

The **FLORIDA**
CENTER for Performing Arts
and Education

Building the stage for our future.



Leon County Sales Tax Committee Presentation
March 14, 2013

March 14, 2013

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2012

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Community Outreach

Coordinator

www.TheFLCenter.org

Members of the Leon County Sales Tax Committee,

The Board of Directors for the Performing Arts Center appreciates the daunting task you face. From a long list of worthwhile projects, recommending priorities that will best meet the needs of our community for the next 20+ years will be challenging.

We believe no other project will make as positive an economic impact upon the future of our community as the proposed Performing Arts Center. We are convinced the Performing Arts Center supports these community goals and will further efforts to accomplish them:

- Generate jobs and economic development opportunities
- Stimulate redevelopment of the Gaines Street Corridor
- Promote and advance an 18-hour downtown
- Support and enhance downtown residential development
- Enrich the quality of life for all citizens
- Complement the efforts of the school board and local arts groups as they strive to enhance cultural enrichment for our children

We thank you for the opportunity to make a formal presentation this evening. Our presentation is focused specifically on the issues you raised at the December 11th Meeting, which are as follows:

1. The economic development benefit from the proposed Performing Arts Center, comparing it to similar Performing Arts Centers around the country.
2. Affordability and sustainability.
3. Whether the need for a community Performing Arts Center exists based on current venues in Tallahassee.
4. Engagement and support from local performing arts groups.

There is no question that our vibrant and exciting arts, culture and heritage community is a major part of Tallahassee' identity and one of the reasons that graduates of our schools and universities choose to make Tallahassee home. We have outgrown today's resources; it is time to plan for tomorrow. Our vision for our community has to be more than roads, ditches and sewers; it must include what will bring delight, joy and quality of life to all citizens.

On behalf of my fellow Board Members and our more than 1,900 members, thank you for your dedicated work on the Sales Tax Committee. It is our request that you include the proposed Performing Arts Center in your list of recommended projects.

Sincerely,

Bob Inzer

President, Board of Directors

Frequently Asked Questions

Membership: As of March 2013, there are over 1,900 supporters on file for the proposed Center.

History The need for a Performing Arts Center in Tallahassee has been documented for over 40 years. A 1992 referendum to build a Performing Arts Center next to the Civic Center failed by only 500 votes – and there was *no* public relations campaign to promote it. In 2003, the City Commission appointed a 20-member Cultural Advisory Committee to assess the needs and support the arts and heritage activities in Tallahassee; a written Cultural Plan resulted from the Committee's work.

The lack of a performing arts theatre was determined to be the greatest deficiency in facilities.

Who As an outcome of the Cultural Plan, the City and County allocated 1 penny of the hotel bed tax to fund efforts to research and eventually help build the Performing Arts Center. These funds are being set aside on an ongoing basis and overseen by the County and the Tourist Development Council. The CRA (Community Redevelopment Agency) has funded operations, such as staffing, promotion and fundraising. The Florida Center has a volunteer, 16-member Board of Directors. Bob Inzer serves as Chair, Tim Edmond as Secretary and Pam Shields as Treasurer.

What Theatre Projects Consultants, internationally recognized experts, prepared a study in 2005, recommending a two-venue facility, at a cost of \$113.7 million (in 2005 dollars). This plan included a concert hall with 2,200 seats and a multi-purpose theatre with 650 seats.

Revised Plan: When the economy went into recession in late 2008, Theatre Project Consultants were asked to re-assess the project. The second plan called for a one-venue facility with 1,800 seats, at a cost of \$89 million (in 2014 dollars). The facility included a beautiful lobby and space for educational activities, rehearsal and small-scale performances. A Performing Arts Center provides for concert, dance and theatre productions, including traveling entertainers, Broadway shows and Distinguished Lecture Series. Our plans have always included excellent acoustics, for the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra and other musical groups, and a "sprung wood floor" to accommodate the Tallahassee Ballet and other dance troupes.

Currently the project is being re-sized and re-priced with the assistance of Gilchrist Ross Crowe, the architectural firm that did the remodel of Ruby Diamond on FSU Campus. We will lower the construction cost by half and still meet the needs of the community with 1,700 seats, an active lobby with a lovely center for the community.

Where The "Johns Site" on Gaines Street between Bronough and Duval Streets is perfectly situated in our downtown, in the middle of the "Cultural Corridor" envisioned along Gaines Street. The site is surrounded with plentiful, state-owned and maintained parking - 6,500 spaces!

Why We must meet a growing need for a community performing arts venue. There is no venue this size in Tallahassee. Our university-related venues are wonderful but they are not designed to be regional Performing Arts Centers. And, community groups have limited access, with no prospect of increased access. The new Center will be a home for our local performing arts groups.

Economic Development: The new Performing Arts Center will be a powerful attraction to business and industry considering location to the Big Bend Area of North Florida. The new Performing Arts Center will generate approximately \$85 million in new jobs, construction and new tax revenues. The projected sustained economic impact is \$10.6 million annually in sales and revenues once operational.

Education: Children will enjoy unique learning experiences. It will be a place to be inspired by the performing arts. It will be a vital link between classrooms and professional performances.

Continued ~

Frequently Asked Questions ~ The Florida Center for the Performing Arts and Education

When *We are not building the Performing Arts Center now.....we are planning the proposed Performing Arts Center.* It is a part of our city's vision. At the earliest, construction would begin in 2015, after the sales tax expenditures are approved.

How For this project to become a reality, **it must be included on the list of projects to be funded by the proposed sales tax extension.** While the Board has raised private donations and will continue to do so, private donations alone cannot construct this Center. Therefore, the Sales Tax Committee will decide the project's fate this year. The referendum on the sales tax extension may happen in 2014.

The extension of the sales tax will raise an estimated \$600 to \$900 million. The Performing Arts Center is asking for \$30million, towards the anticipated \$50 million construction cost. This is less than 5% of the sales tax proceeds – 95% would remain for other projects. The balance of \$10 million would come from private donations, corporate sponsorships and grants. The other \$10 million would come from the bed tax money that has accumulated for the proposed performing arts center and CRA funds. Most performing arts centers in the country are built with both public and private funds. It is a function of government to provide public spaces for its citizens.

As with most financial decisions, choosing to build a Performing Arts Center is a matter of priority.

Here is a look at expenditures our community has approved ~

\$35 million to reconstruct Gaines Street

\$50 million to build the Emergency Dispatch Center

\$40 million to upgrade Cascades Park

\$150 million to upgrade the spray field

\$70 - \$100 million for 3+ miles of *right-away* for Capital Circle SW improvement between Hwy. 20 and Crawfordville Road. (Doesn't include construction)

\$89 million is the approximate cost to install the proposed sewer system in Woodville.

Sustainability Most or all Performing Arts Centers in the country operate at a deficit. This occurs because Performing Arts Centers offer deep discounts, to their local performing groups, giving them the opportunity to utilize the venue. The Florida Center will do the same. But in our case, the funding is already in place to cover a possible deficit, through the hotel bed tax which is paid by visitors to our area, *not* local citizens. One penny of the hotel bed tax raises a minimum of \$600,000 per year.

What is at Stake here?

We are at serious risk of losing the opportunity to have a Performing Arts Center in Tallahassee. We need to act now. The community needs to speak up – tell our City and County Commissioners – that we want a Performing Arts Center in our future plans!

We need it!

We can afford it!

We can't afford not to do it.....it will be 20-25 years before we have another chance. The year 2038 is too long to wait for this economic, educational resource!

Add your name to the growing list of people who are in favor of a Performing Arts Center in Tallahassee's future. Go to www.theFLCenter.org and click "Join Now".



