



# CENTRUM ANNUAL REPORT 2023







# 50 YEARS OF CREATIVE INSPIRATION

I tip my cap to you – our community – who truly made 2023 a special year for Centrum as we marked 50 years of immersive arts education in Port Townsend.

Every year, audiences and workshop participants tell me “this was the best event ever!” I love to hear that, and – call it recency bias – I feel it too. I say it often: your enthusiasm for the programs, residencies, and exhibitions at Centrum buoy us all. You are the reason we exist and work so hard to bring the most inspiring artists from around the world to our campus.

2023 will be remembered for some exceptionally high-profile moments, the biggest of all being alumna Diana Krall’s return to Centrum for a stirring and emotional performance on July 10th. But the year was also hallmarked with less visible yet deeply moving moments including our weekly interchanges with local supporters and visiting tourists at the Port Townsend Farmers Market, the opportunity to reconnect with patrons at our outdoor Free Fridays at the Fort concerts, and free daily literary readings at the Port Townsend Writers Conference.

Those we wish to thank are too many, so let me simply thank you, dear reader, for your own personal commitment to Centrum. I appreciate your role in making Fort Worden, Port Townsend and Jefferson County a unique place of exploration, reinvigoration, and renewal.

I look forward to seeing you again this summer at the Fort!

*Robert C. Birman*  
**ROBERT BIRMAN**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## CENTRUM IS ON A MISSION TO NURTURE CREATIVITY AND BUILD INCLUSION THROUGH THE ARTS

**CENTRUM ENVISIONS** a future where anyone from anywhere can nurture their creativity in an environment that is supportive, challenging and uplifting – building a world of greater inclusion through the arts.

**CENTRUM'S MISSION** is to foster creative arts experiences that change lives. We exist to present, promote and honor:

- Traditional and evolving arts
- Programs for a diverse array of learners that focus on the intersection of the arts and creative education
- Residencies that provide artists with precious time, space and inspiration to develop innovative work

Through inter-generational immersive workshops, we bring together aspiring and master artists to ignite creativity, find and provide mentorship, and build community. Our public performances celebrate our workshops and programs, welcoming audiences to share in those creative experiences.



*“Art is important because it expands how we look at and understand the world. It can make us think beyond our own experience, and often, in our appreciation, we find things that link us in a common humanity.”*

—David Rockefeller



# 170

VOLUNTEERS SHARED

# 1,030

DONORS RAISED

# 2,750

HOURS OF VOLUNTEER TIME

# \$1.73M

TO FUND CENTRUM PROGRAMS



A photograph of a group of young people, likely teenagers, in a music workshop. In the foreground, a girl with long, wavy blonde hair and glasses is smiling while playing an acoustic guitar. She is wearing a grey and red hoodie and black pants with a large tear on the knee. Behind her, other students are visible, some playing double basses and others acoustic guitars. The setting appears to be a dimly lit room with warm lighting.

TO MAKE SURE THAT EVERYONE  
HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN  
AND CREATE AT CENTRUM, IN 2023  
WE GAVE OUT

227

SCHOLARSHIPS TO ATTEND  
OUR WORKSHOPS,

40%

OF WHICH WENT TO CHILDREN  
AND TEENS



# WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

*"The instructors were all amazing - getting to meet them and learn their approach to music was definitely a highlight."*

RED HOT STRINGS  
PARTICIPANT, 2023

*"Fiddle Tunes is a community nexus and cultural incubator, and creates magic in all the lives it touches that spreads outward. I seriously believe it's a gift to our entire society, the value of which can't even be estimated."*

FIDDLE TUNES  
PARTICIPANT, 2023

*"All can say is WOW!! Every day had so much variety and opportunities to learn. All the instructors were fantastic and so willing to help all of us feel welcomed."*

UKULELE  
PARTICIPANT, 2023

*"The beauty of the Fort Worden grounds nurtures creativity. It is a magical time in a magical place. I am grateful to Centrum for providing the incredible opportunity to explore, and work, and grow my practice."*

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE, 2023

*"This place changed the way I will think about the ocean and water forever."*

WATER WORLD  
PARTICIPANT, 2023

*"The highlights for me were all the faculty performances because we got to see the amazing musicianship of the people who were teaching us. I learned a lot."*

JAZZ PARTICIPANT, 2023

*"PTWC changed the way I write. I have more confidence, can better understand my inspiration, and generally just have a better idea of how my writing works... This was one of the best weeks of my life."*

WRITERS CONFERENCE  
PARTICIPANT, 2023



# 2023 WORKSHOPS & PROGRAMS: MUSIC

**ACOUSTIC BLUES** a one-of-a-kind since 1992, bringing together legendary musicians to pass on their knowledge. *2023 artistic director Jontavious Willis*

**BRAZILIAN CHORO** creating a dedicated community around a special Brazilian musical heritage. *2023 artistic director Dudu Maia*

**CHAMBER MUSIC** giving contemporary chamber musicians from across the country a home in Port Townsend. *2023 artistic director Lucinda Carver*

**FIDDLE TUNES** a musical original since 1976, passing folk traditions across generations. *2023 artistic director Joel Savoy*

**JAZZ PORT TOWNSEND** connecting top-tier players with the next up-and-coming talents in a great American artform. *2023 artistic director John Clayton*

