

Ware Center for the Arts

2025 2026 IMPACT REPORT

Millersville University
VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

ARTSMU.COM



THIS COMMUNITY MAKES *magic* POSSIBLE

OUR MISSION: To provide access to exceptional artists and arts-learning experiences through the presentation of inclusionary cross-cultural performances and events.

OUR VISION: A culture where everyone is engaged in the community and the world.

OUR VALUES:

Exceptional customer service and artist support.

State of the art facilities available to our community.

Exploration and experimentation with new ideas.

Safe and inclusive community.

Meaningful artistic and cultural learning experiences.

Effective stewardship of resources.

Millersville University
VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

During this milestone year, we want to take a moment to reflect on the enduring impact that the Ware Center has made on this community—the diverse visual and performing arts experiences that have enriched the region culturally and creatively; the free events and services that have increased access to the arts for all; and the arts learning opportunities that have engaged numerous local kids in the arts.

*None of the **magic** of the past fifteen years would have been possible without your support.*

As we look back, we also look ahead, laying out a vision for a bright new future. With a refreshed new name—the **Ware Center for the Arts**—and a new logo, we set a course for a year filled with inclusive, connected community, beginning with a 15th Anniversary Celebration that showcased the breadth of our programming and the strength of our ties to local artists. Before we could blink, we were wrapping up our season with a heartwarming Korean children's theater show that explored the limitless possibilities of the imagination.

For the first time, the Office of Visual & Performing Arts hosted our events entirely at the Ware Center, allowing us to expand our offerings to include community arts workshops and a series showcasing local music. Though these new programs were diverse in their themes, from pressed flower workshops to salsa dance for kids, one common thread united these experiences—they each brought brand-new audiences to the Ware Center.

In many ways, the Ware Center also started to come into its own as a leader in the Lancaster arts community. We welcomed disability expert and advocate Betty Siegel for a Disability Culture Sensitivity Workshop, which gathered changemakers from 50 different organizations from around the midstate and beyond. Our team also played a critical role in launching the **Lancaster County Strategic Arts Initiative** in collaboration with the Lancaster Chamber Foundation and other community leaders, seeking to better understand, strengthen, and support the region's creative arts ecosystem.

Whether you have supported the Ware Center this year or in the past, we are grateful for the role you have played in making Lancaster County a more vibrant place to live through the arts.



Clockwise from top left:

State Rep. Izzy Smith-Wade-El presents a formal citation to Dr. Daniel Wubah, Millersville University President.

Artist Bob Wagner adds to a panel of the collaborative mural.

Lancaster City Poet Laureate Dana Kinsey, performers Julia Kamanda and Ever Sandoval, guest speakers Deborah Rutter and Bri Nguyen, and mural artist Keisha Finnie.



Celebrating 15 YEARS OF IMPACT

We kicked off our 15th Anniversary Season in true Ware Center style. Community partners, supporters, and artists gathered for the grand **unveiling** of our refreshed name and logo. We were honored to be joined by Pennsylvania State Representatives Ismail Smith-Wade-El and Jordan Harris, who presented a formal citation recognizing the mark the Ware Center has made on the region.

Throughout the evening, guests made their creative contributions to a **collaborative mural** led by Lancaster artist Keisha Finnie. The 15 canvases, which were based on themes like Community, Connection, Creativity, and other pillars of the Ware Center's DNA, were brought together at the end of the night into a honeycomb mosaic. The finished artwork remained on display throughout the season, serving as a reminder of the power of the arts to bring people together.

After a dinner accompanied by pianist and former M-Uth Theatre member Brad Minnig, an eclectic lineup of **local artists** highlighted the Ware Center's mission to create space for all voices, cultures, and genres—including a demonstration by Imani Edu-tainers African Dance Company, an original poem crafted for the event by Lancaster City Poet Laureate Dana Kinsey, a series of photos and stories by photographer Bri Nguyen, and musical performances by Julia Kamanda and Ever Sandoval. ASL interpreter Nancy Abreu made each performance more **accessible** for our diverse community.

