





2024 Annual Report LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Although Music Hall’s 150th anniversary is still a few years away, we have begun to consider how to celebrate the momentous arrival of this iconic landmark in 1878. We are working closely with Music Hall’s world-class arts companies — Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Cincinnati Opera, Cincinnati Ballet, and the May Festival, for which the hall was originally built — to remind residents of Greater Cincinnati how much Music Hall means to our city and region of more than 2.2 million residents.

FMH has commissioned a plan to illuminate Music Hall’s magnificent exterior in an aesthetically pleasing manner, highlighting its gloriously detailed architectural features. The hall will be a focal point of BLINK in October, and with new lighting by 2028, it will remain the focal point for visitors to Over-the-Rhine. We’re exploring the cost of this ambitious project: FMH plans to contribute half of the expense, and we expect to seek donations for the balance.



FMH continues to rely on its endowment to fund renovation of historic features. The repair and restoration of the checkerboard red-and-white marble lobby floor will be completed in September. By the end of the year the substantial wooden doors that open from the second floor balcony to overlook Elm Street and Washington Park will be restored. We could not accomplish these projects without the collaboration and coordination of our partner, the Cincinnati Arts Association.

In May, FMH welcomed Nancy Knauf as its executive director. She brings extensive experience as well as musical knowledge to our operations. Nancy has hit the ground running with



numerous activities, aided by a new administrative assistant, Julien Monick. Together they support our tireless tour guides and manage details of our many successful tours, including the popular ghost tours. New offerings have included “Bricks & Beer: Music Hall History and Hops” (partnering with

Rhinegeist Brewery) and “Mums, Moms and Music Hall” for Mother’s Day.

In April, we thanked the extraordinary Ron Wehmeier for his decades of dedicated service to keep our Mighty Wurlitzer theater organ in tip-top shape. Cincinnati Mayor Aftab Pureval attended our “Silent Movies Made Musical” event to share a proclamation honoring “The Organ Man of Cincinnati Day” on April 12.

We watch with interest the city’s proposed revitalization of Central Parkway bordering Music Hall’s western façade. It will make that side of our building more visible and attractive.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who has become a member of the Friends of Music Hall and supports our mission. If you’re not among our ranks yet, please join our efforts to preserve, improve, promote and educate about Music Hall. I look forward to greeting you at an upcoming event!

Peter E. Koenig, President

FRIENDS OF MUSIC HALL BOARD MEMBERS

Describing their special or most favorite spot in Music Hall and why.



FRIENDS of MUSIC HALL

ADVISORY COUNCIL • Lisa Allison, Meredith Downton, Joanne Grueter, Ken Jones, Phillip Long, Linda Siekmann and Ron Wehmeier



PATRICIA BITTNER • Springer auditorium is a beautiful, elegant space. It elevates the experience of attending events held there.

ERICA BOCK • My favorite spot in Music Hall is backstage. It's thrilling and full of anticipation, giving me butterflies as performers prepare for something huge.



KYLE CAMPBELL • I love the lobby balcony because it gives you the full sense of space and allows for people watching.

ERIC JACKSON • I love viewing Music Hall from outside and trying to place myself in the minds of how people viewed the building when it opened compared to how it is seen today by anyone who stops by to look at it.



TRICIA JOHNSON • My favorite place in Music Hall is the Corbett Tower, specifically, looking at the lovely restored chandeliers on the ceiling.

CYNTHIA KHOO-ROBINSON • My favorite spot is the entrance hall/the grand foyer as you enter the building because it is so majestic. It warms my heart to recall the days of lining up to walk in for St. Ursula Academy's graduation each year for over a decade.



KEN KREIDER • My favorite spot in Music Hall is the center of the entry foyer, before a show. It is like being in the family room of the City, with friends and friendly faces all around, getting ready to hear a world class performance in a beautiful setting.

QUIERA LEVY-SMITH • One of my absolute favorite places at Music Hall are the front steps that both overlook Washington Park and also invite you to marvel at the magnificent Rose Window.



ALEK LUCKE • I love the lobby and the well — I have had so many beautiful memories overlooking the stone floors, under the beautiful ceiling, bathed in the excitement of a great experience to come.



YEMI OYEDIRAN • My favorite memory is of listening to the post-renovation acoustics test in the Springer Auditorium gallery. It was like hearing it whisper its secrets—magical!