Valencia E. Matthews, Ph.D.

Director of Theatre/Performance
Assistant Dean, College of Arts & Sciences
Florida A&M University

Valencia E. Matthews, Ph.D., serves as an assistant dean in the College of Arts and Sciences at Florida A&M University (FAMU) where she supervises the arts, languages and humanities programs. She has more than 15 years of service at the University. Matthews is also Director of FAMU's **Essential Theatre**. As the Essential Theatre continues to serve its purpose of bringing relevant and entertaining productions to the University and community, it continues to produce talented alumni who either have become, or have demonstrated the ability of Tony Award-winning actors. Essential Theatre students are groomed to make significant contributions in the local and world community. The role of the arts and humanities both within the academy and society at-large is always at the forefront of Dr. Matthews' thoughts. She strives to help students, faculty, staff and others appreciate the creative and critical thinking skills that are enhanced by participating in the arts.

It comes as no surprise that she is committed to using the arts as a vehicle for the promotion of social change. A supporter of many community service efforts, she is founder and director of the **Irene C. Edmonds Youth Theatre**, a program for young people between the ages of six and sixteen. She is a board member of the Council on Culture and Arts and also executive director of **Africa 2008, Inc.**, a non-profit corporation dedicated to the mission of promoting cultural exchange between and within Africa and the Americas. Quite conscious of her health and fitness, she is an avid walker, strong supporter of the Sickle Cell Foundation, and a participant in both the Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk and the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer.

VITA

Glenn W. Robertson

President: Glenn W. Robertson & Associates (GWRA) since 1988

- * Providing government and business policy, planning and budgeting consulting services.
- * Focusing on implementing integrated budgeting, revenue and performance & accountability systems and software supports; and providing detailed budget analysis.
- * Providing policy and budget (spending & taxing) decision-making training and support.

PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE: 1968-1988

Director of State Planning and Budgeting and Director of Policy & Finance for Florida Governors Bob Graham

(D), Wayne Mixson (D) and Bob Martinez (R) (1979 – 1988)

Assistant County Administrator for Pinellas County, Florida.

Budget and Evaluation Director for Pinellas County, Florida.

Management Planning Supervisor and Intergovernmental Affairs Coordinator for the City of Tampa, Florida.

Hillsborough County, Florida: Board of Public Instruction, H.S. teacher

KEY LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Past: President of the National Association of State Budget Directors

Chairman of the Florida Sports Foundation; current board member.

Chairman: Florida Sports Charitable Foundation.

Chairman/Vice Chairman/member of numerous commissions appointed by Florida's Governors Graham,

Mixson, Martinez, Chiles and Bush.

Past - Chairman of the Board/ President: Economic Club of Florida;

Awarded life-time membership by the National Association of State Budget Directors

KEY PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS:

Author of a set of "Governor of Florida Transition Manuals and Handbooks."

Author of numerous articles on the economy and state & local government pressures.

Frequent presenter on the U.S. / Florida economy, state and local government spending and taxing pressures and

the need for government accountability.

Provider of National Governors Association training for new Governors.

Provider of leadership training for businesses, associations and government organizations.

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

MA in Economics (University of South Florida)

MS in Management (University of South Florida)

BA in Economics / second major in Social Science/Education (Univ. of So. Florida)

Doctorate level courses (Florida State University)

Glenn W. Robertson & Associates

Phone: 850-294-8264 E-mail: GWR8008@aol.com

the performance center in asheville



Administrative Leadership

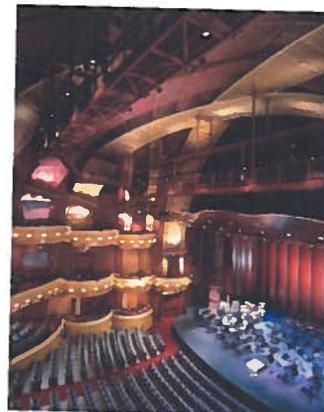


James Baudoin, Project Manager, is responsible for facility planning for the new Performance Center, serving as consultant from 2004.



Arts of Collin County

- Executive Director & Project Manager – Arts of Collin County (from 2005) taking the project through design with delivery of contract documents for a 125-acre arts park featuring a 2,100 seat multipurpose hall
- Executive Director & Project Manager– RiverCenter for the Performing Arts (from 1997) moving the project from design through construction into its initial operating seasons with three performance halls (2,000 seats – 450 seats – 200 seats)
- President & General Manager – Chandler Center for the Arts in Arizona (from 1988) taking the project from construction to initial operating years with three performance halls (1,600 seats – 450 seats – 350 seats)



RiverCenter



Chandler Center



Lutcher Theater

- President & General Manager – Lutcher Theater for the Performing Arts in Texas (from 1981) moving the project after its opening year to full operations featuring a 1,500 seat multipurpose hall

Master of Fine Arts in Theater Management, Florida State University;
Bachelor of Science in Social Science, Florida State University

Richard Crowe is the founding partner of Gilchrist Ross Crowe Architects. He loves a challenge and to “figure things out”. He enjoys thinking outside of the “box” to find unconventional yet simple elegant solutions to complex issues.

His skills lie primarily in the area of design and the BIM workflow process in the architectural office. Both paradigms are similar in their goal of creating order from disorder.

With over 10 years of hands-on experience, he is considered to be an expert in the BIM technology with the ArchiCAD software. He has personally set-up the processes and built over 40 virtual buildings ranging from small highly detailed financial institutions to technology facilities and institutional buildings exceeding 200,000 GSF. He is passionate about looking at each problem with “fresh eyes” in its own unique realm yet he has the hands-on experience as a professional architect for over 20 years.

He is considered to be an “expert-user” with ArchiCAD and has a long relationship with Graphisoft, the maker of ArchiCAD. This relationship began in 1999 when Richard was asked by Graphisoft to lead their design Team competing in the international CADD Shootout Competition in Los Angeles. Graphisoft won the competition for the first time and was recognized as the Best Overall CAD software. Richard enjoys both Alpha and Beta Testing as well as working with the Graphisoft development team on ArchiCAD’s future.

He is passionate about off-road riding and bikes four days per week. He still sketches and builds furniture when time allows. Other hobbies include water coloring and frisbee.

Experience

Large Intuitional Projects

- Pharmacy Building and Research Wing, Florida A&M University
- Ruby Diamond Concert Hall, Florida State University
- Wildwood Halls Housing Project, Florida State University
- Degraff Halls Housing Project, Florida State University
- Soccer and Softball Sports Complex, Florida State University
- East Wing of School of Business and Industry, Florida A&M University

Unique Design Solutions

- Flightline FBO Terminal, Tallahassee, Florida, Tallahassee, Florida
- Corporate Head quarters for Associated Industries of Florida
- Four Oaks Church and Community Center, Tallahassee, Florida
- Jack Mclean Pools and Community Center, Tallahassee, Florida
- Community Christian Church, Tallahassee, Florida
- Holy Spirit Episcopal Church, Tallahassee, Florida
- Wilo Emo Manufacturing and US Corporate head quarters, Thomasville, Georgia.

Education

- Bachelor of Design in Architecture, University of Florida, 1978
- Master of Architecture, Virginia Polytechnic Institute , 1984

The **FLORIDA**
CENTER for Performing Arts
and Education

Vision: Creating Something Remarkable for Florida's Capital City

Mission: To develop "Florida's stage" where people enjoy the performing arts, culture, history, education, heritage and community events

Presenters from the Board of Directors

Leon County Sales Tax Committee Meeting

March 14, 2013

Lee Hinkle

Retired

Former Vice-President for University Relations, Florida State University

591-8070

lfhinkle@comcast.net

Bob Inzer, President

Leon County Clerk of Court

577-4003

Bbinzer@leoncountyfl.gov

Valencia Mathews, Ph.D.