A range of speakers provided insights into the Ware Center's history, legacy, and its place in the community, including Jerry Eckert, Millersville University's Vice President of Advancement Emeritus. In a pre-recorded video, Paul and Judy Ware reaffirmed that Lancastrians see the venue as *their* performing arts center. (The Wares were unable to attend in person, as they were being honored the very same night by Franklin & Marshall College. As emcee Barry Kornhauser quipped, "We don't mind sharing the Wares—or their generosity!")

To culminate an already incredible evening, featured guest speaker **Deborah Rutter**, former president of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and the current Vice Provost for the Arts at Duke University, spoke about the role of the arts in civic life, the lessons she had learned in her decades as an arts administrator, and her reason for hope: "the performances I saw tonight."



Reflecting on its accomplishments of the past 15 years and the community it has built, the Ware Center looks ahead to the next 15 years—and beyond—with hope, joy, and excitement for the artists who will one day bring their voices, their hearts, and their art to its stages.



ENGAGING *kids* IN THE ARTS

They say it takes a village to raise a child. At the Ware Center, it takes a global village of performing artists willing to lend their time, talents, and hearts to enrich the lives of local kids. Thanks to supporters like you, children from every corner of Lancaster were able to access the transformative power of the arts.

From family-friendly performances to arts camps, our year was filled with arts education and experiences for the youngest members of our local community. Our Family Fun Fest series brought three incredible shows from Chicago, Lancaster, and South Korea, engaging children with innovative theater, dance, and music from around the world. For an hour before each performance, our lobby filled with campus and community organizations offering **free children's crafts and activities** connected thematically to the show, and families left with an activity page to keep the conversation (and fun!) going back at their own homes.

In October, we welcomed Manual Cinema as they presented **The Magic City,** an innovative fusion of actors, puppets, miniatures, live music, and projection that tackled tough topics about grief, growing up, and getting along. In a post-show Q&A, our young theatergoers learned how the actors used "movie magic" to create scenery, perspective, and special effects right in front of their eyes.

In November, we infused a Family Fun Fest experience into our annual ExtraGive Junior celebration, presenting a free showing of FRWRD Dance Company's **LOVEBUG**. The visually stunning performance brought a captivating cast of creatures to life through intricate movement and gorgeous costuming. Combining the bustling ExtraGive Junior event, which immerses kids in the joy of philanthropy, with a free performance for all families was a beautiful way to give back to the community during a season of thanksgiving.

We ended our season with the delightful **Doodle POP** from South Korea's Brush Theatre, a touching nonverbal show that pulled audiences into the magic with stunning interactive animation and live whiteboard drawings. The experience was made even more magical by an aquatic-themed "doodle mural" in the lobby, kick-started by Lancaster muralist Terian Mack, that our young audience members helped to bring to life with their own drawings.

Not only did we offer our three Family Fun Fest shows free of charge for hundreds of local children, but we also presented a **free school-day**











Clockwise from top left:

Performers from South Korea's Brush Theatre create a scene on the interactive whiteboard during Doodle POP.

Children add their mark to the doodle mural in the lobby started by Terian Mack.

Members of FRWRD Dance Company bring the world of insects to life.

Two young campers play instruments during the Arts Smarts showcase.

Three members of the M-Uth Theatre Ensemble rehearse *Radium Girls*.

performance of Rennie Harris Puremovement American Street Dance Theater: Nuttin' but a Word. The dynamic hip-hop dancers from Philadelphia inspired students with a lesson on the history of street dance, demonstrated onstage in front of their eyes. Our young guests got to engage fully in the collaborative community spirit of street dance by joining the cast onstage to show off their own unique moves—to great encouragement from the professional dancers and their peers alike.

To ensure that children with disabilities can fully participate in the arts, we offered **accessibility services** such as ASL interpretation, audio description, touch tours, and sensory-friendly accommodations at performances. We also invited children and young adults of all abilities to participate in inclusive arts camps all summer.