**RED HOT STRINGS** keeping vintage jazz swinging with some of the genre's greatest artists. *2023 artistic director Matt Munisteri*

**UKULELE FESTIVAL** celebrating a little instrument with a big cultural impact. *2023 artistic director Marianne Brogan*

**VOICE WORKS** making a place for all voices to find their song. *2023 artistic director Pharis Romero*



# 2023 WORKSHOPS & PROGRAMS: YOUTH

## EXPLORATIONS

giving 7-9 graders a chance to dive into a range of artistic mediums with professional artist-mentors

## WATER WORLD

bringing marine science to life through art for 5th & 6th graders, in partnership with Port Townsend Marine Science Center

## DANCE *THIS*

professional-level dance training and performance for high school students, in partnership with Seattle Theater Group

## TALES TEXTS & THEATER

hands-on art making and performance for all 6th graders at Blue Heron Middle School

## VOICES FROM THE FIELD

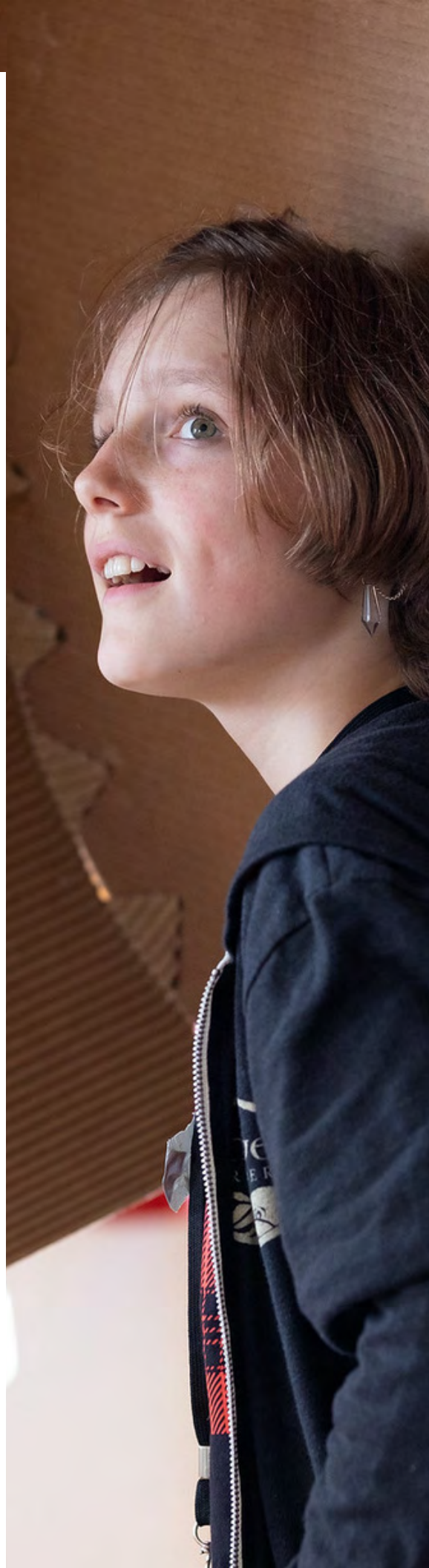
interdisciplinary workshops across artistic disciplines for the children of migrant workers, in partnership with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction

## STRONG VOICES

a special 2023 program of hands-on arts and community-building for youth in the foster system, in partnership with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction

## MARITIME DISCOVERY PROGRAM

enriching the world of maritime culture through art for all 7th graders at Chimacum Middle School, in partnership with Northwest Maritime Center





# 2023 WORKSHOPS & PROGRAMS: WRITERS & RESIDENCIES

## PORT TOWNSEND WRITERS CONFERENCE

deep diving into craft with literary luminaries since 1974. 2023 Artistic Director Gary Copeland Lilley

## INESCAPABLE GEOGRAPHIES: POETRY OF PLACE

a special 2023 poetry intensive about place and identity with Claudia Castro Luna

## CURATOR & ARTS WORKER RESIDENCY

a unique residency for the community of creative sector professionals who support the spectrum of artistic experiences

## EMERGING ARTISTS RESIDENCY

a juried residency for visual and interdisciplinary artists from the Pacific Northwest who are towards the beginning of their creative paths

## SELF-DIRECTED RESIDENCY

providing the precious space and time that artists need to make work that enriches our world