RICK PENDER • Corbett Tower initially was “Dexter Hall,” a small concert venue. Later it was WCET-TV's first studio. Today, with restored historic décor, it's a gorgeous meeting space.



CHRIS PINELO • There are many places within Cincinnati Music Hall that hold special significance, but the most special place for me is in between two columns in the Grand Foyer where my wife and I said our wedding vows before gathered family and friends.



GLENN PLOTT • Above the auditorium ceiling with reminders of the hall's history from the very beginning to now. Standing in front of the Rose Window is inspirational.



ROXANNE QUALLS • My favorite spot is on the balcony level overlooking the lobby. From that perch, you can see a rich and intriguing mix of people, costumes, and sometimes drama.



LYNNE RECKMAN • Back stage in North Hall, standing in this unadorned area, one recalls stories of times past: machinery expositions, boxing matches, basketball, home expos and elephants! Fascinating examples of our building's resilience.



ED RIDER • My favorite spot is the Taft Suite. It is amazing to see the beautiful organ carvings that FMH has been able to restore and display.



NICOLE ROBERTS • From the iconic rose window to the sandstone symbols — the rich storytelling of the exterior façade is my favorite view of Cincinnati Music Hall.



CAROL SAMPSON • My favorite spot in Music Hall is not even inside Music Hall. I just love looking at the Victorian Gothic architecture so that it gives me so much to look forward to what's going on on the inside.



SCOTT SANTANGELO • The history of the building is so precious to me. I can't pinpoint one special spot.



TIM SMITH • My favorite place in Music Hall is any seat in the audience for the Cincinnati Symphony, but since the fabulous renovation of the hall I find myself attached to the middle of row J!



THEA TJEPKEMA • Entombed in a crawl space, over the north carriage passageway, accessible only by ladder, are decorative black bricks in the 1878 exterior wall patinaed with the original shiny tar finish.



KELLEY BRANDSTETTER TRACY • Corbett Tower as I love looking up at the beautiful stenciled ceiling that was once hidden and looking out the windows to overlook Washington Park.



KATHY WADE • The ballroom, the last place I shared a dance with my late husband at our Crown Jewels of Jazz® concert with the legendary Shirley Horn.



NANCY WAGNER • My favorite place in Music Hall is the Music Library. Believed to be the largest performance library in the world, I have the privilege of volunteering there for 19 years.



MARK WEADICK • I love sitting in Springer Auditorium and hearing “Bravo” at the conclusion of a performance.”



JESSY WILLIAMS • I fell in love with the Music Hall ballroom when I chose the space to host my high school prom! I have attended a variety of incredible community and arts events in the space the last 3 decades.



ADMIN ASSIST, JULIEN MONICK • While the views of the city from Corbett Tower come at a close second, my favorite spot in Music Hall will always be Springer Auditorium. It's where the music sounds best.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NANCY KNAUF • The FMH office is my new special place within Music Hall. Located off the balcony, we are in the center of all activity happening in the building.



PRESIDENT, PETER KOENIG • I like our FMH Office — small, quirky, private, and enough space for us to carry out our mission to preserve and improve Music Hall.



THANKS TO ALL OF OUR 2024 VOLUNTEERS!

Ekkehard Bohme	Sandra Geiser	Linda Kiefer	Becky Moeggenberg	Lynne Reckman	Michelle Weber
Steve Carlson	Barbara Gomes	Carol Kruse	Sue Monteith	Addie Renne	Rosanne Wetzal
Patti Cruse	Cliff Goosmann	David Lane	Joyce Oehler	Melanie Sandy	Winsome Wilson
Carol DeGreg	Ray Grothaus	Sandra Lett	Dale Pepper	Paul Swisshelm	Tom Ziegler
Feriel Feldman	Gayley Hautzenroeder	Judy Martin	Tracy Price	Thea Tjepkema	
Al Geiser	Ron Hoffman	Denise McLinden	Mike Ranieri	Fred Warren	

Interested in Cincinnati history, architecture and music? Seeking a rewarding volunteer experience that fits your schedule? Help us preserve the past and cherish the future! Become a Friends of Music Hall volunteer. Call 513.744.3293 or email MusicHallTour@FriendsofMusicHall.org



FRIENDS OF MUSIC HALL VOLUNTEERS donate on average 60 hours per year leading tours, giving community talks and attending events to share their knowledge and enthusiasm for Music Hall. We are deeply grateful for their generous donation of time and talents.



