from the arts, to meeting challenges with creativity and optimism, and to a brighter new year. I wish you health and happiness in 2021!



June Pederson
President | Friends of Lied
Board of Directors

Acknowledging the cliché, there is light ahead as we leave the 2020 tunnel and begin 2021. We look forward to joining others doing the things we love, especially performances at the Lied! I'm so proud of the opportunities created by the Lied Executive Director and talented staff to keep our spirits up and our hearts filled with performing arts. The Lied Center Staff expanded their skills bringing us music in our neighborhoods, movies, and other virtual experiences to enjoy at home. Creative, nimble, and flexible are appropriate descriptors for the entire staff.

The Friends of Lied Board of Directors extends a heartfelt thanks to each of you. Your membership helps support a season sponsorship, Arts Across Nebraska, the Production and Facilities Endowment, and an accruing fund for a Lied Center renovation gift, just to name a few. Our FOL fundraising team has pivoted quickly from an in-person event in 2021 to a virtual event called Support our Stages (read more on page 5). The proceeds from this event also contribute to the annual gift.

Nominations are now being accepted for the Board of Directors of Friends of Lied. The Board includes members from across the state of Nebraska who volunteer their time and energy in support of the Lied Center. Directors serve three-year terms and attend monthly meetings, September-May, to assist in friend-raising and fundraising for the benefit of performing arts in Nebraska.

>>> TO NOMINATE YOURSELF OR SOMEONE ELSE FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF FRIENDS OF LIED:

Go to www.liedcenter.org/friendsoflied for more details and our nomination form. You may also contact Friends of Lied advisor, Tracy Sanford, at tracymysanford@me.com, or membership manager Amy Ossian at 402-472-4704 or aossian2@unl.edu for more information.



RETURNING TO THE LIED CENTER

What is it like to return to the theater? After our first shows back, we asked audience members to tell us about their experience returning to the Lied.

It is so wonderful to walk into the theater. It's all the precautions that we find any place in town where you go and you know that you're going to be safe, so people in masks, people keeping socially distant. It feels very safe. And it feels very welcoming.
- Dr. Marilyn Moore

Being in this space is great because you can really truly distance here. You have really good sight lines; you can see everything on stage without having any heads in your way. We just love coming and seeing live theatre as a family and making those memories, so it was so good to be back.
- Katie Taddeucci

It was so great to see friends back in the theater again and to enjoy live theatre. I felt completely safe. The way we get in and out of the theater is well-orchestrated. The Lied is doing an awesome job to make people feel safe. - Randy Hawthorne

FRIENDS OF LIED ANNUAL GIFT

On October 23rd, at Dixie's Tupperware Party performance, former FOL membership chair Megan Darlington and former FOL president Tracy Sanford presented Lied Executive Director Bill Stephan with a check for \$475,000 representing the annual gift to Lied Center for Performing Arts by Friends of Lied. This presentation of our 2019 gift would have normally taken place in the spring, but was delayed due to the pandemic. This gift was made possible by contributions from over 1,179 members and annual fundraising in 2019. This gift will be used to support Lied programming, including education and outreach, as well as funding for operational and facility needs.

Patron Friend Sponsors and Board Members June Pederson, Tracy Sanford, Kristen Cline, Jan Cook, and Lanny Barth met Dixie after the show.

FOL raised \$475,000 in 2019!



Support Our Stages

2021 FRIENDS OF LIED VIRTUAL FUNDRAISER

WHAT

The Friends of Lied is excited to introduce our new virtual fundraising concept, Support Our Stages. This campaign gives Lied supporters the opportunity to show their support of the Lied Center by virtually “filling the seats” with Paper Patrons.

WHY

The Friends of Lied normally hosts an annual spring fundraising event to help support the Lied financially with their remarkable mission: to educate, inspire and entertain the people of Nebraska through the performing arts. This year, the Board has been challenged to provide this funding while keeping all involved safe during the ongoing pandemic. Support Our Stages is a way we can all come together virtually to support the Lied Center.

HOW

Patrons will have the opportunity to purchase and customize cutouts that will be placed in the Lied Center mainstage seats. More information on ordering details will be coming in 2021!

WHEN

The fundraising campaign will run from March 15 - April 20, culminating with a finale celebration event in May. Exact date and details to be announced soon!

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

If your business is interested in becoming a corporate sponsor for this event, please contact aossian2@unl.edu for sponsor opportunities!



Education at the Lied: CREATE SPRING INSTITUTE

The arts have long been documented as educational motivators for at-risk students, producing positive outcomes such as re-engaging student interest in learning, decreasing drop out rates, and providing one of the only means of communication or expression in school curriculum today. Research shows that the students most likely to benefit from learning through the arts may also have little access to or attend schools with less capacity to provide direct, quality learning experiences in arts education. One way to address these barriers is to provide teachers with professional development designed to support arts integration, across the curriculum, in their schools and classrooms.