ACROSS OUR WORKSHOPS,  
MORE THAN

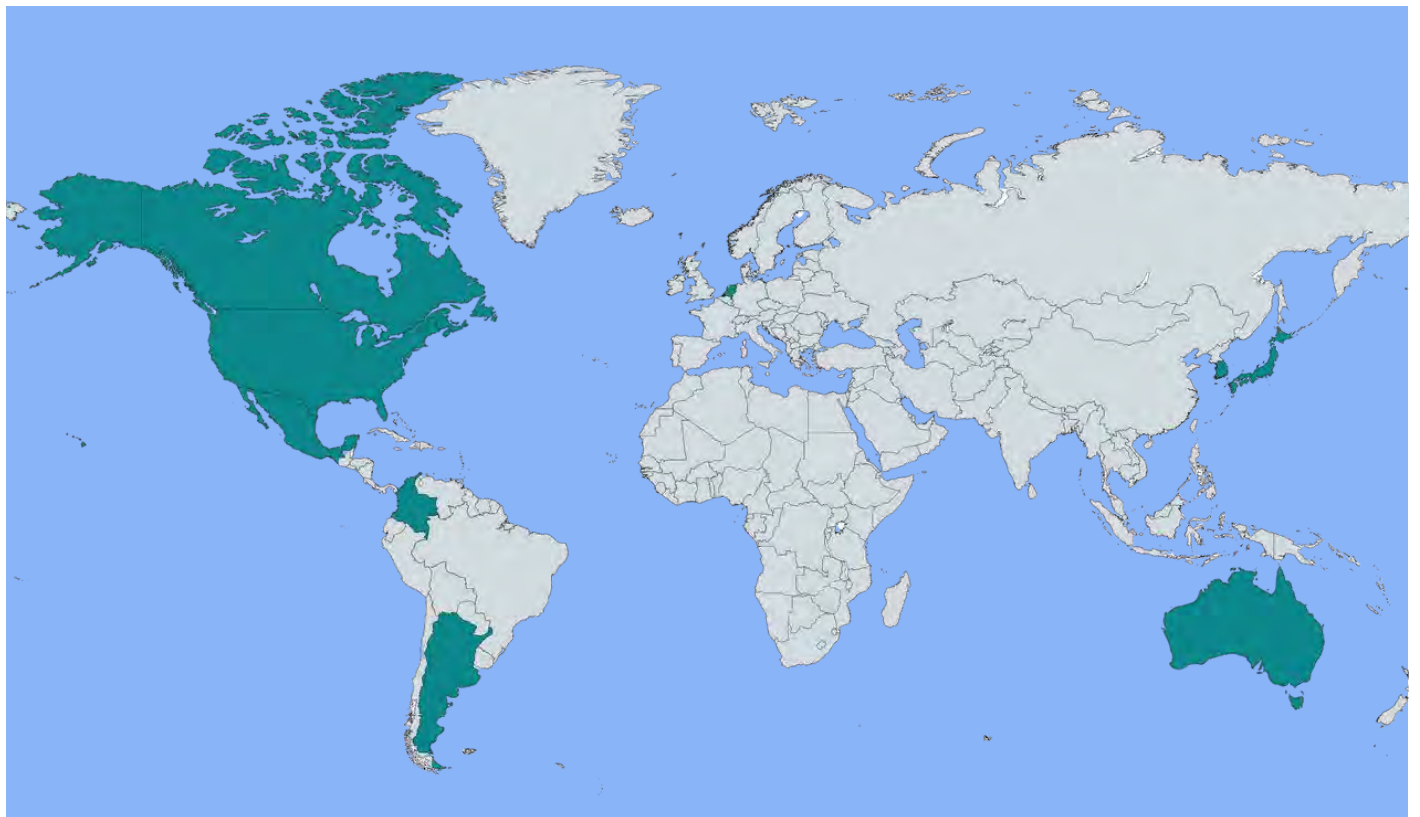
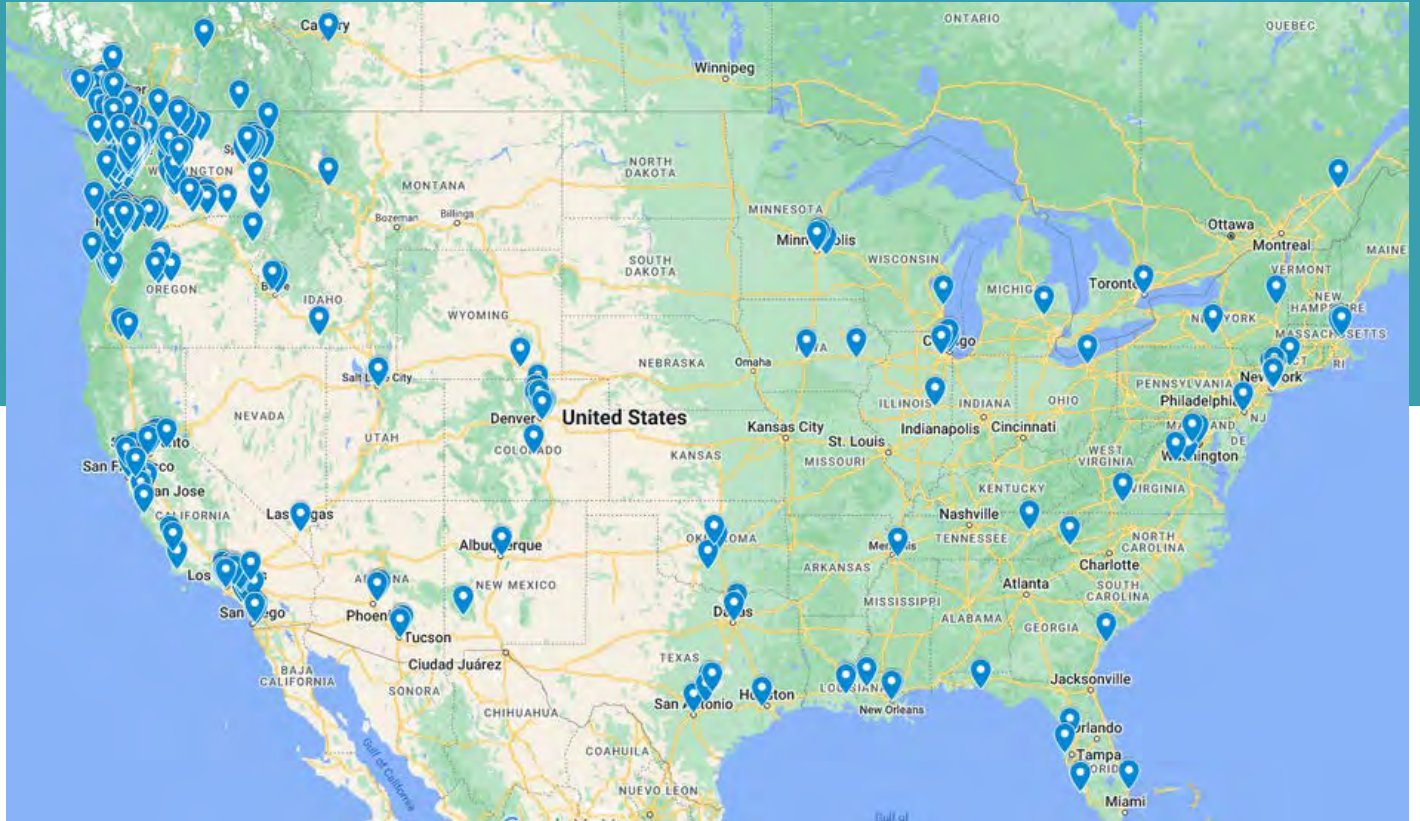
98%