Assistant Dean

College of Arts and Sciences

Florida A&M University

599-3430

essential_famu@yahoo.com

Jon Moyle, Immediate Past President

Moyle Law Firm

681-3828

jmoyle@moylelaw.com

Note: Tim Edmond, Board Secretary, is out of state on business and unable to attend. He spoke to the Sales Tax Committee at our presentation on December 11, 2012, and sends his regrets for missing this meeting.

Tim Edmond

The Edmond Group

893-9900

tim@theedmondgroup.comcastbiz.net



Leon County Sales Tax Committee Presentation

March 14, 2013

The FLORIDA
CENTER
for Performing Arts
and Education

Building the stage for our future



Presenting Tallahassee's Performing Arts Center

- **The Vision and Artists' Perspective**

Valencia Mathews, Ph.D. Board member, Assistant Dean, College of Arts & Sciences, Florida A & M University

- **Economic Impact**

Glenn Robertson, Economic Consultant, Former Office of Policy & Budget Director for Gov. Bob Graham, Wayne Mixson and Bob Martinez

- **Sustainability Study**

James Baudoin, Executive Director and Project Manager, Asheville Performing Arts Center

- **New Design**

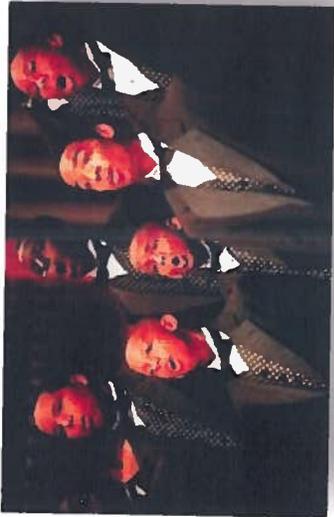
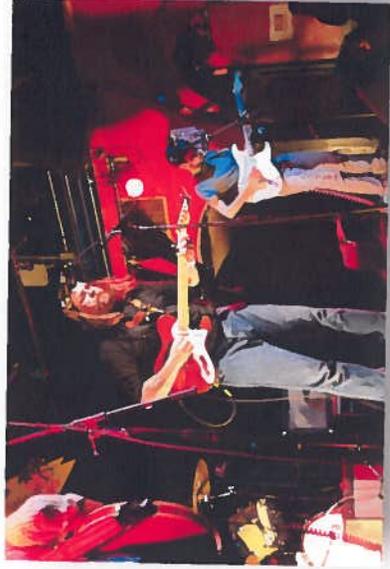
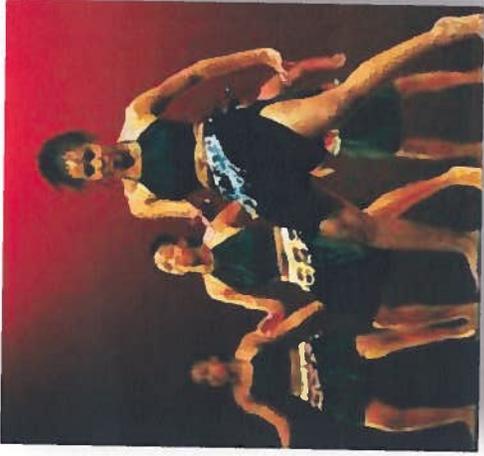
Richard Crowe, Founding Partner, Gilchrist, Ross, Crowe Architects

- **Leading Tallahassee's Cultural Future**

Bob Inzer, Board President, Clerk of the Court, Leon County

The Florida Center: Cultural and Community Catalyst

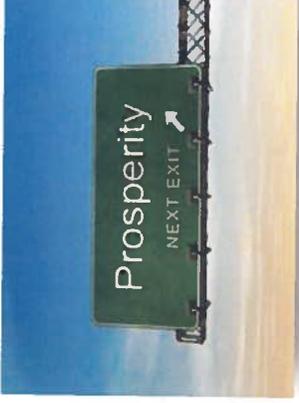




The FLORIDA
CENTER for Supporting Arts
& and Film

Goals:

- **Meeting current and future citizen expectations for the performing and cultural arts education and entertainment for youth and adults.**
- **Enhancing community amenities that attract future residents and businesses to Tallahassee.**
- **Bringing economic growth and prosperity: new jobs, increased personal incomes, business sales and a broadened tax base to support government services for all citizens.**



Economic Objectives:

- **Attract visitors and generate longer stays**
- **Expand current and attract new businesses**
- **Attract diverse demographics who appreciate and support the performing arts**
- **Enhance downtown vitality**
- **Increase property and other tax collections to support local schools and governmental agencies**



Paducah, KY – Carson Center: 1,806 seats

- 84,000 attendees in 2011
- 40% from over 50 miles away



Madison, WI – Overture Center: 2,251 seats

- 115,000 attendees in 2012
- 30% from outside the city



Omaha, NE – Holland Center: 2,000 seats

- 340,000 attendees per year avg. over 5 years
- 40% from outside the county and 18% outside the state



Greensboro, NC – Proposed Center

300,000 est. attendees per year. Citizen's poll = 69% want more art, cultural and performing arts; would support if in downtown; 47% attend performances outside Greensboro.

Comparative Statistics for Host Cities

	Tallahassee	Paducah (Smaller pop.)	Madison (About same)	Omaha (Larger)	Greensboro PROPOSED
City population	182,000	25,000	238,000	410,000	270,000
	County: 278,000	Greater area: 169,000			
Pop. diversity	53% C / 34% AA / 12.5%	70 / 23.5 / 6.5	75 / 7 / 18	65 / 13.5 / 18.5	46 / 40 / 14
Household Income (Median)	\$ 34,335	\$ 29,215	\$ 49,600	\$ 46,595	\$ 38,694
House prices:					
Median	\$ 186,000	\$ 97,156	\$ 228,000	\$ 134,600	\$ 143,800
Mean	\$ 232,000	\$ 125,900	\$ 246,000	\$ 156,000	\$ 191,000
Major economic Base	Government Health/Educ. Professional/Trade	Manuf. Leisure Gov't	Government Education Health/Prof.	Government Profess/ Ed. Diversified	Government Professional Manuf/Trade
Education levels 25 yrs. and older	90 % HS grad. 65 % coll. degree(s)	77 % 26 %	92 % 69 %	86 % 38 %	84 % 45 %
Unemployment Rate 2012 avg.	7 %	8 %	5 %	4.4 %	9.4 %

Economic Impact Year-round Paducah's Carson Center for the Performing Arts Story

Opened in 2004. Is a landmark in Paducah's historic downtown. 97,750 sq. ft. with superb theater staging and acoustics.



It is the cornerstone of a vibrant arts community.

The focus is to constantly increase the number and variety of performances – often renting to other presenters.

The facility also rents to schools functions, weddings, seminars, corporate and economic development functions and many different types of community events.

THE ARTS MEAN BUSINESS

Events at the Carson Center

Goal: 1 a day

2008-'09:	437
2009-'10:	494
2011-'12	334

The goal: provide economic impact to the Four Rivers region 52 weeks a year, year after year.

2012: \$11.7 million economic impact PLUS \$523,147 for local governments, justifying on-going City of Paducah support, and \$1.4 million for the state.

Significant increase in voluntarism to ALL non-profit arts & cultural organizations (over \$ 1 mil. in value) and over \$500,000 in-kind contributions.