Our **Arts Smarts camps**, which serve students in grades K-5, gave young arts enthusiasts the opportunity to explore new creative skills in music, dance, visual art, and theatre. Our campers put on a dynamic showcase of their achievements for friends and family, made memories and friendships that will last a lifetime, and collected almost 200 pounds of goods for the Lancaster Food Hub. "Thank you for being inclusive, accommodating, and invested in everyone truly enjoying their time at camp," wrote one parent.

Teens and young adults of mixed abilities—many of whom face or have faced significant life challenges—were once again the stars of our **M-Uth Theatre Ensemble**, which met for three weeks in the summer.

This year, the group tackled tough topics and answered difficult questions about morality and justice by staging two different plays: *Antigone in Munich*, the true coming-of-age story of a member of the White Rose student resistance group in Nazi Germany; and *Radium Girls*, the heartbreaking tale of young female factory workers who contracted radiation poisoning in watch dial-painting factories.

Your support has allowed us to invest in the next generation in the best way we can imagine—through the joy and discovery of the arts.

Thank you for being inclusive, accommodating, and invested in everyone truly enjoying their time at camp. We are so grateful!

- PARENT OF ARTS SMARTS CAMPER

THE GREAT *mosaic* OF HUMANITY





Clockwise from top left:

The members of Korean folk fusion band Sanjaru brought some of the best hats we've ever seen to their First Friday performance.

Members of the Paza Experience perform traditional song and dance in ceremonial regala.

A youth musician from the UnSinkables plays the keyboard.

Every month during First Friday, Lancaster City comes alive. We the People First Friday, our contribution to the city-wide celebration, features free community-centered performances and exhibits that represent the great mosaic of Lancaster and beyond, with genres as diverse as our nation.

In November, **The Paza Experience** shared their Native American culture and artistry through craft, dance, and song, teaching our guests how to make prayer sticks and leading a dance workshop onstage. That month, First Friday also marked the opening of the gallery exhibit **Icons of the Diné** by Navajo artist Jonathan Nelson, which sought to counteract sports mascot caricatures of Native Americans through graphic design. Taken together, the experience offered a lens on both historical and modern interpretations of Indigenous art.

In December, a moving spoken-word performance by local artist **Ty Gant** took on an even deeper meaning than we could have imagined. Ty, whose moving performance chronicled his lifelong struggle with alcoholism, passed away unexpectedly only a few short months later at age 38. The poet, performer, educator, and mentor spent his life uplifting young voices through his work with Barry Kornhauser and the M-Uth Theatre, and The Mix at Arbor Place, where he created the We Rock the Mic program. We are honored to have hosted one of the final performances of this role model and leader in the local arts community. He will be deeply missed.

In February, we welcomed Korean folk fusion band **Sangjaru**, whose innovative sound merged gypsy swing, funk, rock, and improvisation. Their high-energy performance (and fantastic hats) got our audiences ready for the Lunar New Year, while in the Regitz Gallery, the ***Passages*** exhibit brought together six local Asian American artists to explore the moments of transition that have shaped their lives.

First Friday in March highlighted the talent, heart, and spirit of our local **disability community** with an event curated by the Urban Well at Saint James. Weaving together poetry, guided meditation, a brilliant performance by Schreiber Center's modern band the UnSinkables, and artwork by artists from The Arc Lancaster Lebanon and United Disabilities Services Foundation, it was a night that celebrated the human spirit that connects our community.

In April, a powerful paired exhibition challenged viewers to reconsider their assumptions about housing, belonging, and the human stories behind homelessness. Photographer Leah den Bok showcased stunning, intimate portraits of people experiencing homelessness, while artist Willie Baronet offered up a collage of hand-drawn signs he purchased from unhoused individuals across the U.S. The paired exhibits invited viewers to look *in* rather than *away*, confronting their own feelings of discomfort around homelessness and to reconsider, "What is Home?"









Clockwise from top left:

Local performer Panda sings a traditional Vietnamese song.