OF 2023 PARTICIPANTS  
SAID THEY WOULD ATTEND  
CENTRUM AGAIN



# CENTRUM'S 2023 WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS AND ARTIST RESIDENTS CAME FROM

# 32 STATES AND 9 COUNTRIES





# CENTRUM'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

IN 2023, CENTRUM CELEBRATED 50 YEARS OF *CREATIVITY IN COMMUNITY*.  
THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO MADE THIS MILESTONE YEAR SO SPECIAL!

**50 EVENTS**

**17 WEEKS OF  
PROGRAMMING**

**126 INDIVIDUAL AND  
GROUP RESIDENCIES**

**1,471 WORKSHOP  
PARTICIPANTS**

**23,413 TOTAL VISITORS**

**\$118,534 SCHOLARSHIP  
DOLLARS GIVEN**

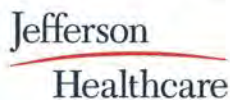
**11,050 TICKETS SOLD**

**STUDENTS AGES 5-86  
CAME TO HONE THEIR  
CRAFT IN CENTRUM'S  
WORKSHOPS AND  
INTENSIVES**

**306 YOUTH PROGRAM  
PARTICIPANTS FROM 36  
SCHOOLS**

**205 TEACHING ARTISTS  
AND FACULTY**

## THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY SPONSORS!



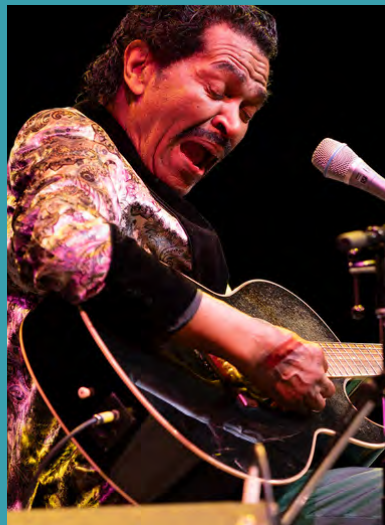


# CENTRUM'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

CENTRUM CELEBRATED ITS LEGACY AS A HOME FOR ARTISTS AND THE ARTS WITH SPECIAL PERFORMANCES & EVENTS



Our **50th Anniversary Benefit Concert and Gala** was a record-breaking success, raising more than \$277,000 for scholarships and netting more than \$385,000 for Centrum's programs. The evening started with an incredible benefit concert by Centrum alumna and multi-platinum-selling jazz artist **Diana Krall**, which was attended by more than 1,000 people, and culminated in a dinner for almost 250 supporters and guests.



To cap off Jazz Port Townsend, Centrum presented a special Sunday matinee show with the **Matthew Whitaker Quintet**, led by 22-year-old blind jazz keyboard prodigy Matthew Whitaker.

At Acoustic Blues, the legendary 89-year-old **Bobby Rush** performed a special Wednesday night concert. He played tunes from his latest album, *All My Love For You*, for which he won a GRAMMY in 2024.



At Fiddle Tunes, Brazilian band **Forró de Rabeca** brought international stringed-instrument folk music traditions to participants and audiences.



# CENTRUM'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

CENTRUM COMMEMORATED THE YEAR BY COMMISSIONING FIVE PAINTINGS FROM LOCAL ARTIST MAX GROVER



Max Grover's paintings include ephemera and scenes from Fort Worden's campus, as well as a "spirit animal" to represent elements of Centrum's programs. The Jazz Cat, Blues Hound, Writers Crow, Fiddle Tunes Rooster, and Centrum Owl were turned into art prints and collectible merchandise for our 2023 summer festivals.