When this publication went to print, a deep cleaning of the first section of tile.

Committee Report CAPITAL PROJECTS

TWO MAJOR RESTORATION PROJECTS AND EXTERIOR ARCHITECTURAL LIGHTING ARE UNDER WAY.

LOBBY FLOOR RESTORATION

One of the most stunning and significant interior architectural features of Cincinnati Music Hall is the original 1878 red-and-white checkerboard lobby floor, bordered in black stone. For the first time in 143 years, the Unfading Red Slate, Danby White Marble, and Champlain Black Marble (limestone), meticulously laid with extraordinarily tight joints in the Edyth B. Lindner Grand Foyer and north and south corridors will be restored. A nationally recognized professional stone restoration company, Eighth Day Stone

Restoration (Charlotte, NC) will apply their expertise to ensure the removal of layers of non-historic acrylic coating and poorly color-matched fillers over the years. They will use historic preservation technology to precisely blend colors and appropriately fill pitting, spalling, and cracks, strengthening the structural integrity of more than 100 damaged tiles. This restoration project will provide a new, safer, and stronger surface and return the seamless aesthetic appeal of the High Victorian Gothic color pattern and its original natural luster. The restored stone surface will also provide easier future maintenance. Working on 30'x30' sections at a time, will allow events and traffic through the lobby to continue between July 29 and September 12.

BALCONY DOORS RESTORATION

In November, Architectural Reclamation (Franklin, OH), historic structure preservation and restoration specialists, will remove and restore for the first time since 1878 the 12-foot-tall wooden second-floor balcony doors above Music Hall's main entrance. You may have noticed the Cincinnati Symphony's herald trumpet players entering and exiting these doors before the opening of the May Festival. The exterior of the doors is highly weathered, with "alligatoring" paint that allows the elements to soak into the wood, causing damage and the loss of portions of original decorative molding. Between 1969 and 1975, during the first redecoration and rehabilitation of the hall, the doors' interior decorative moldings were removed and



Balcony doors to be restored in 2024.

covered in plywood, and bull's-eye ring-shaped ornaments were added. During the 2016-17 renovation, the doors were mahogany grained over the non-historic interior moldings and the exterior restoration fell outside the scope of the project. Paint analysis and Samuel Hannaford's detailed architectural drawings will aid in restoring lost details and the original finish on both sides. Restoring these 1878 doors, one of the few remaining historically significant architectural features of Music Hall, will return a part of Hannaford's exacting design intentions. Their beauty will again heighten the High Victorian Gothic architectural style on both the exterior and interior.

EXTERIOR ARCHITECTURAL LIGHTING

KLH Engineers (Kohrs, Lonnemann, Heil, Engineers, Inc., Ft. Thomas, KY) have begun an architectural lighting concept design to improve and elevate the exterior lighting on Music Hall's east and west façades and roofline with an eye on retaining its original beauty and integrity as a historic treasure.

KLH was chosen for its work lighting Cincinnati City Hall, another Hannaford building, and other historically significant structures. Their singular expertise includes the knowledge and care of lighting historic architecture. Conceptual modeling, renderings, and on-site testing will follow.

Their design will focus on highlighting the Hall's architectural outline, including newly restored finials atop gables, arcuated brick corbeling on the central gable and cornice line, and the tower spires presently obscured in shadow.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Patricia Bittner, Kyle Campbell, Ken Kreider, Chris Pinelo, Glenn Plott, Roxanne Qualls, Ed Rider, Scott Santangelo and Thea Tjepkema

Report by Ed Rider & Thea Tjepkema, Co-Chairs

Friends of Music Hall STORIES & BLOGS

Two in-depth blogs this year were the story of the C.S.O.'s 4th Music Director Eugène Ysaÿe and his statue in the north corridor.



One of the most exciting "history finds" this year, among many, was a Music Hall connection

with one of the most iconic works of American art: William Harnett's trompe l'oeil painting, "The Old Violin" (pic) was displayed in the 1886 Industrial Exposition and again at the 1894 Expo and was owned by three Cincinnatians — adding to its provenance at the National Gallery of Art where it currently resides.



Helen Walker King, "Cincinnati's Soloist" an unsung hero who founded Cincinnati's music festivals for African Americans, including the June Festival, and sang in Springer Auditorium.



