

LA
JOLLA
PLAY
HOUSE

2023/24 SEASON IMPACT REPORT





TABLE OF CONTENTS

A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP.....5

CREATIVE PROGRAMMING.....7

UPLIFTING THE NEW AND THE NEXT IN AMERICAN THEATRE.....10

LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT.....12

MILITARY & VETERANS PROGRAMS – THE MVP INITIATIVE.....14

COMMITMENT TO BEING AN EQUITABLE INSTITUTION.....16

PLAYHOUSE BY THE NUMBERS.....18

GIVING THEIR TIME.....20

LEADERSHIP AND STAFF.....22

HISTORY OF THE PLAYHOUSE.....24

Front Cover: Matthew Broderick (left) and Francis Jue in *Babbitt*; photo by Jenna Jo Photography.
Inside Cover: Nkeki Obi-Melekwe and Idina Menzel in *Redwood*; photo by Rich Soublet II.

LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE MISSION & VALUES

MISSION STATEMENT

La Jolla Playhouse advances theatre as an art form, telling stories that inspire empathy and create a dialogue toward a more just future. With our intrepid spirit and eclectic, artist-driven approach we will continue to cultivate a local, national and global following with an insatiable appetite for audacious work. We provide unfettered creative opportunities for a community of artists of all backgrounds and abilities. We are committed to being a permanent safe harbor for unsafe and surprising work, offering a glimpse of the new and the next in American theatre.

VALUES STATEMENT

At La Jolla Playhouse, we believe that stories enhance the human experience, instill **empathy** and help us see the world in new ways. We **respect** all races, ethnicities, cultures, physical/ cognitive abilities, ages, genders and identities, and endeavor to be an anti-racist and **accessible** organization that removes barriers to engagement. As a community of life-long learners who celebrate the spirit of **play**, we **innovate** and **collaborate** to bring theatre to life.

We practice **empathy** by listening, challenging our assumptions and staying open to all perspectives.

We **respect** and recognize the complexities of all lived experiences, identities and cultural backgrounds. We honor the Kumeyaay Nation, the original caretakers of the land on which our theaters sit. We will fight against anti-blackness, the many forms of racism directed at BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) and all types of discrimination and harassment, to be a more inclusive space where everyone feels welcome onstage and off. We work with our community to identify, understand and address ways to make our theatre more equitable and **accessible**.

We infuse the spirit of **play** into everything we do, sparking creativity, fun and life-long learning.

We **innovate** and take risks to propel theatre as an art form and as a pathway toward fostering belonging and enhancing human connection.

We **collaborate** by prioritizing inclusive practices from which diverse voices, talents and ideas can strengthen engagement and creative thinking.

We vow to grow and embrace these values. When we falter, we will hold ourselves accountable through transparent communication, measurable outcomes, self-reflection and humility. With great joy and a strong sense of responsibility, we commit to these values in every aspect of our work.

A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

All of us at La Jolla Playhouse extend a heartfelt thank you for your support this season. Your generosity enables us to produce cutting-edge theatre that both inspires and challenges our community.

This season, we were pleased to present an inspiring lineup of productions, including *Love All, Is It Thursday Yet?*, *The Untitled Unauthorized Hunter S. Thompson Musical*, *SUMO*, *Babbitt* and *Redwood*. Our annual WOW Festival, held at UC San Diego, highlighted the immersive and site-specific work of local, national, and international artists. Additionally, the POP Tour, *Abeba in the Tall Grass*, reached about 13,000 students and teachers.

More than 20,000 students (including youth, interns, teachers, and adult community learners) were positively influenced by our Learning & Engagement initiatives this season. Our Military and Veterans Programs —the MVP Initiative — extended over 400 complimentary tickets to local active-duty servicemembers and veterans in San Diego. By collaborating with Hire Heroes and the Gary Sinise Foundation, we enhanced the WOW Festival to provide more enriching experiences for our military community.

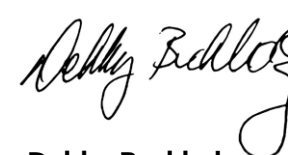
Your support enables us to fulfill our mission of pioneering the new and the next in American theatre while telling stories that inspire empathy and push us towards a more just future. We are thankful for your investment in the Playhouse and the impact your support has on our artists, audiences, community, industry, and beyond.

Our commitment to bringing timely and impactful stories to our audiences remains unwavering; we remain firm in our dedication to making theatre accessible to all. With your support, we can continue to transform the lives of those we serve.

Again, thank you for your commitment to La Jolla Playhouse. We are truly grateful for your support.



Christopher Ashley
The Rich Family Artistic Director
of La Jolla Playhouse



Debby Buchholz
Managing Director
of La Jolla Playhouse





The cast of *The Untitled Unauthorized Hunter S. Thompson Musical*; photo by Rich Soublet II.