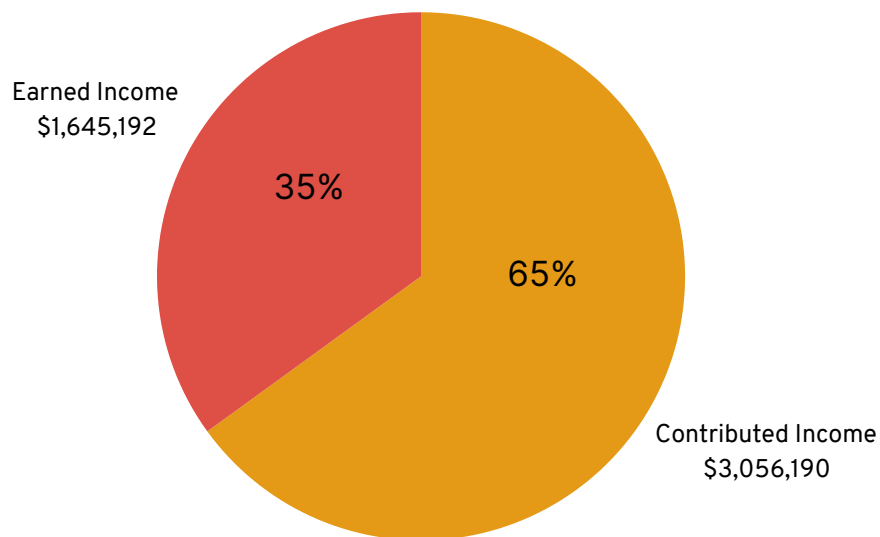




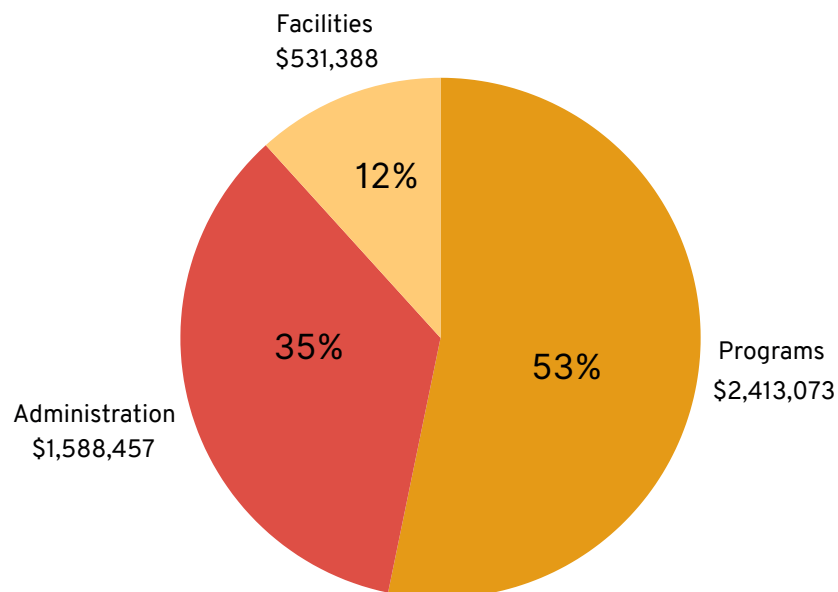
# 2023 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

We're pleased to report that Centrum remains debt-free since 2016, as we continue to build resiliency through a dedicated cash reserve, modest endowment fund, and a newly-formed facilities fund. You will see in the Workshop and Ticket History graph that we are making steady gains on returning to our pre-pandemic levels of program enrollment. Our proportion of earned revenue in recent years is partially diluted by virtue of the significant fundraising we are doing at present to address the substantial maintenance needs of our campus facilities. We're proud to be responsible stewards of every precious dollar which is invested in the programs, staff, and facilities that support the artists we serve.