A sensory table in the exhibit offers a chance for visitors to experience the stories with all five senses.

Maian McCauley greets friends.

A family from New Jersey traveled to pay homage to their family history.

Honoring our NEIGHBORS' JOURNEYS

Over 200 people from every corner of Lancaster and beyond gathered at the Ware Center in January to honor the stories of the **Vietnamese refugees** who have helped to shape our community and our nation.

This country's collective memory of the Vietnam War is often shaped by American military involvement. It is easy to forget that over 2 million refugees fled Vietnam after the war, and that many of them, after dangerous journeys across the ocean, began new lives in our communities. Their resilience is woven into the fabric of the nation, and their stories deserve to be told—in their own words.

Our Journeys: A Traveling Exhibition, created by the nonprofit organization Vietnamese Boat People (VBP), brought these forgotten stories to life through oral histories, personal artifacts, photographs, and interactive elements. The exhibition invited visitors to slow down, look, listen, and even breathe in scents that evoke powerful memories that continue to shape Vietnamese American families across generations.

The opening night of *Our Journeys* was hailed as both "heartbreaking and inspiring," honoring both collective history and local voices. Stories contributed by Alys Truong, Mai Nguyen Yeager, Ho-Thanh Nguyen, and Thuat Nham grounded the nationally touring exhibition in local experiences, reminding guests that these stories are alive and present in their communities today. VBP Founder Tracey Nguyen Mang emphasized the importance of telling your own story before someone else can.

The reception also celebrated community, with artwork curated by the **Lancaster Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders**, including art by Libby Etheridge, Wendy Li yuen-Ting, Yen Elizabeth Keener, Aron Rook, Vu Quoc Nguyen, and Bri Nguyen; traditional Vietnamese dresses curated by Julia Cao; Vietnamese cuisine from the family behind the Rice & Noodles restaurant; a moving musical performance by Lê Thanh Trúc (Panda); and an emotional story of family legacy and sacrifice told by Maian McCauley.

"The opening reception set the tone for what the exhibition continues to offer throughout its run," said Bri Nguyen, reflecting on the event. "Not spectacle, but presence. Not distance, but connection."

Thanks to generous support from the **Lancaster County Community Foundation**, *Our Journeys: A Traveling Exhibition* remained on display at the Ware Center throughout the month of February, offered free and open to the public. People traveled from hours away to sit with these powerful memories, to reflect on their family's journey, and to add their own stories to this important conversation.





Clockwise from top left:

Béla Fleck Trio

Lancaster Swing Dance opens the Big Bad Voodoo Daddy show

Mark Rast leads a banjo jam before the Béla Fleck show

RUNA

Rennie Harris Puremovement

Jazz at Lincoln Center











BUILDING *bridges* ACROSS THE GLOBE

The first event in our Performing Arts Series showcased what we do best at the Ware Center—bringing together exceptional arts from around the globe and arts from around the corner. Banjo virtuoso **Béla Fleck**, alongside acclaimed harpist Edmar Castañeda and drummer Antonio Sanchez, performed an innovative banjo-jazz-fusion show to a sold-out crowd. Before the show, Mark Rast of local bluegrass band Colebrook Road led a banjo jam in the Owen Salon, offering a deeper look into what makes this beloved instrument sing. It was a beautiful moment of connection and community that demonstrated the bridge-building power of the arts.

Celebrating the women who have made American music what it is today, **Soul of America: A Tribute to the Legendary Ladies of Soul** drew a vibrant, diverse crowd to Steinman Hall—many of whom were first-time attendees. "My child and I had a wonderful experience from beginning to end," commented one patron. "The staff was upbeat and helpful. The performance was outstanding and very engaging. It was our first time at The Ware Center for the Arts and it was lovely. We hope to return in the future."