CREATIVE PROGRAMMING

The Playhouse is dedicated to fostering the growth of new artistic works and providing opportunities for the industry’s foremost and emerging playwrights, directors, actors, and designers. With a commitment to providing unfettered creative opportunities for a community of artists of all backgrounds and abilities, each season showcases captivating stories that inspire meaningful discussions and harness the transformative power of theatre.

SUBSCRIPTION SEASON

Our 2023/2024 Subscription Season was a treasure trove of artistic exploration, featuring six brand new productions: *Love All; Is It Thursday Yet?*; *The Untitled Unauthorized Hunter S. Thompson Musical*; *SUMO*; *Babbitt*; and *Redwood*. This season, comprised entirely of world premieres, celebrated the innovation at the core of the Playhouse and our dedication to fostering new work. **More than 90,000 tickets were distributed for the 2023/24 Subscription Season.**

THANK YOU TO OUR 2023/24 ARTISTIC DIRECTOR’S CIRCLE

- Roberta C. Baade Charitable Fund
- Denise and Lon Bevers
- Theodor S. and Audrey S. Geisel Fund
- Hanna and Mark Gleiberman
- Kay and Bill Gurtin
- Jeanne L. Herberger, Ph.D.
- Debby and Hal Jacobs
- Joan and Irwin Jacobs
- Sheri L. Jamieson
- La Atalaya Fund
- Rebecca Moores Foundation
- Jordan Ressler Charitable Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation

THANK YOU TO OUR 2023/24 SEASON SPONSORS











- Weston Anson – In Loving Memory of Susan Bailey Anson
- Michael Bartell and Melissa Garfield Bartell
- Gail and Ralph Bryan
- Brian and Silvija Devine
- The Estate of Pauline Foster
- Laurie Gore and Julie Osman – Mission Valley Community Foundation
- Lynn Gorguze and Scott Peters
- Perlmeter Family Foundation
- Karen and Jeff Silberman
- Les J. Silver and Andrea Rothschild-Silver
- Molli Wagner
- Mandell Weiss Charitable Fund

WOW FESTIVAL

The mission of the WOW Festival is to offer site-specific, interactive, and immersive projects that transform the familiar into the extraordinary, sparking imagination and wowing audiences of all ages. These bold experiences ignite cross-disciplinary partnerships that help expand and diversify the field, making San Diego a destination for this groundbreaking work.

Our annual Festival and stand-alone projects bring people together to reimagine the traditional relationship between artist and audience. With innovation at its core, WOW celebrates vibrant connections with fearless and fun activations that electrify our creative city.

Since its founding in 2011, WOW has become a highly acclaimed and popular performance program in the San Diego region and beyond. Under the WOW umbrella, the Playhouse has produced nine stand-alone WOW projects, seven WOW Festivals, and 14 Digital WOW pieces.

The 2024 WOW Festival took place April 4–7 at UC San Diego and reached thousands of San Diegans and visitors.

More than 20,000 tickets were reserved by more than 3,200 households to experience 26 projects and participate in 2 workshops.

WOW FESTIVAL 2024 PARTNERS

PRESENTING SPONSORS

UC San Diego

Commission for Arts and Culture

Roberta C. Baade Charitable Fund

HUB SPONSORS

SHOW IMAGING

PREMIER SPONSOR

FONDS
PODIUM
KUNSTEN
PERFORMING
ARTS FUND NL

SUPER FAN SPONSORS



Christopher Ashley
David and Alisa Barba
Denise and Lon Bevers
Edward and Martha Dennis
Susan Dubé
Dean Haas
Dwight Hare and Stephanie Bergsma
Gail and Doug Hutcheson
Jay Jeffcoat and Joyce Gattas
Kathy and Rob Jones
Quiñones Family Trust
Robin and Larry Rusinko
Jay and Julie Sarno
Ira and Dawn Smalberg
Pam Wagner and Hans Tegebo
Peggy Ann Wallace and WALLY

INSIDER SPONSORS



Debby and Todd Buchholz
Jeffrey and Kimberly Goldman
Playhouse Leadership Council
Mary Walshok

MEDIA SPONSORS

WOW Festival is proud to be part of the Official Calendar of World Design Capital San Diego Tijuana 2024.



Photos from WOW Festival 2024 by Jenna Jo Photography.



UPLIFTING THE NEW AND THE NEXT IN AMERICAN THEATRE INITIATIVE

Reading of *Human Museum* at
DNA New Work Series 2023;
photo by Samantha Laurent.

La Jolla Playhouse invests significant resources in our mission to “provide unfettered creative opportunities for artists of all backgrounds and abilities” by commissioning and developing “unsafe and surprising” new work from emerging and established artists. The Playhouse has mounted 120 world premieres and commissioned 70 new works, demonstrating our commitment to sharing new voices and contemporary stories.

The Playhouse uplifts diverse new works and voices in the following ways:

(1) Our commissioning and development programs are as robust as ever, with two dozen artists currently under commission.