## CENTRUM REVENUE 2023

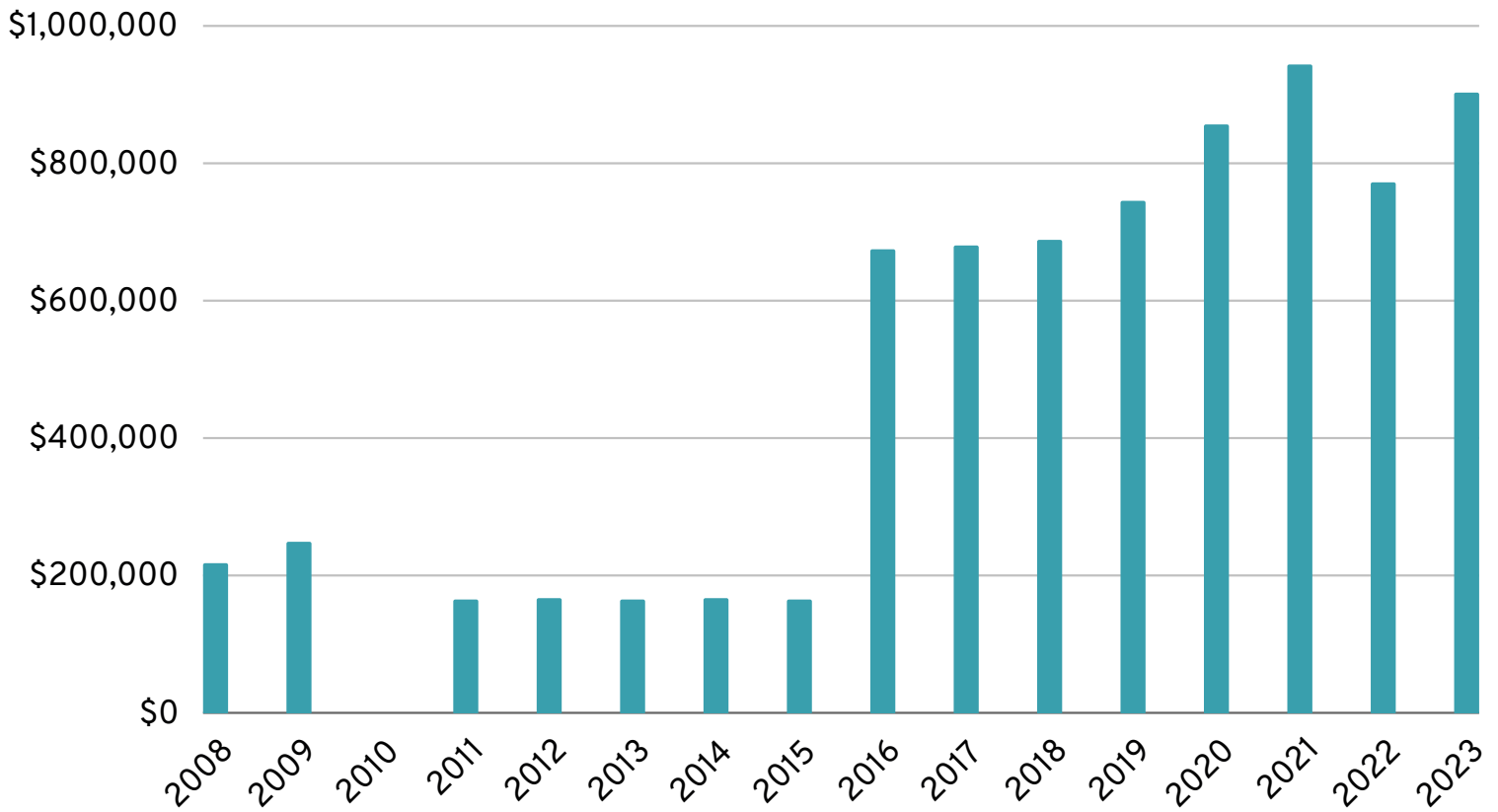


## CENTRUM EXPENSES 2023

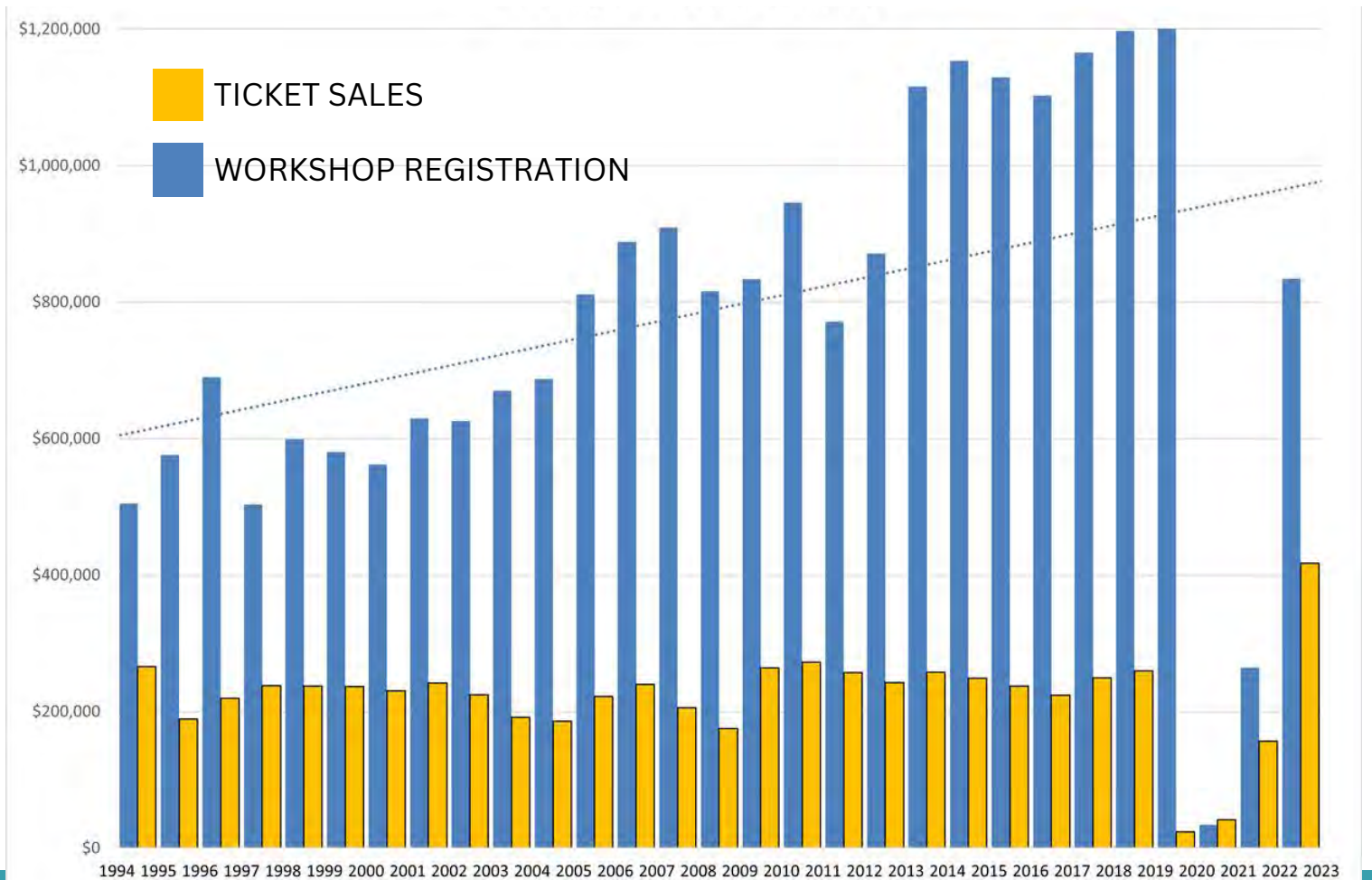




## ENDOWMENT GROWTH, 2008-2023



## WORKSHOPS & TICKET SALES, 1994-2003





# BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

In a collaborative partnership with Fort Worden and other lifelong learning organizations on the campus, Centrum has led the process to create a new model of cooperative responsibility to care for the special place we call home. In lieu of rent for the next 25 years, Centrum has committed to maintaining and renovating our buildings — work which is both needed and long overdue. This project includes overseeing the major overhaul and upgrades of thirteen pre-war buildings that provide housing, program space, and headquarters for Centrum. This multiyear, twenty-million-dollar project sets the stage for Centrum's next chapter so that we — and our unique brand of lifelong learning — are able to grow and move forward for the next fifty years and beyond. Centrum has secured a ten-million-dollar matching grant for these upgrades, and all donations towards this project will be matched dollar-for-dollar.







# YOU INSPIRE US

From a rousing season of immersive workshops and festival performances to celebrating 50 years of creativity in community, 2023 brought an extra dose of inspiration to all of us at Centrum.