Committee Report DEVELOPMENT

FMH President Peter E. Koenig
with Linda Siekman

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude and pride for the remarkable achievements made possible by your generous support. The Development Committee of the Friends of Music Hall is delighted to present our annual report for the 2023/24 fiscal year.

In this period, our community has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the preservation, promotion, and education surrounding our beloved iconic Music Hall. With the incredible contributions from 176 dedicated members, we raised nearly \$74,000. This significant sum plays a crucial role in ensuring the Music Hall remains a cherished cultural landmark and a vibrant center for arts and education.



Peter Koenig, Mindy Rosen and Kyle Inskeep.

As in previous years, we continue to celebrate and honor our Hannaford level donors (\$500+) with VIP events prior to the Holiday Concert and the Silent Movie Made Musical events. These special gatherings not only provided a unique and personal experience for our valued donors but also reinforced the sense

of community and appreciation that is at the heart of our organization.

We are immensely grateful for each member's dedication and support. It is through your generosity that we can continue our mission to celebrate and uphold the legacy of our Music Hall.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to our vision and are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead. We invite you to join us in our ongoing efforts, as we strive to make the Music Hall an even more integral part of our community's cultural landscape.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Rosemary Schlachter, Holly Brians Ragusa, Alek Lucke, Cynthia Khoo-Robinson, Roxanne Qualls, Tim Smith and Nancy Wagner

Report by Cynthia Khoo-Robinson, Chair

Friends of Music Hall MEMBERS

CORBETT CIRCLE

(\$10,000+)

Mr. Charles N. Ellman

ROSE WINDOW CIRCLE

(\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Mr. Thomas R. Schiff

SPRINGER CIRCLE

(\$1,000 - \$4,999)

Robert A. Bauer
Susan B. Lichtenbaum
Calvin and Patricia Linnemann
Phillip and Whitney C. Long
Rick Pender
David and Liane Phillips
Mindy Rosen
Rosemary and Mark Schlachter
John B. Schmitz
Irwin and Melinda Simon
Gerald Skidmore
Clark Sole Jr.
Dudley Taft Charitable
Foundation
Kelley Brandstetter Tracy
Mark and Lisa Weadick

HANNAFORD CIRCLE

(\$500 - \$999)

Lisa Allison
Drs. David and Elaine Billmire
Patricia Bittner
Deborah W. Campbell
Cincinnati Stage Employees
Local #5
Carol C. Cole
Meredith and Charles Downton
Ann A. Ellison
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Fischer III
Mr. and Mrs. Ashley L. Ford
Kathleen M. Grote
Tom and Jan Hardy
Peter E. Koenig
Ken and Emily Kreider
Carol L. Kruse
Lippert Family Fund of
the Greater Cincinnati
Foundation
Vivian Morgan
Scott Nelson
Glenn Plott

Roxanne Qualls
Holly Brians Ragusa
Lynne Williams Reckman
Ed and Barb Rider
Quiera Levy Smith
Tim Smith
Henry Spitz
Greg Terhune
Andrew Ulmer
Nancy C. Wagner
Paul Wenker
Jessy Williams

WURLITZER CIRCLE

(\$250 - \$499)

Mary and James L. Abbott
Jacklyn and Gary Bryson
Mary Coyne
Carl and Joyce Fischer
Sandra and Albert Geiser
William E. Henrich
Gary Huffman
Tricia Johnson
Jay Joyce
Troy Robinson and Cynthia
Khoo-Robinson
David and Jan Lane
Anita and Ed Marks
Linda Siekmann
Lisa and Rob Smith
Dr. Susan R. Strick
Ralph Taylor
J. Grant Troja
Ray and Ellen Van der Horst
Cedric W. Vogel
Jane and Jon Votel
Kathy Wade
JoAnn Ward
Annette and Mark Januzzi Wick

BLACK BRICK CIRCLE

(\$100 - \$249)

Donald Beck
Wilma and Herbert Beigel
Drs. Leslie and Carol Benet
Rachel Bierkan
Rick and Karen Blatt
Teri Boland
William Brandt
Thomas G. Bruckmann
Otto Budig

Don and Kathleen Burns
Sherry L. Caito
Kyle Campbell
Shannon K. Carter
Anthony F. Cole
Philip and Anne Cone
Dr. Alvin H. & Alva Jean
Crawford
Mark Dauner