Downtown Economic Vitality

Madison's Overture Center for the Performing Arts Story

Growth in Downtown Property Values from 1998 through 2008.

- A \$1.9 billion increase (+ 176%) between when the Overture project was announced to 2008 when in full operation.
- More year-round residents: condos alone grew in taxable value by over \$500 million (more than 1,500% vs. 215% outside downtown.)
- In the 4 sq. block area around the Overture Center = 392 % property value increase: from \$75.6 mil. to \$372 mil.



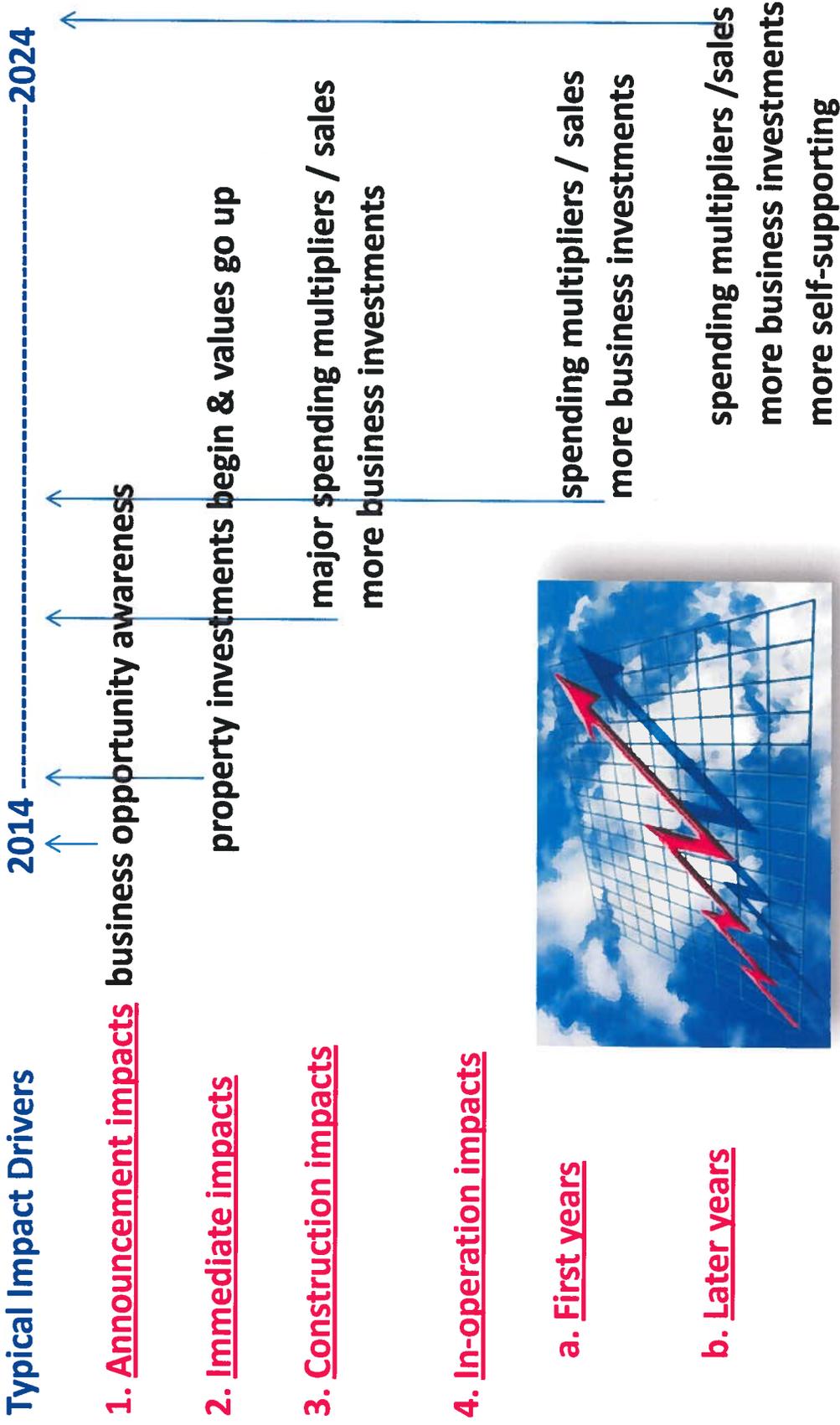
Gains in Property Tax Receipts: 1998 through 2008

- * Tax paying downtown properties grew from 2,425 to 5,433 = + net \$18.9 mil. taxes pd.
- * In the 4 sq. blocks from 2003 through 2008 = property taxes grew by \$5.2 million.

Economic Impacts of the Overture Center and its resident companies: 2008

- Direct spending impact: \$12.3 million Indirect: \$10 million
- Total events up to 681 per year PLUS educational/community programming: 640 events

Economic Impact Over Time



ECONOMIC IMPACTS THAT CAN RESULT FROM PERFORMING ARTS CENTER INVESTMENTS

Actual Results

Paducah

(2012 City Report)
+ 241

Madison

(2010 EIS by AMS Research) (2011 EIS: City Report)
+ 398

Omaha

Greensboro

(2012 EIS: AMS Research)
+ 268

MORE JOBS

Local opportunities
More diversified job base
Lower unemployment

PERSONAL INCOME INCR.

Technical / white collar
Increase median incomes

+ \$ 3.9 mil. + 5.4 mil. + 9.2 mil. + \$ 4.7 mil.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Direct spending and multiplier effect throughout area

+ 11.7 mil. 2012 + \$ 38 mil + \$ 31.65 mil

during \$ 50 mil. construction
* one-time impact: 1,277 jobs

* one-time impact: \$ 28.6 mil. HH-inc.

When operating estimate:
\$ 12.9 mil. direct/indirect

NEW BUSINESSES

Market opportunities
Quality of life attraction for knowledge industry
Arts/Culture businesses

Carnegie Melon Study: most attractive factors for today's/tomorrow's workers:
1. lifestyle 2. environmental quality, 3. vibrant music, arts & cultural opportunities
4. outside opportunities

GOVERNMENT REVENUES

Local: \$ 525 mil. Total: Total all residents Total in oper. est.
State: \$ 1.3 mil. \$ 1.6 mil. \$ 4.7 mil. \$ 737,000

Community Impact

DOWNTOWN VITALITY

- Attract more businesses because of an improved market.
- Increase property value investments / improvements.
- Grow the property tax base: new & improved properties.



NEW RESIDENT / VISITOR MAGNET

- Enhance city image and reputation locally & nationally.
- Attract high tech/knowledge/medical industry employees.
- Attract retirees.
- Attract accomplished academics to FSU / FAMU / TCC et. al.



TOWN & GOWN COORDINATION

- Promote creative programming / community interest.
- Promote student interest in FSU/FAMU/TCC et. al.