As chair of the development committee of the board, I am especially inspired by all the supporters who chose to be a part of this milestone year. Thank you for your commitment to a world that is made better and brighter by the power of the arts.

A centerpiece of our anniversary celebration was the special McCurdy Pavilion benefit performance by GRAMMY-winning jazz artist and Centrum alumna, Diana Krall, followed by a gala dinner and record-setting paddle-raise for scholarships. The funding raised at this event will allow approximately 500 aspiring artists with financial need to access Centrum's life-changing experiences.

To build sustainability for our next chapter, in 2023 we also launched the Centrum Circle, a 50th-year initiative of enhanced recognition for those who inspire us through multi-year commitments of support.

The individuals, businesses, and community leaders who've lent their abiding support to Centrum's mission are why, after 50 years, a spirit of creative discovery continues to thrive in our home at Fort Worden State Park.

I am grateful to be part of Centrum's remarkable journey with you. Thank you for the inspiration!

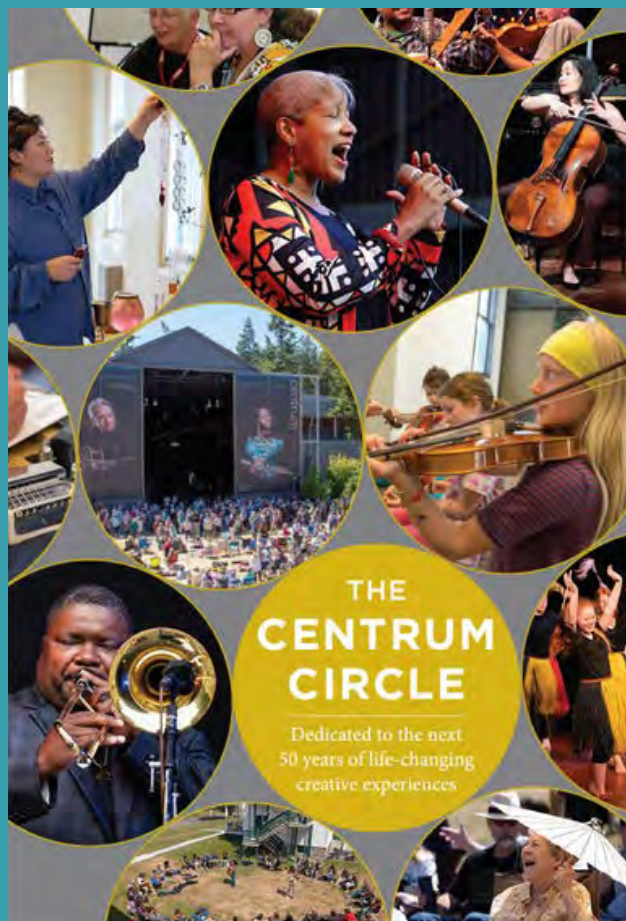


MARK HAMBY

CHAIR, CENTRUM DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE



# THE CENTRUM CIRCLE



Created to lay the foundation for fifty more years of creativity in community, the Centrum Circle is a giving community of multi-year donors dedicated to Centrum's transformative artistic programming.