These include two new musicals by writers of color: one by Benjamin Velez and Harrison David Rivers, and another by Connie Lim (aka MILCK), Adrienne Gonzalez, Sam Chanse and Jess McLeod called *The Family Album* which was further developed through workshops in 2023 and 2024. Additionally, we have plays under commission by writers such as Todd Almond, Jeff Augustin, Fernanda Coppel, Idris Goodwin, Mike Lew, Rehana Lew Mirza, Martyna Majok, Mona Mansour, Lisa Peterson, Theresa Rebeck, Claudia Shear, Christopher Shinn, Octavio Solis, Jonathan Spector, Keith Wallace, Cheryl L. West, Kristina Wong, and Lauren Yee.

(2) The DNA New Work Series provides essential developmental opportunities to diverse emerging and established playwrights whose works are in the earliest stages through rehearsal time, space, and dramaturgy.

Public readings engage audiences in conversation about the plays and provide vital feedback to artists. As of the 2023/24 Season, 11 plays from the DNA series had gone on to have full productions at the Playhouse.



Left: Dr. Maria Patrice Amon. Right: Yolanda Franklin.

(3) The Artist-In-Residence program is a multi-month opportunity, that provides artists with the resources to focus on their ongoing body of work. La Jolla Playhouse has had the honor of working with Artist-in-Residence Dr. Maria Patrice Amon, acclaimed local director, producer, and scholar. Dr. Amon produced the 2023 La Jolla Playhouse Latinx New Play Festival, where four plays of ranging Latinx experiences were brought to the American stage. Her mission is to utilize her artistic practice to create opportunities to employ and highlight underrepresented artists, particularly strong BIPOC women. Dr. Amon has used the Playhouse as her laboratory to elevate honest and audacious works such as her WOW piece, *On Her Shoulders We Stand*.

(4) The Theatre-in-Residence program offers small and/or rising local theatre companies the space and mentorship to develop and produce their own work. Our 2023/24 Resident Theatre was Common Ground Theatre, one of the nation’s oldest Black theatre companies. Under the leadership of Yolanda Franklin, their first female executive director, Common Ground Theatre presented *Still We Rise*, a concert celebrating Black music and art, and the contemporary love story *Sense of Love* during their inaugural year of residency. During the 2023/24 Season, their second year of residency, and they produced George C. Wolfe’s renowned play, *The Colored Museum*.

Voices of Our City Choir Theatre Workshops director and co-writer Desirée Clarke Miller (left), Teaching Artist and co-writer, Shairi Engle (center) with Voices of Our City Choir participants.



(5) For 14 years we have partnered with Native Voices at the Autry, the resident theatre company at the Autry Museum of the American West in Los Angeles, to share Indigenous stories with our local community. In 2023/24, the Playhouse hosted two annual, free-of-charge festivals of new works by Native American, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and First Nations playwrights. The Short Play Festival consists of professional staged readings of 10-30-minute plays, centered around a particular theme. The Festival of New Plays provides emerging and established Native artists the opportunity to see their full-length works brought to life by renowned directors, dramaturgs, and actors.

(6) In 2023/24 we continued our partnership with Voices of Our City Choir, which helps San Diego’s unsheltered population reconnect with hope and possibility through the healing power of music, along with other resources. The Playhouse provides free, bi-monthly theatre workshops to Choir members to help them develop their storytelling skills to share their personal stories through song. Playhouse teaching artists led 20 workshops and provided food and transportation for each one. Dozens of participants showed up for each workshop, with many attending multiple times. Total individuals reached was approximately 35 over the course of the year. A passionate choir member had this to share: “Today was my first time being here and when you enter in, you are a part of the Voices community, transforming your life experiences. You never know what’s going to happen, it’s full of surprises. It’s full of magic.”



LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT

This season, our Learning & Engagement programs impacted nearly 30,000 students, including elementary and middle school students, interns, K-12 teachers, and adult community learners.

PERFORMANCE OUTREACH PROGRAM (POP) TOUR

For more than three decades, La Jolla Playhouse has commissioned and toured original plays for young audiences, bringing them to schools, libraries, and community centers. These productions offer an unforgettable introduction to theatre for many students, creating a lasting impression and igniting a passion for the arts. To prepare students for the experience, the Playhouse provides educators with expertly crafted lesson plans and the option to invite a Playhouse teaching artist to conduct a preshow workshop, helping to set the stage for a meaningful and engaging encounter with live performance.

This year’s POP Tour, *Abeba in the Tall Grass*, reached more than 13,000 students and teachers. The 2024 POP Tour was a captivating new play that centers around Abeba, a fifth-grade aspiring horticulturist, and the urban garden that has become her sacred space. When her sanctuary becomes invaded by a couple of goof-offs from school who have been tasked to work in the garden over spring break as discipline, Abeba hatches a plan to teach these boys a lesson, and a little respect for produce. However, in return, Abeba herself learns an important life lesson: like plants need water and light to flourish, people need friendship and community to thrive.