CIVIC PRIDE /PARTICIPATION

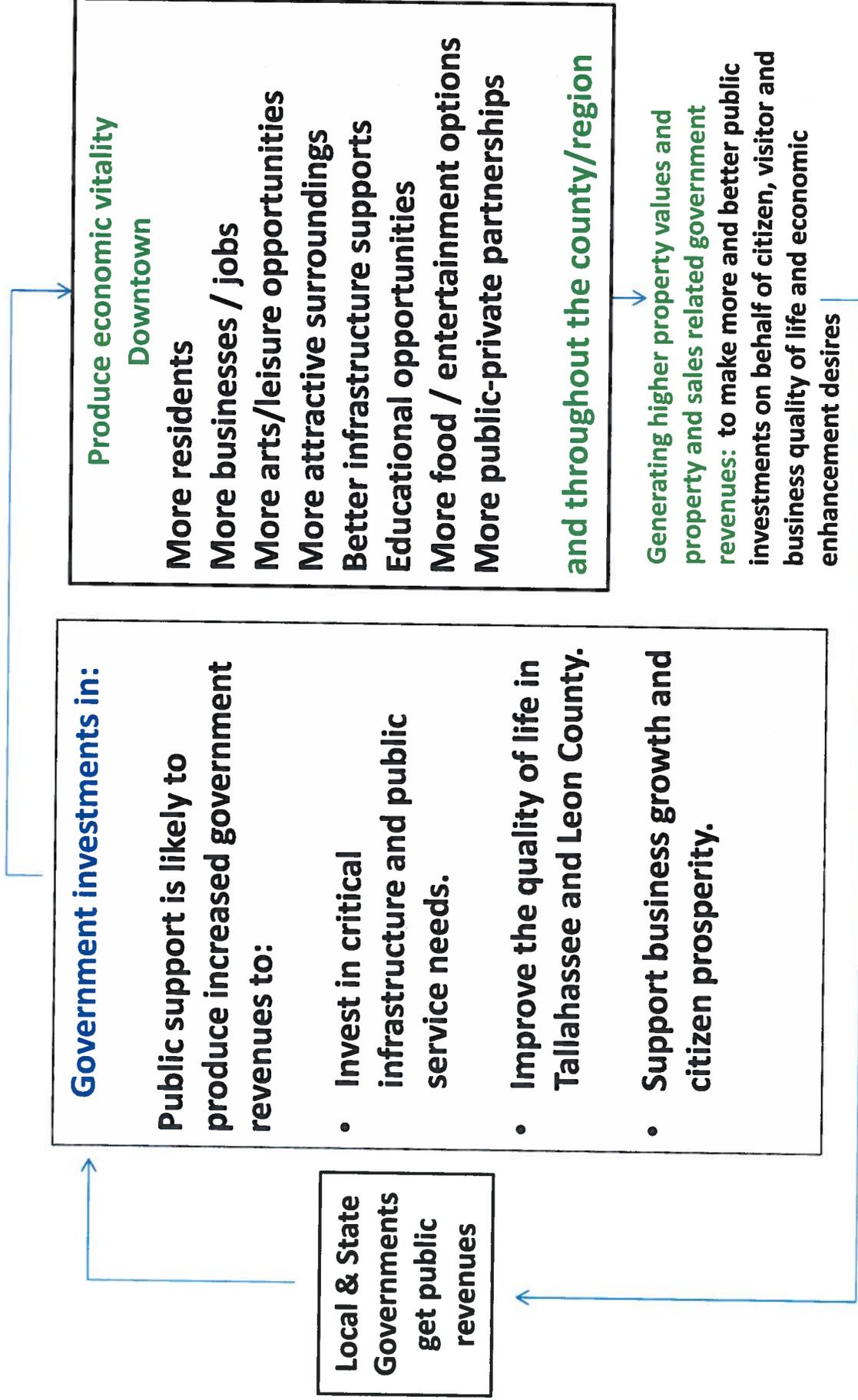
- Increase citizen volunteers and \$ support for all arts and non-profit organizations.



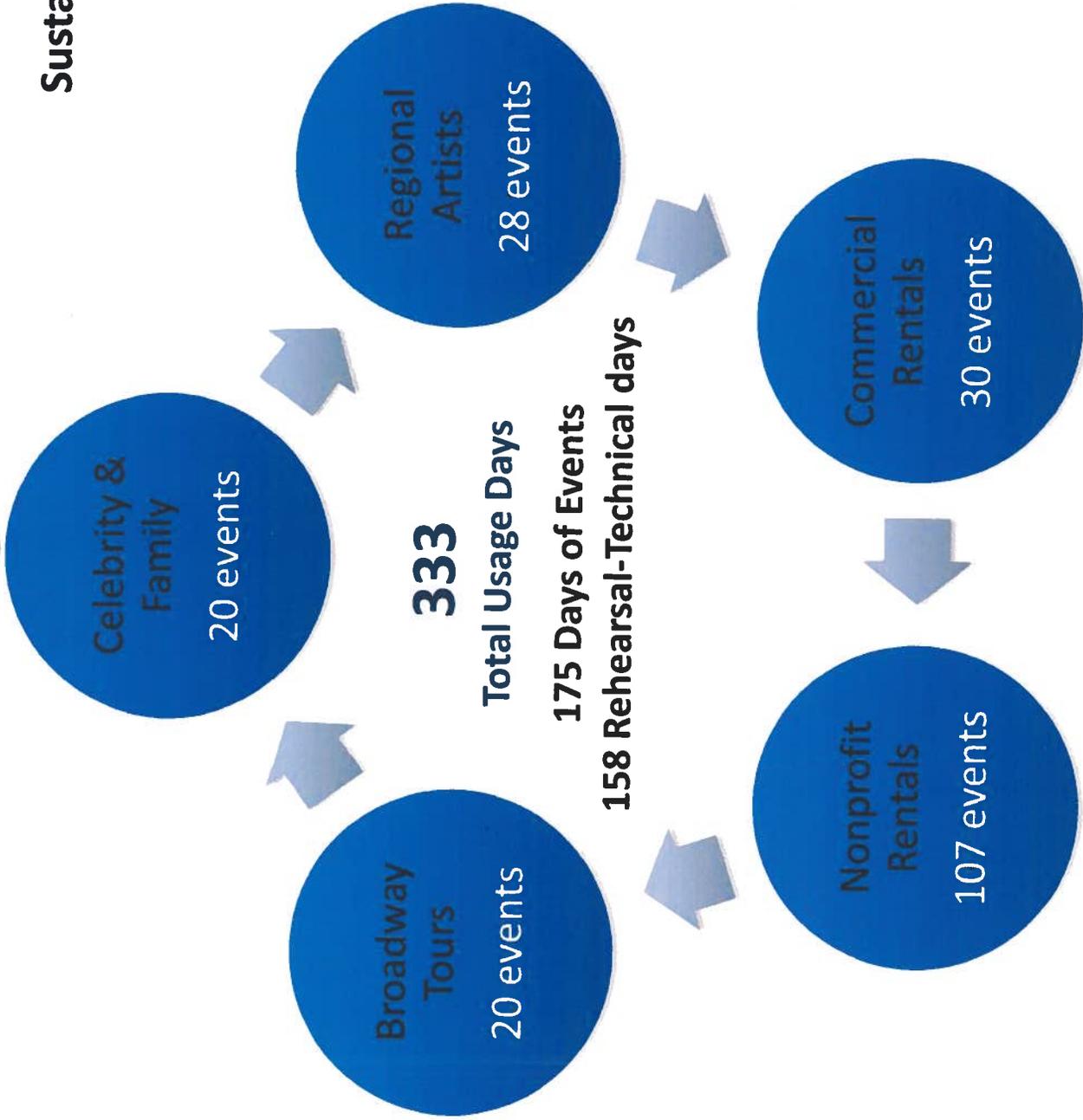
CITIZEN INSPIRATION & EDUCATION

- Provide enrichment and arts/cultural interest pursuits for youth and adults.