Carol DeGreg
Carmon DeLeone
Sally H. Dessauer
Jean Z. Donaldson
Robert W. Dorsey
Emilie and David Dressler
Carol M. Fisher
Barry Fittes
Michael and Janelle J. Gelfand
Joanne Grueter
Dr. and Mrs. Jack and Barbara
A. Hahn
Dr. Kelly Hale
Craig and Emily Hertzman
Christine & Alan Hollatz
Dr. Eric Jackson
Ken Jones
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Kahsar
Lee Koehler
Dennis Koenig
Nancy Knauf
Mrs. Pinky Laffoon
Jim Laskey
David and Kathy Leugers
Edgar E. Loyd
Lois and Richard Manifold
Judith L. Martin
Peter McConney
Mr. and Mrs. James McDermott
James and Sarah Michael
David A. & Martha Millett
Elizabeth Moeller
Regeana and Al Morgan
Sylvia Osterday
Kevin D. Ott
Carol and James Pearce
Ronald Plybon
Ann Santen
Charlotte and Richard Schnitz
Arlene K. Schwerin
Murray Sinclair
AJ and Jennifer Singleton
Betsy Sittenfeld
Betty Ann Smiddy
William and Judith Smith
Joseph Eric Stevens
Blanche and Tim Sullivan

Carl G. Swabek
Thea Tjepkema
Society of the Sisters of the
Transfiguration
Michael L. Walton Esq.
Mr. and Mrs. Frederick D.
Warren
Katie N. Weed
John M. Yacher

1878 CIRCLE

(\$50 to \$99)

Ken and Lois Allen
Theresa Anderson
Erica Bock
Laurence and Hildy Bonhaus
Genevieve Dennison
Harold K. and Linda W. Eberenz
Pat Frew
Philip and Gayley Hautzenroeder
Daniel J. Hoffheimer
Tom and Kathy Hogan
Carolyn Honkomp
Charles Hudson
Robert and Connie Jones
Mace C. Justice
Cassandra Keller
Thomas and Annette Kereiakes
Merle Ann Koenig
Ken and Sue Kramer
Marjorie Y. Lovenberg
Joseph T. Luttmmer, D.D.S.
Bobbie A. Maybrier
Michael and Marjorie McKinney
Don Mills
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Nerl
Yemi Oyediran
Chris Pinelo
Timothy Pohlman, D.D.S.
Judy Prinz
Nicole Roberts
Sherry Roth
Eli Shupe and Toby Ruben
Carol Sampson
Stacy Sommer Schmidt
Julia Stephen
Judie List Sweeney
James L. Thompson
Linda and Jim Voss
J. Miles Wolf
Shelby Wood
Linda Ziegler



Committee Report WURLITZER EVENTS

The Music Hall Ballroom reverberated in 2023 and 2024 with the rich tones of our Mighty Wurlitzer theater organ. FMH celebrated the holiday season with its annual holiday concert in December featuring Jelani Eddington at the console, WKRC-TV New Anchor Kyle Inskeep returning as our master of ceremonies, and a special visit from Santa. This sold-out December evening was followed in April with the 2024 edition of “Silent Movies Made Musical,” featuring organist Tedde Gibson from Atlanta for his Music Hall debut. He accompanied two silent films starring Baby Peggy, a leading child star from the late 1920s.

At the spring show, Ron Wehmeier, FMH’s “Organ Man,” was specially honored with a proclamation by Major Aftab Pureval,

thanking Ron for his many years of service to FMH, providing love and care to this great instrument. With Ron’s retirement, the committee has been exploring new resources to maintain the organ as well as more new organists to perform.

The next iteration of BLINK in October will again feature local organ sensation Trent Sims in the Ballroom. A repeat of the thousands of guests who visited the Ballroom during BLINK 2022 is again expected. On December 6, 2024, the annual Holiday Wurlitzer Concert will feature the return of popular organist Mark Herman, Broadway performer Michelle Ragusa, and a performance by Q-Kidz, a troupe of young dancers from the nearby West End. Next spring, another show featuring the Wurlitzer is

in the works. Details on the performance and tickets will be available soon.