See more details in our 2023/24 POP Tour Impact Report.

TECHNICAL THEATRE TRAINING

In partnership with San Diego County Office of Education’s Juvenile Court and Community Schools, La Jolla Playhouse offers Technical Theatre Training to incarcerated, homeless, foster, and other disadvantaged youth. Small groups of high school students come to the Playhouse theatre district for one week of intensive learning and gain a creative outlet for expressing themselves academically and personally, new skills in the arts and STEM (STEAM) subjects, an understanding of

opportunities in the professional theatre industry, and a positive experience with mentors. **In Summer 2023, we served 22 unhoused students from Monarch School and probationary youth from San Diego SOAR Academy at East Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility.** Student reflection: “To me theatre means teamwork, to see all these people come together to make one thing.”

JUMPSTART THEATRE

This program establishes sustainable musical theatre programs in middle schools that previously lacked such capabilities. Over the course of three years, the program provides comprehensive professional development to new arts educators, empowering them to guide their students in producing an annual musical at their school.

Three teachers from each participating school are taught the techniques and skills to develop and manage a musical theatre program (including casting, rehearsal schedules, staging/choreography and technical requirements, cultivating parent/community engagement, and achieving economic sustainability) through a series of two, full-day professional development “bootcamps” each year of the three-year program, plus ongoing mentoring/coaching with an experienced Playhouse teaching artist.

In 2023/24, JumpStart Theatre served 358 students and 60 teachers at the following schools: Year 1 Cohort: Longfellow K-8; Year 2 Cohort: Challenger and Marston middle schools; Year 4, Graduated Cohort: Innovation, Montgomery, and Los Coches Creek middle schools; and Year 5, Graduated Cohort: Knox and De Portola middle schools.

EDUCATOR AND STUDENT MATINEES

We were delighted to welcome students and educators to three of our Subscription Season productions, *Babbitt*, *SUMO*, and *Redwood*. Through these matinee performances, we had the pleasure of reaching **1,341 students and 65 teachers**. To enhance student engagement, we hosted exclusive educator preview nights for each production. These evenings served as valuable opportunities for teachers to participate in professional learning sessions and gain insight into the shows, allowing them to better prepare their students for the performance(s).

“The Student Matinee and Educator Nights are amazing, high quality programs that I am thrilled to be connected with. My students, who are not theatre kids, love coming to the shows. We last came to *Babbitt*, and I didn’t really expect my young, Indigenous kids to connect with an older, white businessman, but they did. They had thoughtful and robust conversations about the show and how it related to their experiences. Thank you LJP for championing such events for our youth, and may your model spread to other organizations, because it truly is inspiring.”

SPOTLIGHT ON

This comprehensive series of classes is designed specifically for adults seeking to explore and deepen their understanding of professional theatre techniques. Our diverse class offerings include Musical Theatre Dance Styles, Intro to Improv, Writing the 10 Minute Play, Contemporary Scene Study, Intro to Acting, Scene into Song, Musical Theatre Ensemble, Developing a New Play, and Audition Technique. Each class is thoughtfully designed to cater to different interests and skill levels, ensuring that participants can find the perfect fit for their theatrical journey.

We are proud to have reached and engaged with a total of 585 lifelong learners through Spotlight On this year.

Thank you to our Community Learning Circle members who support the Learning & Engagement Programs:

- Denise and Lon Bevers
- Clairemont Rental Properties
- Hanna and Mark Gleiberman
- Wendy Gillespie
- Lynn Gorguze and Scott Peters
- Rosemary and Michael Perlmeter
- Maryanne and Irwin Pfister
- Julie and Lowell Potiker
- Jordan Ressler Charitable Fund
- of the Jewish Community Foundation
- Robin and Larry Rusinko
- Swanna and Alan Saltiel
- Karen and Jeff Silberman
- Peggy Ann Wallace
- Barbara Zobell



MILITARY AND VETERANS PROGRAMS – THE MVP INITIATIVE

Attendees at Military Night Out



Images from our MVP Open House; photos by Samantha Laurent.

The military community plays an important role in San Diego, and La Jolla Playhouse has created dedicated, free-of-charge programs to enhance the quality of life for military servicemembers, veterans, and their families. Our MVP Initiative connects, inspires, and entertains through programs like the Veterans Playwriting Workshop (VPW), Military Nights Out, Military Families at WOW, arts learning programs targeted to children in military families, and military-themed artistic programming. These experiences allow members of the military community to find meaningful avenues of self-expression and to spend quality time with loved ones through enriching arts activities, without the barriers of cost.

See more details in our 2023/24 MVP Initiative Impact Report.