Our next fifty years promise an exciting new chapter in Centrum's legacy, with evolving programs, new collaborative partnerships, and major capital improvements throughout our campus. As Centrum grows, our momentum will honor the unique and beloved culture of arts and learning that is our hallmark, led by renowned faculty artists, expanded residencies, exhibitions, and world-class performances at Fort Worden State Park. The Centrum Circle will help sustain your favorite programs while supporting the development of new mission-driven initiatives.

## 2023 DONOR HIGHLIGHT



JOINED THE CENTRUM CIRCLE  
WITH A 5-YEAR COMMITMENT OF

# \$50,000

## CENTRUM CIRCLE MEMBERS (as of March 2024)

Anonymous (1), Ali and Robert Alexander, Jeanie Cardon and Richard Clayton, Mike Cornforth and Linda Martin, Robin and Dave Ditzler, Kristine Easterday and Mike Heckinger, Andrew Fallat and Marti Tarnowski, First Fed, Craig Fixler Fund/East Bay Community Foundation, Marci and Michael Fredericksen, Deb and Mark Hamby, Michele Hasson, Jon Kertzer, Renee and Jim Klein, Lynn Marlow, Leah Mitchell and Nancy McLachlan, Walter Parsons, Laura and David Rinn, Catharine Robinson, Janice and Art Ronci, Berry and Sam Shoen, Meredith and Peter Wagner, Sandra Walker, Sally Warren and Jeffrey Jackson, Joseph Weihe, Scott Wilson and Jennifer James-Wilson



# THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 DONORS

## FOUNDER (\$25,000+)

Anonymous (1), Ali and Robert Alexander, Gail and Gary Eisenberger, Jefferson County Board of Commissioners, M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, National Endowment for the Arts, The Washington State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Jock and Sonchen Patton, Sage Foundation/Edmund Littlefield Jr. and Mary Wallace, Anne and Dick Schneider, Berry and Sam Shoen, Laura Welland, The M. Jean Fisher Memorial Trust/Carl Westphal

## BENEFACTOR (\$10,000-\$24,999)

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

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## LEADER (\$2,500-\$4,999)

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## 2023 DONOR HIGHLIGHT



M.J. Murdock  
CHARITABLE TRUST

## GRANTED CENTRUM

# \$600,000

## TO RESTORE OUT ARTIST CABINS

As the first phase of our multi-year facilities project, Centrum is planning the restoration of six cabins and four apartments that accommodate the artists who are the heart of our programs and mission. These artist cabins are used year-round to house up to 25 artists-in-residence and faculty at a time. They are essential to Centrum's ability to bring artists from around the world to create, teach, and perform on our campus.

These spaces were originally built during WWII as temporary military housing. Our goal is to turn them into permanent, ADA-compliant accommodations with modern insulation, energy efficiencies, and materials, so that they can continue to serve artists and the community 50 years from now.

# THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 DONORS

## **SUSTAINER (\$1,000-\$2,499)**

Anonymous (3), Adobe Inc, Jim Appleton, Tammy and William Armacost, Pam and John Begley, Robert and Siri Birman, Gail Boulter-Burgler and Kevin Burgler, Wendy and Jim Bradbury, Erin Bushell, Ed Carpenter and Lauren Sheehan, Carol Chandler and Jane Ludwig, Craig Fixler Fund | East Bay Community Foundation, Larry and Ellen Crockett, River Dawson, Helen Fanucci, Patricia Farmer, Steve Fetter and Bonnie Kellogg, Kay and David Goetz, Bernard Goldberg, Molly Gordon, David Hamlin, Malcolm and Karen Harris, Michele Hasson, Marilyn Hayes and Deirdre Bourdet, Matilda Henry, Cindy Hill Finnie, Jo Anne Hughes, Ashley Hurd, Gayle and William Kaune, Mike Kenna, Janet Kennedy and Charles Beauchamp, Kristin Manwaring Insurance, Gery Kroon and Lynne Cooper, Kristina Mayer, Kim McCary, Richard and Mary McCurdy, Elizabeth McCurdy Lee, William McIlroy, Elisabeth Mention, Gerald Merritt and Elaine Donato, Oregon Community Foundation | Dean Mueller, Lloyd Mullen, Mike and Becky Mulligan, Dan O'Brien and Bruce Loeffler, Kris Morris, Walter Parsons, Bruce and Alene Patterson, Michael and Lucille Peak, David and Jane Peterson, Doug Plummer and Robin Shapiro, Steve Ramsey and Ann Jones, Libby and Nick Reid, Peter Robinson and Kay Robinson, Catharine Robinson, Lindsey Rodan, David Romtvedt and Margo Brown, Ralph and Susie Sabin, Carol Sanders and Jay Loux in Memory of Joanna Loehr, Libby Schnick, Eric Shore and Fred Paul in Honor of Leah Mitchell and Nancy McLachlan, Susan Smith, David and Lynne Stanko, Debby Steele and Dennis Daneau, Carin and Norm Tonina, Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions, Marilynne Urquhart, Alan Watson, Joseph Weihe, Jack and Lorna Zalaha

## **PATRON (\$500-\$999)**

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## FRIEND (\$50-\$99)

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