

*Introducing . . . the one, the ONLY . . .
Buffalo Grove Community Arts Center!*

We are pleased to announce our vision for the arts in our community! The Community Arts Center will be a creative hub for the community and the heart of the arts in Buffalo Grove. It will include a 400-seat auditorium, three dance studios, a black box, or “working”/experimental theater, two fine arts studios, a classroom for cooking instruction, and several other multi-use classrooms. The Community Arts Center is uniquely suited to provide opportunities to underserved populations such as teens, seniors and special populations. The new Community Arts Center will house the Park District’s performing arts, dance, visual and culinary arts programming and meet the demand future performers and artists in the community.

To support its thriving arts program, Buffalo Grove Park District purchased a building to be renovated and transformed into a community center dedicated to the arts. The Community Arts Center will provide extraordinary arts education and experiences for all ages and enrich Buffalo Grove and the surrounding communities. Dedicated to the arts, the Park District has already made a significant investment and is committed to bringing the Community Arts Center to life. However, the Park District needs the help of the Buffalo Grove the community, its artistic and patrons to realize this dream. *To realize this visionary project, we are launching a \$1 million philanthropic campaign to renovate the facility and expand the arts for our families. We need your help to create a masterpiece - the first Community Arts Center in Buffalo Grove!*

The benefits of providing arts to a community are well known. An array of research has found that the arts promote economic prosperity, improve participants’ physical and psychological well-being and foster important community goals. (Princeton Impact Study, Guetzkow, 2002). The Friends of the Parks Foundation, in partnership with the Park District, strive to offer these remarkable benefits and enhance the quality of life for everyone in our community through the Community Arts Center.

“We believe in the power of art to transform lives and communities.” ~ George Lucas on his recent gift to University of Chicago Laboratory School’s new art building.



The Park District's performing and visual arts programs are growing every season. The dance program now has over 400 youth dancers in a wide variety of styles, including ballet, tap, jazz, and hip-hop. The Hot Shots Competitive Dance Team competes in various events throughout the Midwest and 80 dancers participate in Dance Camp during the summer. In addition, there are several popular classes for adults in jazz, tap and ballroom. The Park District has dedicated participants in our visual arts classes for youth and adults in drawing, painting and sculpting. The performing arts programs include three youth musicals per year, a young adult dramatic production, an Advanced Theater Company for middle and high school students boasting 50 participants, the adult summer musical and several instructional workshops. In addition, the popular BG Singers Adult Chorus has over 70 singers and 30 singers participating in the "Encore!" group that performs throughout the Chicago area at public and private events.

"My daughter has grown up with a love for theater thanks to the incredible staff and programming at the Buffalo Grove Park District. We are so fortunate to have such an amazing community resource that has instilled confidence and professionalism in my child and created a warm and encouraging environment to grow within. [It is] a wonderful place to learn, grow and make lasting friendships led by a staff that truly cares." ~ Caren Naidoff

Despite having limited space in our current Park District facilities, we have been able to matriculate students from beginning instructional programs through fully supported productions. The artistic directors and instructors at the Park District provide individuals with the creativity and motivation needed to generate the performances of their lives or the mastery of their crafts. We are excited have a new facility that will impact even more participants and guests every single day through instructional programs, rehearsals and performances. The Center will allow us to bring artists, performers and patrons together in one home to create and enjoy the arts and celebrate our community.



Buffalo Grove Park District Community Impact Over the Past Five Years:

- ***Performing Arts Shows / Attendance***
27 shows / 25,600 attendees
- ***Dance Program Registrations***
3,450 students
- ***Drawing & Painting Registrations***
2,450 students
- ***Dance Camp and Performing Arts Camp Registrations***
2,120 students



Many years perfecting our craft . . . History of the Arts in Buffalo Grove

Over the years, the Park District has strategically grown to promote the proven benefits of the arts for our community. Youth theater programming started in summer day camps in the late 1980s when musicals were held in local elementary schools with the most basic of stages. Similarly, our community theater began in 1991 and expanded with the aid of a citizens group, the Performing Arts Council. After the tremendous response to the first variety show, future Park District productions focused on popular musicals such as Fiddler on the Roof, The Sound of Music, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat and Evita. We have worked hard to give young performers, set designers and technicians opportunities that will prepare them to thrive in future productions. Visual arts programs have developed steadily and classes are often filled to capacity, leaving potential participants waiting or searching out programs in another community. The Center is needed to meet the growing involvement in the arts of our community!

"It was through the theater program at BGPD that I cultivated self-confidence and created relationships that shaped who I am today. My parents got involved in the program because they saw how much it meant to me. It is a place that we could all spend time together doing what we loved in a creative and supportive environment." ~ Paula Nowak



And NOW . . . our Big Break!

Recent community surveys consistently indicated that the community was in favor of the construction of a comprehensive arts facility. In October 2012, we seized an exciting opportunity to realize this long-held dream by purchasing a building in the center of our village at 225 N. McHenry Road. We are prepared to use all of its potential and create a home for the arts in Buffalo Grove. The Friends of the Parks Foundation is launching a \$1 million campaign to support the Park District to better serve and expand its Performing, Visual and Culinary Arts programs and offer a home for the arts to our community.

The arts are an engine for economic development, attracting tourism, creating jobs, and generating arts revenue. They impart the values and skills that employers seek, such as the ability to work as part of a team and to devise creative solutions to problems. And, the arts drive educational achievement. Students who consistently participate in the arts score higher on standardized tests." ~ Martha S. Campbell, Vice President for Programs, The James Irvine Foundation





Community Arts Center Components:

- **400-seat auditorium**
- **Black box theater**
- **Set construction studio**
- **Costume studio**
- **Lighting and sound reinforcement**
- **Dance studios**
- **Music studios**
- **Visual arts studios**
- **Culinary arts classroom**

Park District leadership believes that Buffalo Grove is a strong force in the local arts community and that people not only want to perform here, but will prefer to perform here. The Community Arts Center will create a home for the arts to flourish locally. Production staff will have greater opportunities to develop talent, mentor performers and artists, and perfect their own craft. Volunteers who prefer to practice their art behind the scenes in set construction and lighting design will be able to excel and explore new techniques. The Center will be a place where the community can enjoy top performances by local and regional artists. Most of all, it will be a source of community pride and at the heart of our community identity.

You can help us paint our future!

To make the Community Arts Center a reality in the near future, we need your investment and support!

"What I found in the (painting) class has been a model of multicultural experiences with people from their twenties to their eighties participating together and encouraging each other. I have made new friends, and met a lot of lovely people that I would never have come in contact with in any other way." ~ Wendy Sabbath

The Friends of the Parks, a foundation that supports the work of the Buffalo Grove Park District, and the Buffalo Grove Park District Board of Commissioners and staff are committed to this vision. We ask for your philanthropic support to complete the needed renovations to the facility to transform its space into a comprehensive performing, visual and culinary arts center for the community.

We want everyone to be able to experience the joy of the arts and invite you to join us to bring the Community Arts Center to life in Buffalo Grove for the current and future generations of performers and artists!