VETERANS PLAYWRITING WORKSHOP

The Veterans Playwriting Workshop offers a transformative experience for participants, as they collaborate with teaching artists, who are veterans themselves, over several weeks to shape and share their stories, fostering a sense of community and healing throughout the process. The program consists of three distinct levels, Beginner, Intermediate, and Development, and participants are welcome to take these sections as many times as desired.

VPW is an inclusive program, provided free of charge to participants, including veterans, military personnel, spouses, and national interpreters. Additionally, the readings and performances are free of charge to attendees. We recruit participants through our partnerships with military organizations, Military Nights Out, and local VA referrals. Since the end of the pandemic closure, we have successfully transitioned to a hybrid model, offering the Workshop both in-person and online via Zoom. This approach has granted greater flexibility and accessibility to participants, enabling the involvement of individuals from various locations.

25 individuals participated in Veterans Playwriting Workshop during the 2023/24 season.

MILITARY NIGHTS OUT

With a preshow reception and complimentary tickets for a Playhouse performance, Military Nights Out create magical moments of reconnection for military members and their families. Together, loved ones create new memories, helping to make up for some of the holidays and celebrations they have missed over the years. With in-kind support from the Gary Sinise Foundation, the Playhouse was able to provide enhanced meal options and important resources for attendees.

The Playhouse served 415 military servicemembers, veterans, and family members during Military Nights Out this season.

MILITARY FAMILIES AT WOW

In recognition and appreciation of the San Diego military community, our 2024 WOW Festival at UC San Diego hosted two Military Appreciation Mixers on Saturday and Sunday, April 6 and 7. Attendees were able to enjoy snacks and drinks at our WOW Club Lounge. These events were attended by nearly 80 servicemembers, veterans, and military family members. Additional resources were provided to our military attendees from the Gary Sinise Foundation and VetART.

MVP OPEN HOUSE

The MVP Open House for Veterans Day, held on Monday, November 6, 2023, welcomed members of San Diego's military community to La Jolla Playhouse for an appreciation event. Attendees experienced a captivating performance by the Marine Band of San Diego and enjoyed an engaging tour of our theatre spaces and production shops. Complimentary food and beverages, generously provided by the Gary Sinise Foundation, enhanced the evening for the **100 attendees**, contributing to a truly memorable occasion.

COMMITMENT TO BEING AN EQUITABLE INSTITUTION

DEVELOPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF THEATRE PROFESSIONALS INITIATIVE

We believe that sustainable change toward becoming a more equitable, accessible, anti-racist, and inclusive theatre requires pathways for students and emerging professionals to receive training, mentorship, career opportunities, and space for community building with peers. Our target population for this program is current and aspirational theatre professionals who reflect the variety of cultures, backgrounds, and intersectional identities within our communities, particularly underrepresented, Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), and socio-economically diverse populations.

To develop the next generation of theatre professionals and create a more inclusive workforce, we have begun executing the strategies and activities outlined below. A spectrum of programs creates opportunities for more candidates to engage with the Playhouse by offering positions and interactions with varying amounts of time commitment and requiring different levels of previous experience in the industry.

See more details in our 2023/24 *Developing the Next Generation of Theatre Professionals Impact Report*.

NUMBERS SERVED	POINTS OF CONTACT	HOURS
Students: 298 Teachers: 12 TOTAL: 310	Students: 795 Teachers: 12 TOTAL: 807	5886.64 Total Hours

Paid Internships

The Playhouse has always strived to attract diverse San Diegans for our internships and employment. We pride ourselves in representing a multiplicity of voices onstage, and are improving diversity among our staff, and we have now revamped the career pathway to provide a more inclusive approach to recruiting and mentoring individuals from different backgrounds and experiences.

Beginning with the 2022 summer cohort, our undergraduate, graduate, and early-career interns are paid minimum wage, and we have refocused our program to be more centered on educational benefits to interns, utilizing a revised curriculum and new learning tools. Interns gain valuable on-the-job experience, learning directly from La Jolla Playhouse staff and leadership.

In 2023/24 we served 18 college students and early-career individuals through our paid internship program.

Directing Fellowship

In 2022, La Jolla Playhouse created a two-year Fellowship for an early-career director to embed in the Artistic Department, working on many—and ultimately directing one—of our Subscription Season shows. The Directing Fellow receives a salary and healthcare benefits. During the application process we received and reviewed 90 submissions and interviewed 10 finalists.

Kat Yen was selected as our first Directing Fellow, working at the Playhouse from January 2023 through December 2024. She will direct a production in our 2025/26 Subscription Season.



STAFF DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

La Jolla Playhouse is committed to providing an inclusive, professional work environment free from discrimination, where all employees are valued. La Jolla Playhouse’s journey as an anti-racist, equitable, diverse, inclusive, and accessible institution is a work in progress, and the work continues. The following staff development programs help make that possible.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) Training

The Playhouse works with Cornerstone Consulting HR (CCHR) to lead our staff through intentional trainings. CCHR is a niche consulting firm specializing in accelerating the growth of organizations and their employees via cogent human resources, leadership development, change management, diversity, equity, and inclusion-based strategies.