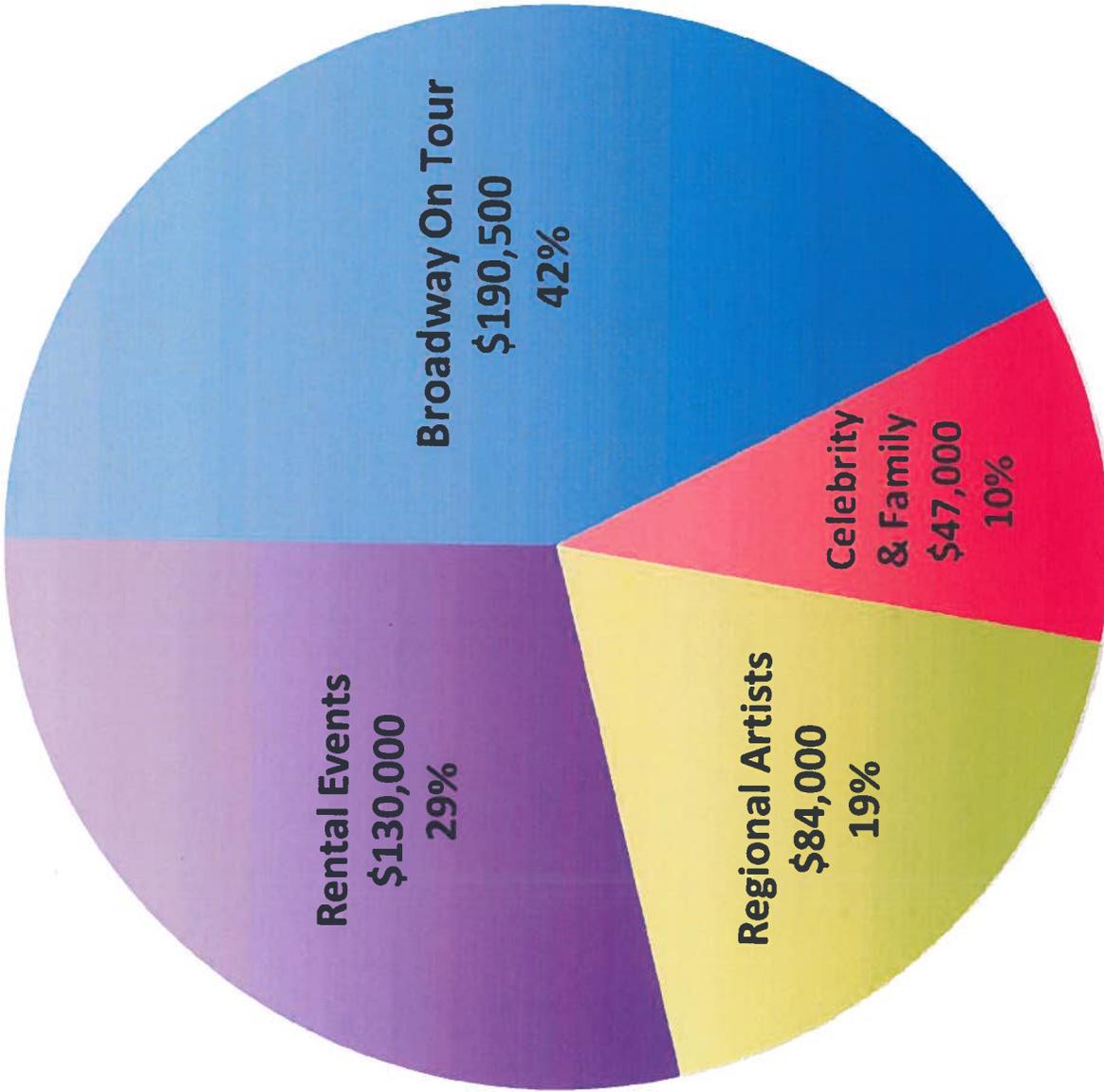
Government: An Economic Catalyst for ALL OF US!



Sustainability



Contributions to Net Revenue



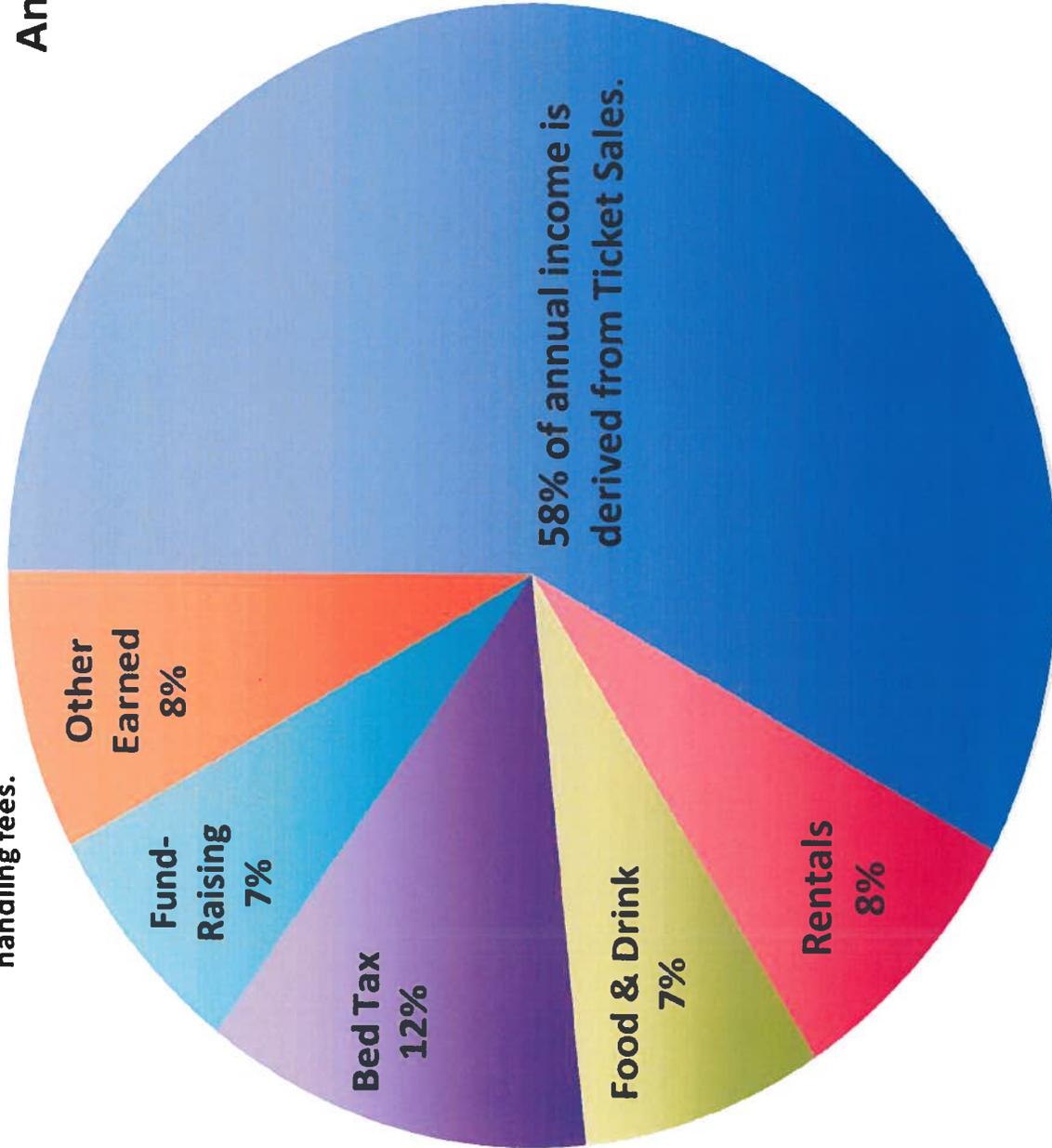
- Broadway On Tour
- Celebrity/Family
- Regional Artists
- Rental Events