We went bigger—and more diverse—than ever before this past December, presenting no less than five holiday-themed shows that spanned genres. We celebrated the season with the soaring Italian arias of **Anthony Nunziata**, the blistering jazz trumpet of **Bria Skonberg**, and the toe-tapping swing beats of the **Glenn Miller Orchestra**. Dancers from the Lancaster Swing Dance Club took our shows with the GMO and **Big Bad Voodoo Daddy** to Lindy-hopping heights.

Performing their Christmas songs live for the first time ever in the band's 17-year history, **Runa** lit up the Ware Center with traditional Christmas music of the Celtic Isles, folk-inspired takes on holiday favorites, and a whole lot of joy. Generous audience members filled a box to the brim with socks for donation to the **Water Street Mission**, reminding us that giving to our neighbors is what truly makes the season bright.

Fans of Regency England were in for a treat with **The Jane Austen Playlist**, an elegant blend of live music, storytelling, and a glimpse into Austen's world. From the talented musicians to the thoughtful pairing of literature and song, the night offered a charming escape into the Regency era that guests called "wonderful," "delightful," and "so unique." Our neighbors from **Pocket Books** were on site during the show to keep guests stocked with Regency-era literary fare.

Blazing onto the Steinman Hall stage with electric energy, **Rennie Harris Puremovement American Street Dance Theater** presented a mixtape of moves from b-boying to Campbellocking to house, honoring hip-hop's roots while raising the bar to new heights. The ensemble also presented a **free workshop** for students, engaging them in the community, social connection, and energy that makes street dance such a contagious art form.

Celtic music legends **Natalie MacMaster** and **Donnel Leahy** landed in Lancaster just in time for St. Patrick's Day, commanding a cast of musicians who were as passionate as they were talented, including daughter Mary Frances and surprise vocalist Karen Matheson.

Last but certainly not least, **Jazz at Lincoln Center** returned with another phenomenal ensemble of musicians and vocalists, paying homage to the Great American Crooners whose influence has shaped popular music into the modern era.

Overall, our guests commented time and again on the affordability, variety, and accessibility of our shows, where one and all were welcomed to experience world-class performing arts without ever leaving their community.



FILMS THAT *spark* CONVERSATIONS

Our On Screen/In Person series, which brings award-winning documentary films and filmmakers to Lancaster, gathers the community to spark meaningful conversations—all for free.

This season, we presented no less than six films on topics ranging from Native American residential school abuse to the American gun violence/gun rights debate. Visiting filmmakers spent time in residency, attending classes at Millersville University to extend their learning in Sociology, Communications, Special Education, and other areas. The screening events themselves each featured a panel discussion of campus and community members with a degree of expertise on the films' subject matter and a post-screening Q&A with the director or other individuals associated with the documentary.

Preschool to Prison, presented in partnership with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, the Millersville University Department of Criminology, Sociology & Anthropology, and the MU Center for Public Scholarship and Social Change, examined the U.S. public education system and its disparate outcomes for children of color and children with special needs. In addition to holding a Q&A with a packed house, director **Karen Baptiste** also visited numerous MU classrooms to discuss the school-to-prison pipeline and how it affects the future of our society. The pre-screening panelists included experts from the PA Human Relations Commission, MU professors of sociology and education, and even a representative from Lancaster County Prison.

Our screening of ***Sugarcane*** completely broke the mold in the very best way. Presented in partnership with the Dr. Rita Smith Wade-El Center for Intercultural Student Engagement, the unique fusion event brought together documentary filmmaking and the performing arts for an innovative, immersive experience. As the film—which explored abuses at an Indian residential school—played in the background, composer **Mali Obomsawin** and her band performed the film's score live onstage. It was impossible not to feel mesmerized, and even haunted, by the unique experience and its simultaneous involvement of so many senses.

After the film, Obomsawin led a Q&A that gave insights into the experience of scoring a film that resonated so deeply and personally with her own heritage. Pre-screening panelists included an archaeology expert from F&M, members of the Susquehanna and Onondaga Nations, and a special collections librarian from MU.