We are also continuing to use CCHR as consultants on each of our individual productions. The fruits of that labor have been seen throughout our producing practices, including intentional hiring of production crew to create a safe space for trans, non-binary, queer and BIPOC performers; proactive reimagining of dressing

room spaces to reflect different gender identity needs; and creating bathroom spaces that embrace gender diversity. We have heard from many BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, and disabled artists that having CCHR (as well as intimacy coaches and identity-specific consultants, as needed) has allowed them to center themselves as artists during their time with us and not feel pressured to be the representative and caretaker for their fellow artists.

Accountability & Inclusion Alliance Leadership Collective

Established in 2020, the mission of La Jolla Playhouse’s Accountability & Inclusion Alliance (AIA) is to equip staff with the tools to discover, address, and dismantle systemic inequities within La Jolla Playhouse structures, policies, and practices, and to create impactful solutions for a safe, equitable, and anti-racist community.

The new AIA Leadership Collective, launched in 2023, works with our People + Culture partners at CCHR to examine organizational gaps and opportunities related to equity, inclusion, and access, and to find avenues for the staff at large to take part in conversations. The AIA Leadership Collective works to ensure that the efforts and recommendations of the rest of the AIA group are fully recognized and realized within co-constructed timeframes and protocols.



PLAYHOUSE BY THE NUMBERS




TICKETS DISTRIBUTED

91,535
SUBSCRIPTION
SEASON

21,824
WOW FESTIVAL

1,660
MVP INITIATIVE

ONLINE GROWTH     

Total percentage growth in comparison to the same time period the previous year (April 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023).
Includes data from Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube, and TikTok:

+317% TOTAL IMPRESSIONS **+314%** TOTAL ENGAGEMENTS
+30% TOTAL ENGAGEMENT RATE **+242%** NET AUDIENCE GROWTH

LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT REACH

16,119 TOTAL CHILDREN	756 TOTAL TEACHERS	3,926 TOTAL OBSERVERS	20,801 TOTAL INDIVIDUALS
21,429 TOTAL CHILDREN POINTS OF CONTACT	1,226 TOTAL TEACHER POINTS OF CONTACT	5344 TOTAL OBSERVERS POINTS OF CONTACT	27,799 TOTAL POINTS OF CONTACT
47 TOTAL # VIDEOS	12,933 TOTAL # VIDEO VIEWS	622 TOTAL # SESSIONS	7180 TOTAL # HOURS INCLUDING INTERNS

GIVING THEIR TIME

We are fortunate to have the support of so many people in the community, including those who give their time by volunteering with us.

The 2023/24 Playhouse Leadership Council



PLAYHOUSE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The Playhouse Leadership Council (PLC) is a cross-cultural partnership of community leaders who work directly in their community to increase awareness of theatre and to help overcome geographic, economic and perceptive barriers to accessing live theatre in San Diego. Working with Playhouse staff, PLC creates a welcoming and inclusive environment, builds and nurtures relationships with new audiences, and has fun!

We were excited to host various community events targeted with and for different groups, which help us better serve the region through the transformative power of theatre.

The Playhouse Leadership Council co-chairs for the 2023/24 season were Mary Coleman and Bena Leslie.

The PLC raised funds to support the 2024 WOW Festival at the Insider level.

PLAYHOUSE PARTNERS

For more than thirty years, the Playhouse Partners have been offering their time in voluntary service to the Playhouse. They help answer phones, sort mail, distribute hearing devices to patrons at shows, and provide a homemade meal for actors at our Tech Dinner on the final Saturday in rehearsal before previews.

The President of the Playhouse Partners for the 2023/24 season was Susan Gembrowski Baker.

In 2023/24, Playhouse Partners donated a total of 5,062.5 hours valued at \$195,463.13.



REVELLE LEGACY SOCIETY

La Jolla Playhouse is grateful to Ellen and Roger Revelle for their generous contribution of time, talent, and resources, securing the future of live theatre in La Jolla. Their legacy gift helps ensure sustained support for future generations of theatre makers and audiences, establishing the Playhouse as a leader in the theatre industry.

Members of the Revelle Legacy Society share the Revelles' vision and include the Playhouse in their estate planning through bequests in wills and trusts, beneficiary designations on retirement accounts and life insurance policies, and other estate-planning vehicles.