Annual Revenues

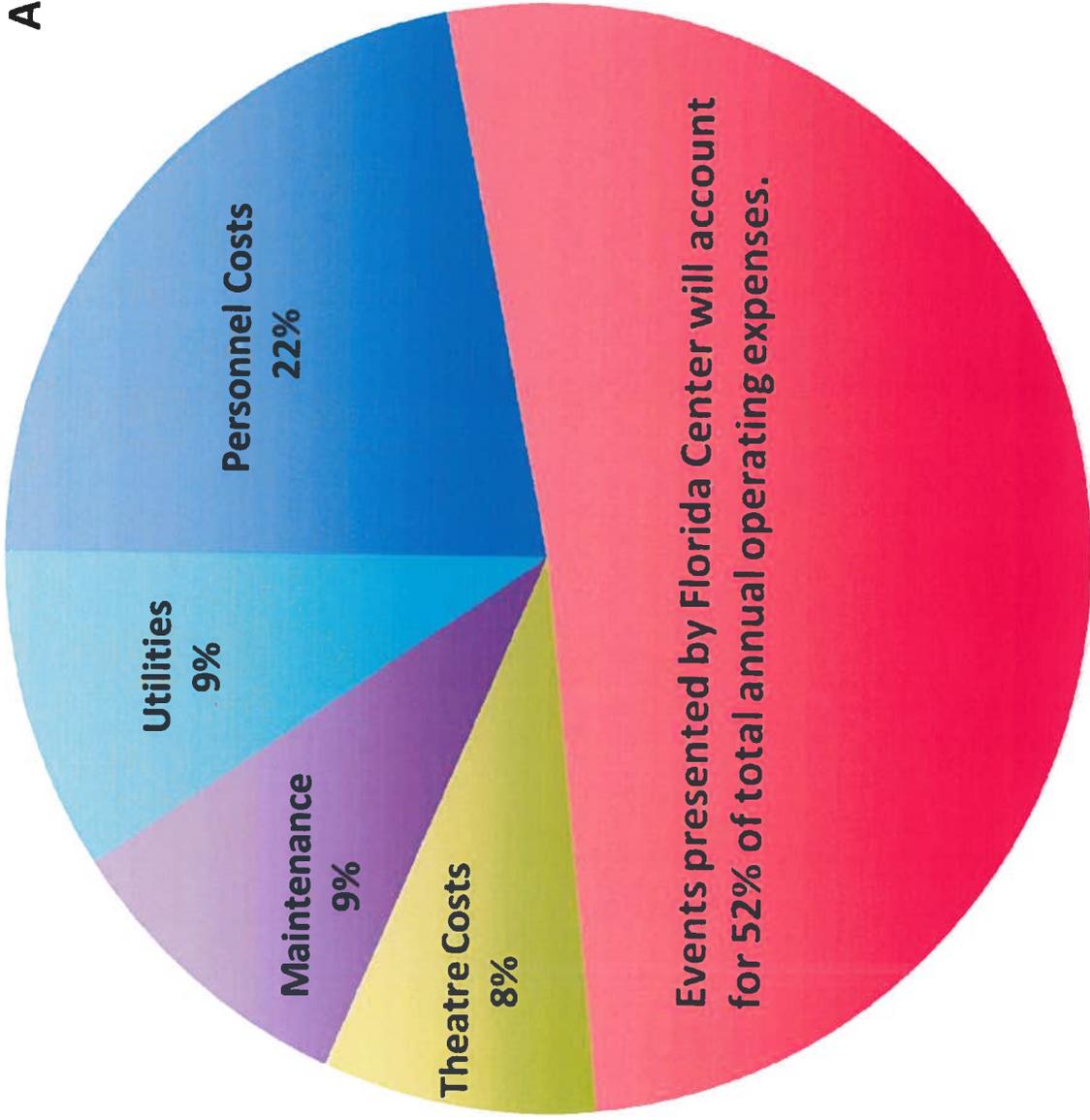
\$5,286,750

- Tickets
- Rentals
- Food/Drink
- Bed Tax
- Fundraising
- Other Earned

Other Earned includes show merchandise sales and ticket handling fees.



Annual Expenses
\$5,036,500



- Personnel
- Events
- Theatre Costs
- Maintenance
- Utilities



It's all about

people
experience

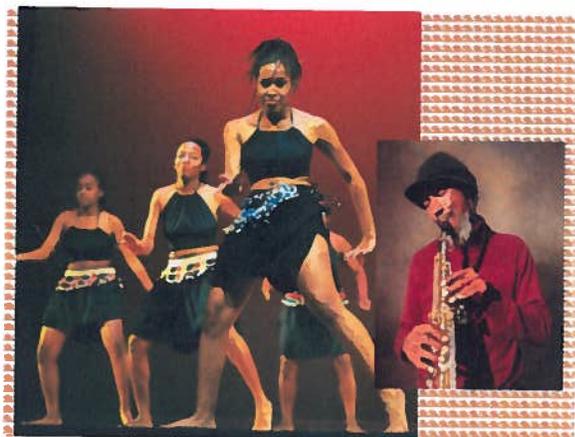
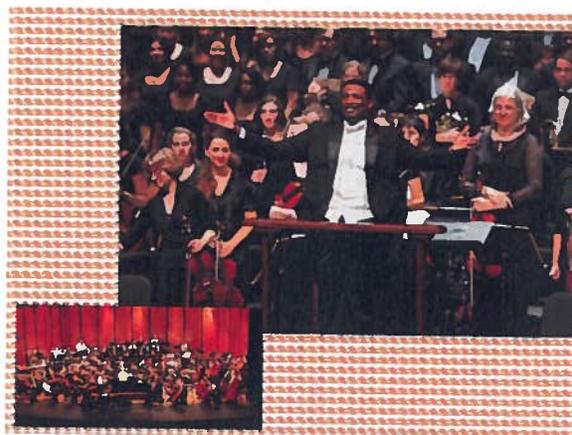


A Place to make the Community Proud

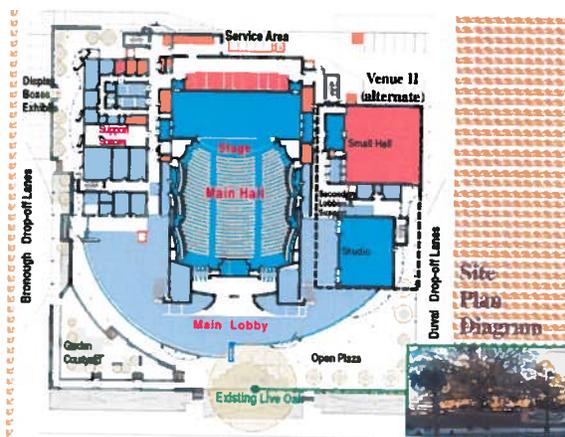
the site



the site
Sets the framework...for events



the building
Reaches Out to the Community





View of the Garden Courtyard



Plaza View from Duval Street



Close-up View of the Plaza

From a **design** standpoint, what is the biggest potential challenge for the Performing Arts Center?

To create a **place** that enhances life for the **community** and delights the patron.

COLOR **RHYTHM**
scale

FRONT **LIGHT** **SPACE**

GOOD AND APPROPRIATE DESIGN

It's all about **people**

The Tallahassee BALLET

March 1, 2013

Dear Sales Tax Committee,

For more than 40 years, The Tallahassee Ballet has proudly brought the fine art of classical ballet to the Tallahassee community. Whether it's creating and presenting professional ballet productions to regional audiences, providing quality training of our company dancers, teaching in local after-school programs or offering dance study for all ages in our dance school, The Tallahassee Ballet enhances the lives of area youth by inspiring artistic talent, instilling poise and building character, discipline and self-confidence. It is also integral to the cultural center of our community, attracting residents and new businesses to our great city.