Life After, presented in partnership with the MU Disability Film Festival, explored the complex issue of assisted dying in the disability community. In addition to a community Q&A after the film, disabled filmmaker **Reid Davenport** also visited Communications, Special Education, and First Year Experience classrooms at MU to talk about ableism in society. Pre-screening panelists included MU professors and members of the MU Disability Film Festival organizing committee, as well as experts from local organizations that serve members of the disability community.

Silent War, directed by Millersville's own **Dr. Changfu Chang**, explored the deep stigma surrounding mental illness in Asian American communities. The pre-screening panel involved health



Louder than Guns Panel Discussion



Nancy Abreu & David Greene



Mali Obomsawin



Dan Tapster



Louder than Guns audience

> ***"Still my favorite Lancaster City event. So valuable!"***
>
> **- SURVEY COMMENT, LIFE AFTER**

> ***"Experiences like these are why I chose Millersville University."***
>
> **- STUDENT IN COMM 461 AFTER CLASS VISIT WITH KAREN BAPTISTE**

and wellness experts from MU, F&M, and Mental Health America, as well as Sandy Chen, one of the individuals featured in the film. as Sandy Chen, one of the individuals featured in the film. The post-film Q&A highlighted the talents of our local campus community, as so many individuals involved in the film's production were MU faculty and students—including Director Changfu Chang, Music Director Barry Atticks, and Dr. Chang's former students, Assistant Director A.C. Brooke and Film Editor Jordan Graff.

Perhaps the most engaging screening event we hosted this year was ***Louder than Guns***, presented in partnership with the Lancaster County Local Journalism Fund, Penn Medicine, the Briar Hill Foundation, and Mental Health America of Lancaster County.

The film follows **David Greene**, journalist and former NPR host, and Old Crow Medicine Show's **Ketch Secor** as they travel America trying to find common ground amid the country's polarized gun debate. Our diverse pre-screening panel included experts in firearm safety, proponents of gun reform and violence prevention, mental health advocates, and even a member of a local sportsman's club. David Greene, a Lancaster native who has made headlines recently by creating a new nonprofit to take over ownership of LNP, led a packed Q&A, made more accessible by the efforts of ASL interpreter Nancy Abreu.

The final event in the series, **The Making of *Life on Our Planet***, took a different approach. While we still hosted a pre-show panel of "green" experts from the Lancaster Conservancy, MU, F&M, and even a nature cinematographer, we did not screen a single documentary from start to finish. Rather, filmmaker **Dan Tapster** took the stage to offer an exclusive look into the filming of the Netflix series Life on Our Planet, sharing clips, behind the scenes stories, and insights about the process of making such a wide-ranging, nature-based series.

Our On Screen/In Person series continues to remain an audience favorite, immersing our community in dialogue on a variety of thought-provoking topics, expanding worldviews through critical conversations, and engaging numerous community partners and organizations in our mission.



BUILDING AN *inclusive* LANCASTER COMMUNITY

National accessibility leader **Betty Siegel**, Director of the Office of Accessibility and VSA at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, joined us in September for a Disability Culture Sensitivity Training.

The three-hour presentation examined best practices when interacting with individuals living with sensory, physical, cognitive, and/or developmental disabilities. Individuals representing 50 organizations from across the region—including numerous performing arts organizations, universities, nonprofits, and many other public-facing entities—participated in this free training. Nancy Abreu provided **ASL interpretation** for participants from the Deaf community, while Siegel demonstrated **live captioning** technology that translated her comments onto the presentation screen in real time.

With humor and humanity, Siegel's many anecdotes on her years of experience working with disability communities offered profound, actionable insights into how to ensure that individuals with disabilities can be **full participants** in the cultural life of our communities. She presented demographic information highlighting that disability is a normal state of being (one out of four adults in the United States lives with a disability), discussed the history of disability rights and laws in the U.S. and the responsibility of organizations that serve the public, and offered resources for addressing people with disabilities with dignity, using person-first and identity-first language.

Thanks to the generous support of people like you, the Ware Center is able to provide free disability and inclusivity resources and education for our community, making our region a more welcoming place to live for everyone.