Thank you to our Revelle Legacy Society Members:

Paula and Ted Adams
Christopher Ashley
Scott Aylward
Roberta C. Baade and George F. Yee*
Quaintance Bartlett*
Roger S. Benson*
Gary and Barbara Blake Family Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation
Cynthia Bolker
Ralph° and Gail Bryan
Pamela B. Burkholz
Robert Caplan and Carol Randolph
Leslie J. Cohen*
Ted Cranston°*
Robert William Cunningham
Doug Dawson
Armando de Peralta, Sr.*
Jendy Dennis* Endowment Fund
Grace Marie Duhamel*
Suzanne Figi*
Pauline Foster*
Lisa Gerardo
Ewart* "Chip" and Sherrilyn Goodwin
David and Claire Guggenheim
Kay and Bill Gurtin
Dean J. Haas
Professor Marc and Mr. James Harden
Dwight Hare and Stephanie Bergsma
Denise J. Harris
Diana Jillie Hill
Joel*° and Rosanne Holliday
Bob Jacobs
Joan* and Irwin Jacobs
Jay Jeffcoat
Charmaine°* and Maury* Kaplan
Olga Khitarishvili
Bill and Linda Kolb
Dr. Gloria C.L. Ma*
Josephine R. MacConnell*
Mandell Weiss Charitable Trust
Valorie McClelland
Maggi McKerrow
Paul Miller
Stephen Cary Nagler
Teresa Nugent*
John O'Dea
Bernard Paul
Margaret F. Peninger*
Dr. Julie Prazich and Dr. Sara Rosenthal
Jennette Pyne
Karen Quiñones
Jeffrey°* and Vivien Ressler
Ellen* and Roger* Revelle
Michael S. Rosenberg
Warren Sanborn*
Ruth Shepherd*
Dale and Mark Steele



Mickey Stern*
Steven Strauss° and Lise Wilson Willard°* and Eileen* VanderLaan
Tammy Vaught
Arthur* and Molli Wagner
Peggy Ann Wallace
Geri Ann Warnke° and Joseph F. Kennedy, M.D.*
Mandell Weiss*
Dr. Steve and Lynne Wheeler
Richard Winkler
Gary L. Wollberg°
and Dr. Yumi Miyamoto
Liza Zinola

°denotes past Board Chair
*denotes deceased
List as of December 10, 2024

LEADERSHIP AND STAFF

2023/2024 LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Sheri L. Jamieson, *Chair*
Denise Bevers, *First Vice-Chair*
Michael Flaster, *Second Vice-Chair*
Annie Ellis, *Secretary*
Scott M. Stanton, *Treasurer*
Weston Anson
Christopher Ashley
Susan Gembrowski Baker
Michael Bartell
Ralph Bryan*
Debby Buchholz
Randy Camp
Robert Caplan
Lisa Casey
Ann Cathcart Chaplin
Randall Clark*
Mary Coleman
Stephan Coleman
Doug Dawson
Edward Dennis, Ph.D.
Susan Dubé
Hal Dunning
Emily Einhorn
Ray Flores
Judy Garrett
Justin Gleiberman
Lynn E. Gorguze
Luke Gulley
Kay Gurtin

Clark Guy
Dean Haas
Osborn L. Hurston
Debby Jacobs
Joan Jacobs (1933–2024)
Pradeep K. Khosla, Ph.D.
Veronica Leff
Bena Leslie
Lynelle Lynch*
Margret McBride*
Lorne Polger
Byron Pollitt
Karen A. Quiñones
David I. Reynoso
Becky Robbins
Phillip Rudolph
Shane Shelley
Karen Silberman
Delicia Turner Sonnenberg
Suzi Sterner
Andy Thomas (1964–2024)
Marjorie Mae Treger
Erin Trenda
Mary Walshok, Ph.D.
Barbara ZoBell

* Past Chair of Board

LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE STAFF AS OF FEBRUARY 2025

Senior Staff

Christopher Ashley, *The Rich Family Artistic Director*
Debby Buchholz, *Managing Director*
Eric Keen-Louie, *Artistic Producing Director*
Becky Biegelsen, *Director of Public Relations*
Bridget Cavaiola Stone, *Director of Learning*
Ned Collins, *Director of Operations*
Keely Daximillion, *Director of Philanthropy*
Becca Duhaime, *Director of Production*
Mia Fiorella, *Director of Experiences and Activations*
Gabriel Greene, *Director of Artistic Development*
Laura Killmer, *Chief Financial Officer*
Jacole Kitchen, *Director of Arts Engagement and In-House Casting*
Ryan Meisheid, *General Manager*
Stephanie Zappala, *Director of Sales & Marketing*