As the President of the Board of Directors for one of Tallahassee's largest performing arts organizations, I can attest that we have diligently researched and sought a place to call our permanent home, both as a creative workspace and performing arts venue. While our partnership with Florida State University has provided the opportunity for The Tallahassee Ballet to bring professional quality productions to its venues, we are often limited. Performing in the renovated Ruby Diamond Auditorium is a privilege, but one that is becoming more and more challenging, as the University must understandably first focus on its own performance venue needs within that space (and within the other smaller performance venues on campus). Also, it is increasingly becoming cost prohibitive for our organization to utilize this venue as they may continue increasing rates making it difficult for us to see any profits from our ticket sales. While Ruby Diamond was undergoing renovations we were forced to seek alternative performance venues and presented its own unique challenges. For instance, we ended up utilizing the Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center during those few years that we were out of Ruby Diamond and found that the overhead was at such a premium that we had to sacrifice our live orchestra in exchange for recorded music, which was not at all acoustically pleasing in the venue. On top of which, the cost of parking was a challenge that our patrons had not dealt with in the past and thus these challenges impacted our overall ticket sales for those years. The Civic Center however, was the only viable alternative for our largest production, The Nutcracker.

In addition, The Tallahassee Ballet has long since outgrown the 3,500 square foot facility we currently rent on 3rd Avenue. Though we are functioning within the confines of the space, we are limited in rehearsal space, costuming design department and storage, set production storage space, administrative office space and in our school class offerings that enable us to be fiscally stable. We have since had to rent out additional space from a neighboring building for administrative offices and if we don't expand our studio space in the next year we stand to lose thousands of potential dollars from our school enrollment. The Tallahassee Ballet School was added three years when the economy plummeted and is what has sustained us over these last few years even with cutbacks of necessary grant funds, sponsors and advertisers. The funds from the school not only keep us financially stable, but will allow us to grow and fulfill our mission of becoming a full professional company thus enhancing the arts offerings in Tallahassee.

This letter serves as our official letter of support for the planned Performing Arts Center, as a collaborative and affordable, creative work and performance space for the many arts organizations that make our community a better place to work, play and live. Currently, Tallahassee is among only a handful of capital cities without a performing arts center. And as research in like-sized cities show, a vibrant arts community (with a dedicated performing arts facility) brings great opportunity and interest to our city - fueling the local economy and attracting residents and new businesses to create a vibrant city.

With your support, The Tallahassee Ballet will be able to continue enriching our community for generations to come. If you have any questions regarding The Tallahassee Ballet, its various programs or this letter of support, please don't hesitate to contact me directly or our Executive Director, Janet Pichard at 224-6917 extension 1 or email janet@tallahasseeballet.org.

Sincerely,


Shannon Grooters
2011-13 President
The Tallahassee Ballet Board of Directors
850-241-8621
shannon.grooters@gmail.com

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February 14, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the board of directors of the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra (TSO) I write to express our support for the proposed Florida Center for the Performing Arts.

The TSO has been an indispensable cultural asset to this community for thirty years. The TSO is a professional orchestra composed of musicians from the faculty and graduate students at the Florida State University (FSU) College of Music as well as other very accomplished local musicians.

The ability of the TSO to further serve our community has been hampered by the availability of and access to adequate performance space. The TSO is one of very few organizations not formally affiliated with FSU that have been afforded performance space at Rudy Diamond Concert Hall. We enjoy this access, for which we are grateful, because of our close ties with the FSU College of Music. To that end, we are allocated at present five nights each year for performances at Ruby Diamond Concert Hall.

We have requested additional performance dates in order to diversify our programming and to better serve the community, but as a consequence of increasing demand, the College of Music has been unable to accommodate us. As FSU continues to grow, and as the prestige of the College of Music is further enhanced, we anticipate that the demand for the Ruby Diamond Concert Hall performance space will continue to increase. As a result, it is difficult to foresee how the TSO can continue to serve the community without greater access to an assured quality performance space. As you know, there is no other such performance space available in this area.

To secure a more predictable, sustainable future for the TSO, we need performance space that will enable us to realize our ambitious goals to better serve our community. In our view, the ideal performance hall would have at least 1700 seats, would be properly designed for symphonic music, and would have adequate parking. Our research shows we can fill such a hall, and that, in consequence, we could reduce our ticket prices significantly while increasing the number of citizens we serve.

We are committed to securing a stable future for the TSO. We believe the proposed Florida Center for the Performing Arts is essential to that end.

Thank you for your thoughtful and judicious consideration of our support for the Florida Center for the Performing Arts.

Sincerely,



President, Board of Directors
Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra

A Survey of local Performing Arts Venues

February 2013

All Medium and Large venues are owned by FAMU, FSU and TCC. There is no community-based performing arts venue in either category. Of the 20 total venues, 13 are owned by FAMU, FSU and TCC with limited availability to community groups, indicating they are at capacity, accommodating the needs within their academic campuses. Further: FSU is poised to take ownership of the Civic Center on July 1, 2013.

Small – 80 to 300 Seats		Rent for Performances/Rehearsal	Rent for Events
Mickey Faust	80 seats	X	X
Southside Arts Complex	110		X
Young Actors Theatre	215	X	
Tallahassee Little Theatre	260	X	X
R. A. Gray Auditorium	250		X – lectures
FAMU:			
Perry-Paige Auditorium	238		
FSU:			
Lindsay Music Hall	100		
Lab Theatre	150		
Fichter Dance Theatre	216		
Dohnanyi Music Hall	218		
Williams (Conradi)	300		
Medium – 350 to 650 Seats			
FAMU:			
Charles Winter Wood Theatre	650		
FSU:			
Opperman Music Hall	450	X	X
Fallon Theatre	492		
TCC:			
Fred Turner Auditorium	495	X	X
Large – 650 + Seats			
Civic Center	13,500	X	X
For Broadway Shows	2,400 to 2,600		
FAMU:			
Al Lawson Center	9,000		
Lee Auditorium	1,200	X	X
FSU:			
Ruby Diamond Auditorium	1,235	X	X
Other			
The Moon	Open space, chairs, tables	X	X

Compiled by Florida Center staff with assistance from the Council on Culture and Arts (COCA)

March 14, 2013

A Summary on engagement with performing arts groups in the Community

Dating back to 2005, The Florida Center has initiated or been involved with efforts to assess the need for a Performing Arts Center in Tallahassee.

More recently, representatives from The Florida Center have reached out to, met personally with, and/or made presentations to the following performing arts groups to solicit their advice, support and engagement with The Florida Center's planning process.

The Artist Series

Big Bend Community Orchestra
Boy's Choir of Tallahassee
Capital City Shakespeare
Capital Chordsmen
FSU Allies for the Arts (A4A)
Goodwood Museum and Gardens
Southside Arts Complex
Springtime Tallahassee
Tallahassee Bach Parley
Tallahassee Ballet
Tallahassee Community Chorus
Tallahassee Little Theatre
Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra
Tallahassee Youth Orchestra
Theatre a la Carte
World Ballet
Young Actors Theatre

Potential use of the proposed Performing Arts Center and how it will meet a need in our community for local performing arts groups include:

- Rehearsal space
- Performance space
- A place to cultivate patrons and host donor receptions and special events
- A meeting place for regional or statewide professional conventions
- A meeting place for regional or statewide performance competitions

The Florida Center for Performing Arts

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