Clockwise from top left:

Betty Siegel takes audience questions during the workshop.

Betty presents on the economic buying power of the disability community.

ASL interpreter Nancy Abreu, Betty Siegel, and Deaf patron Allizon Benz with her service dog







Clockwise from top left: Colebrook Road, DANDY, and the Salsa Dance workshop

THE START OF SOMETHING *new*

This year, as we focused our sights as a department entirely on the Ware Center, we took full advantage of the opportunity to envision, plan, and launch two completely new series.

Years back, an audience-favorite series known as Club 42 brought some incredible jazz artists to the Ware Center's stunning, glass pyramid-topped atrium. Time and again, our patrons asked us, "When will you bring back Club 42?" This year, our answer was the beginning of something familiar, yet original—the **Lancaster Loves** local music series.

Featuring the same intimate, cozy atrium vibes as our Club 42 series, we turned our musical focus inward, presenting the best singers, songwriters, and musicians from Lancaster and the midstate. With generous support from **WITF Music** and the **High Foundation**, we presented six shows featuring talented local artists to an audience that was completely tuned in to the music.

This season, we showcased the catchy pop beats of sibling duo DANDY and the gritty blues of Corty & the Light; the intricate finger-picking of Shine Delphi and the homegrown bluegrass tunes of Colebrook Road; the narrative, heart-tugging songwriting of music icons Julia Kamanda, Liz Fulmer, Shawan Rice, and Matt Goss; the jam-fueled original music of Cabbage Hill and the Quiet Riders; and the belty, Broadway-best cabaret sounds of Reji Woods and a talented cast of local performers. As one guest commented, "I sat there in disbelief that such talent was so accessible for this ticket price."

Not only did we showcase talented artists this season, but we also asked them to share their talents with our community through our diverse **Arts Workshops**. Our guests learned the art of flower pressing, took a guided photo walk around Lancaster City, tried out modern dance and salsa, and even took a chance on beginner improv.

"The class and the instructor were amazing," commented one guest. "I had been having a very stressful day... But for 2 hours, I got to get out of that stress and play and have fun."

In addition to the value these new series bring to our community, they also play an important role in our mission, empowering local artists and their work. With your support, the Ware Center can continue to serve as an incubator for our region's art scene.

MAKING AN *impact*

Thanks to your support, this past year was filled with unbelievable moments. We've been told we don't talk about them enough! Let's review the impact we made on this community—together—by the numbers:

261
events

We held 261 events during the 2025-2026 Season, including performances, rehearsals, workshops, conferences, camps, and everything in between.

21,000
guests

We welcomed over 21,000 guests to our spaces this season—and treated each one like family.

1,390
kids

We hosted school day shows for 1,390 local students, including a workshop or Q&A with the performers and a study guide to take home.

61
orgs

We collaborated with 61 different campus and community organizations during Family Fun Fests, On Screen/In Person discussion panels, the ExtraGive, and more.

158
scholarships

We offered scholarships to 158 campers attending Arts Smarts camps in visual art, dance, music, and theatre.

20
stipends

We paid stipends to 20 teen and young adult participants in our M-Uth Theatre Ensemble, who attended three weeks of community-building camp.

18
shows

We provided accessibility services like ASL interpretation, audio description, sensory-friendly accommodations, captioning, and touch tours at 18 shows.

1,731
tickets

We gave away free show tickets to 1,731 members of underserved populations in our community to ensure that everyone has equal access to the arts.

Your support keeps our community vibrant.

A gift to the Ware Center is a gift to the vibrancy of our community, making arts experiences and arts education available to all.

Offering incredible arts from around the world and around the corner, the Ware Center for the Arts is breaking down barriers and opening doors, making sure that everyone has a chance to be a full participant in the cultural life of our community.

Help us keep the arts alive and well in Lancaster County. Make a gift today!

SCAN TO GIVE

2025-2026 Season Partners

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Rick & Jessica Rodgers

Silver Partners

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