The committee thanks Bahl & Gaynor for its ongoing support of our Wurlitzer concerts. We will continue to work on new themes and programs to showcase this historic instrument and its crowd-pleasing musical moods that make audiences smile.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Kelley Brandstetter Tracy, Patti Cruse, Ken Kreider, Sandra Lett, Alek Lucke, Yemi Oyediran, Rick Pender, Holly Brians Ragusa, Nicole Roberts, Scott Santangelo, Paul Swisshelm, Nancy Wagner, Mark Weadick and Jessy Williams

Report by Ken Kreider, Chair



Committee Report TOURS, TALKS, EDUCATION & OUTREACH

BUILDING UPON OUR SUCCESS
During 2023-2024 this committee supported the work of 34 dedicated volunteers who provided diverse programs in Music Hall for the greater Cincinnati community. Special event tours, including Bricks & Beer, Mother’s Day, Classical Pride and Ghost Tours, continued to sell out. Music Hall Explorers, a children’s program for grades 3-6 attracted students from Cincinnati Public Schools, Seven Hills Neighborhood Houses, C.O. Harrison Elementary and Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy, Armleder Campus. Music Hall Explorers grew to include Girl Scouts who earn a Friends of Music Hall patch after participating in the children’s program. New this year was the development of our popular “Under One Roof: The African American Experience in Music Hall” Speaker Series

talk into a tour inside Music Hall. Also new this year was a tour offered in conjunction with the Black Family Reunion in August.

Our Speaker Series traveled across Greater Cincinnati for talks to groups such as the Cincinnati Women’s Club, Seven Hills Neighborhood Houses and Anderson Senior Center. Topics of the presentations included “Muses: The Women of Music Hall” and “Under One Roof: the African American Experience in Music Hall”. Many organizations scheduled tours at Music Hall tailored to their group’s needs, such as the Community of the Good Shepherd Fifty-Five Plus Club.

In addition to educating Music Hall visitors about the history of the building, our experienced volunteers staffed Mighty

Wurlitzer concerts and City Flea craft festival in Washington Park. In October 2024 they will once again host visitors of the BLINK festival in the Music Hall Ballroom for a demonstration of the Mighty Wurlitzer organ and another peek at the impressive 8-foot-wide botanical model of Music Hall created by Applied Imagination.

FMH volunteers are enthusiastic storytellers. Visitors of all ages, many who had never been to Music Hall, were welcomed through our doors and into the stories that live within the walls of this iconic building.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Erica Bock, Kyle Campbell, Eric Jackson, Linda Kiefer, Quiera Levy-Smith, Yemi Oyediran, Rick Pender, Carol Sampson, Scott Santangelo, Thea Tjepkema and Kathy Wade

Report by Lynne Reckman, Chair



Committee Report DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION & ACCESSIBILITY

FMH's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA) committee underwent a leadership transition early in 2024 from Co-Chairs Holly Brians Ragusa and Patricia Bittner to Dr. Eric R. Jackson and Chris Pinelo. Much praise goes to the previous leadership team from their great work.

The committee continued its work toward building FMH's efforts towards cultural competencies, on all levels, that will make the organization and its leadership, events and programs a richly diverse and reflective organization where all people are welcome and thrive based on our complex and interconnected communities and histories.

Based on these aspirations, during the summer of 2023, the committee worked to define short-term goals and extensively

vetted five potential DEIA partners. Make It Plain Consulting, LLC (MIPC), led by Tommie Lewis, was ultimately selected to advance FMH's DEIA efforts. MIPC conducted the Intercultural Development Inventory survey with the FMH board members and offered several independent and private review sessions to discuss the results. During the January 2024 FMH Board meeting, the results of the surveys were shared as well as the next steps of engagement with MIPC.

As a result, the DEIA committee recommended a second phase of work with MIPC to develop a strategic plan, which rested on holding five intensive sessions with Tommie Lewis during the calendar year 2024. With Board approval, two sessions have been completed. The

committee looks forward to completing three more sessions and sharing the results with the entire FMH board.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Patricia Bittner, Eric Jackson, Co-Chair, Chris Pinelo, Co-Chair, Quiera Levy-Smith, Alek Lucke, Tricia Johnson, Holly Brians Ragusa and Thea Tjepkema

Report by Eric Jackson, Co-Chair

NEW TOUR:

The newly unveiled *Under One Roof: The African American Experience in Music Hall* Tour tells engaging stories in every building space, enlightening guests about the Black artists, athletes, and agents of change throughout Music Hall's 143 year history.