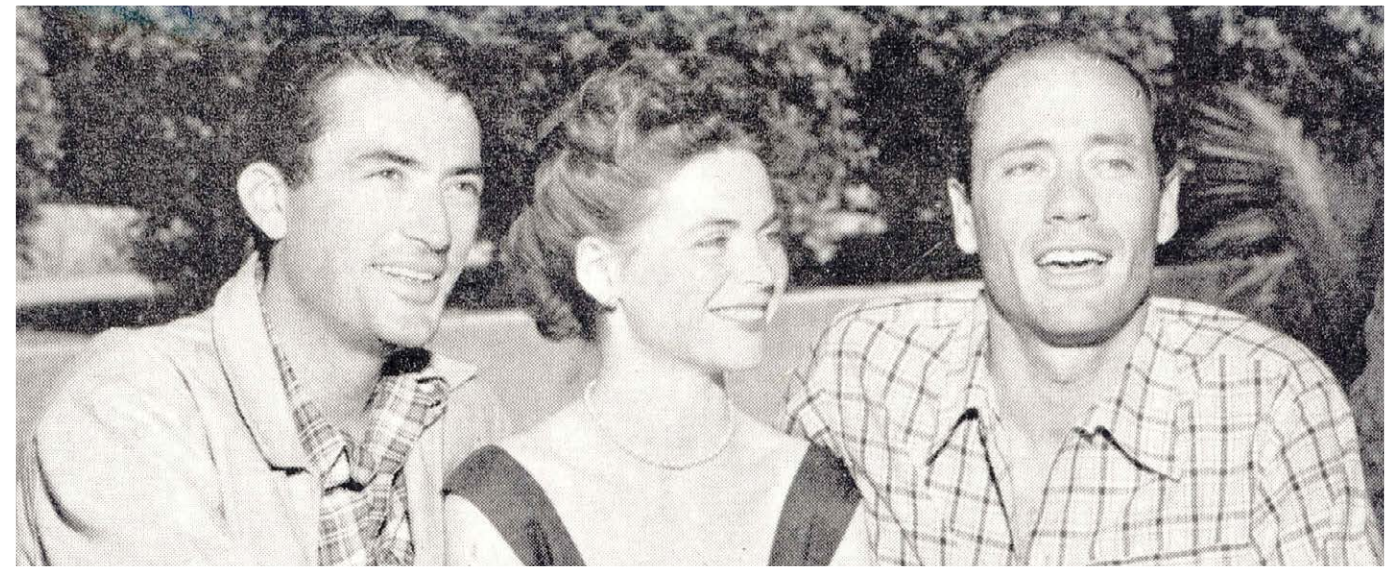
Philanthropy Staff

Keely Daximillion, *Director of Philanthropy*
Rebecca Pierce Goodman, *Deputy Director of Philanthropy*
Tony Dixon, *Assistant Director, Philanthropy Operations*
Taylor Lehmkuhl, *Individual Giving Manager*
Haleigh Stewart, *Special Events Manager*
Katie Wallace-Coppo, *Corporate Relations Manager*
Dylan Gervais, *Grants Specialist*
Renee Conrad, *Planned Giving Officer*
Kayla Alperson, *Donor Relations Coordinator*
Gabiella Johnson, *Special Events Coordinator*
Anna Stanton, *Philanthropy Coordinator*

If you are interested in supporting La Jolla Playhouse, please visit lajollaplayhouse.org/support.



HISTORY OF THE PLAYHOUSE



Founded in 1947 by Gregory Peck, Dorothy McGuire and Mel Ferrer, La Jolla Playhouse thrived as a summer stock retreat for such Hollywood luminaries as Vivian Vance, Groucho Marx, and Eve Arden. After over a decade of performances featuring numerous greats from stage and film, the Playhouse went on hiatus from 1959–1982. While shuttered, a handful of dedicated supporters fought to keep the Playhouse alive, eventually working to revive it on the campus of UC San Diego in 1983.

Over the next three decades, La Jolla Playhouse rose to prominence as one of the most celebrated regional theatres in the country. Under the artistic leadership of Des McAnuff (1983–1994; 2001–2007), the Playhouse developed dozens of new works, many of which transferred to Broadway, including *Big River*, *The Who's Tommy* and *Jersey Boys*. In 1993, the Playhouse was awarded the Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre.

This period also saw the beginning of the Playhouse's acclaimed Performance Outreach Program (POP) Tour, in which a brand new, Playhouse-commissioned work brings the magic of theatre into San Diego schools. The Playhouse continued its commitment to developing new plays and musicals with the launch of its Page To Stage New Play Development Program, spawning the Pulitzer Prize-winning *I Am My Own Wife*.

Led for the last 18 years by 2017 Tony Award winner Christopher Ashley, the Playhouse has solidified its reputation of originating new work. Since its rebirth on the UC San Diego campus, the Playhouse has produced a total of 120 world premieres and sending 37 productions to Broadway – including the Tony Award-winning musicals *Big River*, *The Who's Tommy*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Jersey Boys*, *Come From Away*, and *The Outsiders*.

Deepening the Playhouse's connection to the San Diego community, Christopher Ashley inaugurated the Resident Theatre Program in 2008, providing a temporary home each year for an up-and-coming theatre company. In 2011, he spearheaded the innovative Without Walls (WOW) series of site-inspired and immersive theatre. The Playhouse hosts an annual WOW Festival featuring local and international artists in vibrant, interactive experiences that amplify the energy of the city.

From its signature play development initiatives to its intriguing and playful WOW programming, La Jolla Playhouse has become the place to see what's next on the American theatre landscape.