In 2019 the Lied Center received support to offer **CREATE**, a week-long institute demonstrating arts integration approaches that can be incorporated into classroom practice by any teacher – whether a classroom generalist, arts specialist, or a high school content-area teacher. For the first time ever, this class was offered for undergraduate/graduate credit! As a result of this highly successful initial offering, **CREATE** will again be offered for interested teachers Spring Semester 2021. This semester-long, virtual course includes:

- Sampler Arts Integration sessions led by experts providing proven strategies in the arts - dance/movement, media arts, music, theater, visual art - integrated with other subjects
- Introductory sessions on arts integration, arts education, multicultural education, and current research impacting the field
- Features Nebraska Arts Standards and English/Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, Math, and Technology Standards.

- Nebraska arts organizations visits - the Lied Center, International Quilt Museum, or Center for Great Plains Studies
- Opportunities to participate without registering for credit, with a reasonable registration fee.

Individual **CREATE** sessions are led by nationally known Kennedy Center Teaching Artists including arts integration specialist Deb Brzoska, along with Imani Gonzalez (music/the Blues), Glenis Redmond (poetry/performance), Tammy Meneghini (theater/voice) and Amy Córdova y Boone (visual arts/children's literature). These workshops present successful arts integration strategies that have been proven and tested by teachers in schools across the U.S.

Amy Cordova y Boone is one instructor featured in the 2021 **CREATE**. As an artist, educator, and community activist, Amy has over thirty years of classroom experience, working with diverse students throughout the U.S. Her teaching approach is rooted in a "sense of place," highlighting one's connection to self, family, community, and the greater world at large. Amy's involvement in children's book publishing began in the 1990s. Examples of her published works include *The First Tortilla* with Rudolfo Anaya (UNM Press) and *Dream Carver* (Chronicle Books) with Diana Cohn.

The Lied is excited to collaborate with UNL's Department of Teaching, Learning and Teacher Education. **CREATE** has also been supported by the Pace Woods Foundation, and the Nebraska Arts Council/Nebraska Cultural Endowment.

>>> Story by Nancy Engen-Wedin. For more information, contact Nancy at 402-472-4707 / nengenwedn2@unl.edu

above: 2019 **CREATE** Institute participants demonstrate the drama-based pedagogy technique of tableau for their fellow attendees.



The Lied Center's MOSAIC series strives to present work that is idea-driven, curiosity-fueled, and radically inclusive and the latest series project, the MOSAIC Film Festival, featured two films that embody those ideals. On November 17 & 18, 2020, the festival took place in the Lied Center main hall, streaming across the country to virtual audiences. Each evening screened a documentary film co-directed by UNL College of Journalism and Mass Communication alum Ingrid Holmquist and featured panel conversations with community leaders.

Chief Standing Bear: A Journey to Statuary Hall was presented on November 17 and recounted the true story of Ponca Chief Standing Bear and his trailblazing human rights court case in 1879 leading to his designation as a Nebraska hero with his statue dedicated and installed in Statuary Hall in 2019. The panel conversation featured the film's co-directors, filmmaker Ingrid Holmquist and Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs Executive Director Judi gaiashkibos, in addition to sculptor Benjamin Victor, Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Chairman Larry Wright Jr., and philanthropist Don Miller Campbell. Dr. Patrice McMahon, Director of the UNL Honors Program and Political Science Professor, moderated the discussion, which addressed the significance of Chief Standing Bear, the process of getting the statue into Statuary Hall, and the power of representation.

The second evening of the festival on November 18 featured the film *Guanajuato Norte*, co-directed by Ingrid Holmquist and Sana A. Malik. This student BAFTA-award winning documentary tells the story of migrant farmworker Wenceslao Contreras, who contends with being away from his family to help support their dreams and build a new life for them in their hometown of Guanajuato, Mexico. The panel conversation following the film focused on the challenges faced by migrant and immigrant workers in Nebraska and across the United States today. Moderated by Dr. James Garza, UNL Professor of History and Ethnic Studies, the panel included the film's co-director Ingrid Holmquist, Nebraska Latino American Commission Executive Director Dr. Lazaro Arturo Spindola, Nebraska State Senator Tony Vargas, and Nebraska Appleseed Immigrants and Communities Program Staff Attorney Schuyler Geery-Zink.

We are so grateful to our panelists and the event sponsors who made this festival possible: the UNL Chancellor's Office, The Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs, and MOSAIC Circle Donors Priscilla C. Grew, Dr. Colleen Jones, Rhonda Seacrest, and Art and Chris Zygielbaum.



above: Chief Standing Bear's statue dedication in Statuary Hall at the U.S. Capitol



above: a scene from *Guanajuato Norte*



above: *Guanajuato Norte* panelists, from left to right: Nebraska Latino American Commission Executive Director Dr. Lazaro Arturo Spindola, Nebraska State Senator Tony Vargas, UNL Professor of History and Ethnic Studies Dr. James Garza, the film's co-director Ingrid Holmquist, and Nebraska Appleseed Immigrants and Communities Program Staff Attorney Schuyler Geery-Zink

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