Committee Report MARKETING & COMMUNICATION

The marketing committee continues to build awareness of our mission and purpose, to be stewards of the FMH brand, and to enable and support other committees' activities, all while ensuring that Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility are considered and remain priorities.

In collaboration with the TTE&E committee, marketing team members helped to develop a new four-color rack brochure for displays at the Cincinnati Visitor Center, libraries, hotels, Music Hall and the Aronoff Center. The brochure highlights our many tours, talks and Wurlitzer organ events. It will be available at BLINK 2024 and any of the community events we attend.

During the summer months an email marketing campaign targeted Cincinnati

Arts Association patrons. "Nearly 150 Years of Captivating History in 90 Minutes" and other compelling subject lines helped to sell out most of our indoor tours for June, July and August. Friends of Music Hall continues to grow our email database of subscribers for Windows on Music Hall, a quarterly e-zine which features seasonal articles, FMH history and archives stories. It's also a promotional vehicle for special tours and Wurlitzer events.

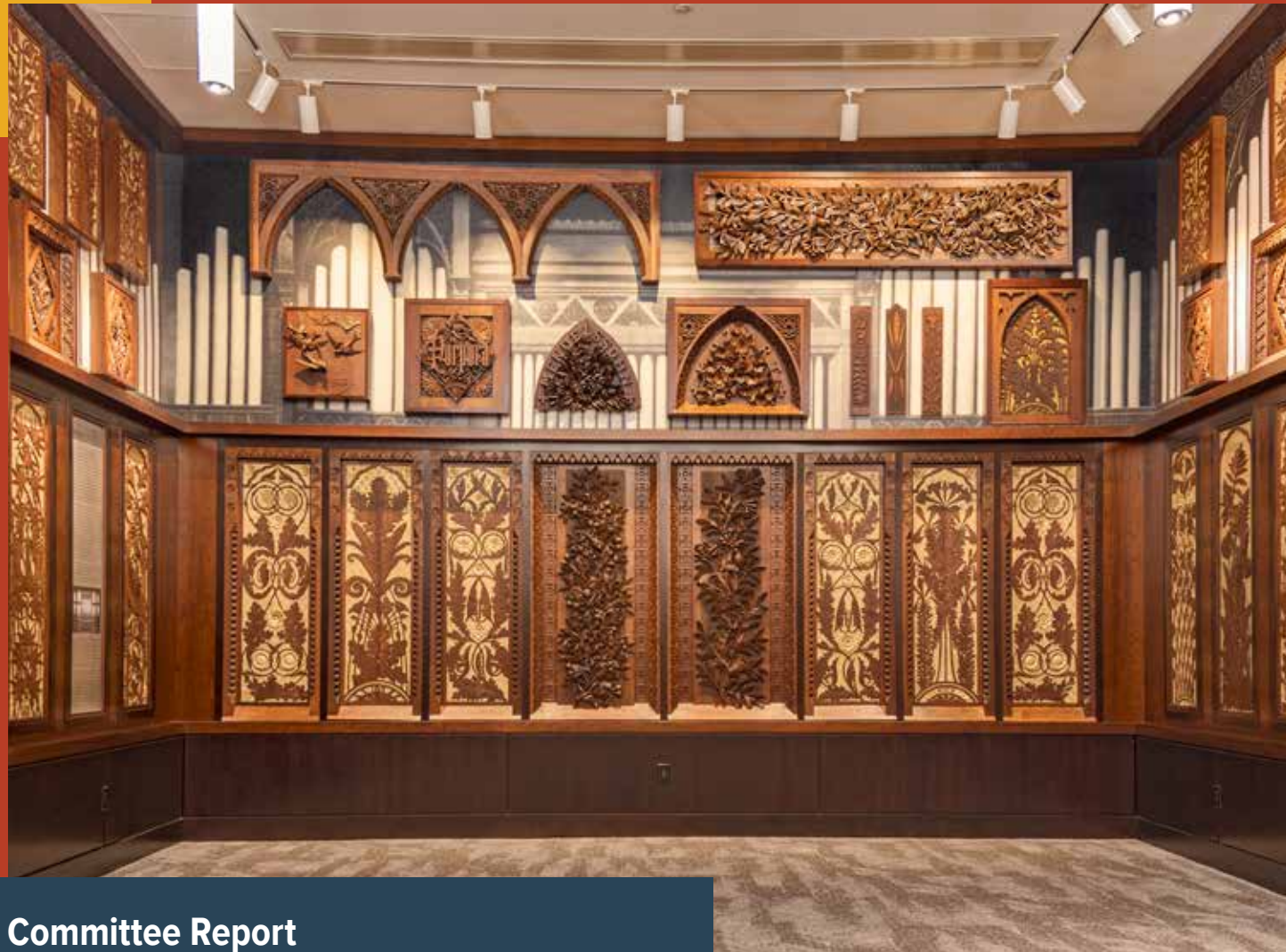
Mindy Rosen was interviewed about FMH Beer Tours for Cincinnati Spotlight on WGUC in July. With Cincinnati Arts Association we developed a presale weblink for WGUC listeners to order tickets to our fall Beer Tours, often sold out in a few days. Rhinegeist Brewing continues to be our partner.

FMH continues to grow our presence on Facebook with engaging posts that inform followers about tours and restoration projects happening at Music Hall. We also post about FMH's outreach efforts through community talks, special events and volunteer field trips to learn about other historical places within our city.

Erica Bock's UC students produced a new ghost story video featuring the CSO's Carol Dunevant. It will become part of the tour this fall. The marketing committee is exploring designers to update the FMH website for 2025.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Erica Bock, Quiera Levy-Smith, Alek Lucke, Yemi Oyediran, Rick Pender, Chris Pinelo, Nicole Roberts, Carol Sampson and Jessy Williams

Report by Nancy Knauf



Committee Report FINANCE

COMMITTEE MISSION

The finance committee undertakes the responsibility of prudently managing the Friends of Music Hall's (FMH) investment portfolios, producing financial statements, tax returns and other financial reports, and ensuring FMH's physical assets are maintained and adequately insured.

INVESTMENT AND SPEND POLICIES

FMH's investment portfolios are managed in accordance with FMH's investment policy, the primary goal of which is to grow and maintain the purchasing power of the organization's portfolio. Typically, 70-85 percent of our investment portfolio is invested in high quality equity securities, with the balance allocated to fixed income and preferred securities. Bahl & Gaynor Investment Advisors have been retained by

FMH to serve as our investment portfolio manager. To preserve investment balances for future use, the investment policy imposes an annual spending restriction of 4 percent of the average portfolio balance for the prior 12 quarters. A substantial portion of our portfolio balance's use is restricted to maintenance, repair and improvement of Music Hall and funding and administering FMH's programs. Despite recent financial market volatility, we remain pleased with the performance and growth of the investment portfolios over the past several years.

FMH retains the services of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra for bookkeeping, invoice processing and financial statement preparation. Our financial statements are reviewed by the accounting firm Clark, Schaffer and Hackett, who also prepare



Read about the Philip D. Spiess donation of 63 items on "Archive Spotlights" at www.FriendsatMusicHall.org.

our annual IRS Form 990. FMH's financial statements and Form 990 are available upon request.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Tricia Johnson, Tim Smith, Kelley Brandstetter Tracy and Mark Weadick

Report By Mark Weadick, Chair

FRIENDS OF MUSIC HALL

1241 Elm Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202

FriendsofMusicHall.org
(513) 744-3293

FRONT COVER • Top: Music Hall in the spring. Bottom Left: Teddi Gibson, organist for the 2024 Silent Movies Made Musical with the Mighty Wurlitzer; Bottom Right: Left to right: Holly Brians Ragusa; Ronald Wehmeier; Aftab Pureval, Cincinnati Mayor, presented a proclamation declaring April 12, 2024, as “The Organ Man of Cincinnati Day” in honor of Ron’s many years of work on the Wurlitzer; Peter Koenig, president, Board of Directors, Friends of Music Hall.

BACK COVER • Top: Cincinnati Boychoir performing at the 2023 Happy Holidays with the Mighty Wurlitzer, held Friday, Dec. 8. Bottom Left: Tour group, led by volunteer Dale Pepper, in Music Hall’s scene shop; Bottom Right: Music Hall’s center apex rises above the rose window.

PHOTO CREDITS: Joanne Grueter, Malinda Hartong and Matt Zory.



Facebook: @FriendsofMusicHall 

Instagram: @FriendsofMusicHall 

X: @FriendsHall 

