



YELLOW SPRINGS, OHIO

The best place to watch a movie, together

2025 Annual Report

Approaching a Century of Cinema

www.littleart.com

A Letter to You

Dear Friends of the Little Art Theatre:

If you've been to the Little Art Theatre lately, you may have noticed—it's not just about movies anymore. While film remains at our core, we're evolving into something more: a place for live performances, events, education, and community gatherings. As a nonprofit, this evolution isn't optional; it's essential. Expanding how we use this space strengthens our financial sustainability while creating new ways for people to connect, learn, and experience the arts.

On August 15, 2025, more than 400 neighbors gathered on Short Street to witness the unveiling of our new marquee—a moment that captured everything the Little Art Theatre stands for. Throughout the year, our programming brought people together:

- Sold-out screenings of *Thelma and Louise* and *Downton Abbey*
- Thursday Throwbacks series celebrating David Lynch and Wes Anderson
- Yellow Springs Film Festival
- Free outdoor screenings at Gaunt Park, and
- Mills Lawn Elementary poetry event.

When the LAT opens its doors, the community shows up—11,802 times in 2025 alone.

Financially, 2025 reflects a year of intentional investment. Our organizational equity remains strong at \$731,080, and we began a long-term investment strategy with Smith, Moses & Cozad, ensuring our reserves are managed with the same care we bring to all aspects of the theatre.

None of this happens without you. Ticket and concession sales cover only a portion of what it takes to sustain the theater; the rest is made possible by our generous donors, friends, business partners, and grant funders across Yellow Springs, Springfield, Dayton, and beyond.

With our 100th anniversary approaching in 2029, we are focused not only on celebrating our history but also on ensuring the Little Art Theatre is here for generations to come. The marquee was just the beginning. Through the next phases of the 2nd Century Campaign, we are working toward a restored façade, more accessible facilities, upgraded technology, expanded programming, and a growing endowment to support the future.

The LAT has been here for nearly 100 years because this community has chosen to sustain it. Together, we are ensuring it will continue to serve future generations. Thank you for being part of it.

Connie O'Brien
Chair, Board of Directors



Mission

*To provide an experience that entertains,
informs and inspires*

Vision

*The best place to watch a movie,
together*



For nearly 97 years, the Little Art Theatre has served as a cultural anchor for Yellow Springs and the surrounding region. We are a welcoming space where diverse stories are shared, where curiosity is encouraged, and where people of all ages experience the joy of film in a setting that feels personal, connected, and deeply rooted in community. At a time when small-town, independent theatres are becoming increasingly rare, the Little Art Theatre stands as proof that the communal experience of film is not only alive — it is thriving.

Little Art Theatre Board of Directors

Connie O'Brien, Chair;
Shayna McConville, Vice Chair,
Darrin Spitzer, Treasurer;
Wendy DeLong, Secretary;
Alex Price, Brook Whitmore,
Jenifer "Wren" Slone.

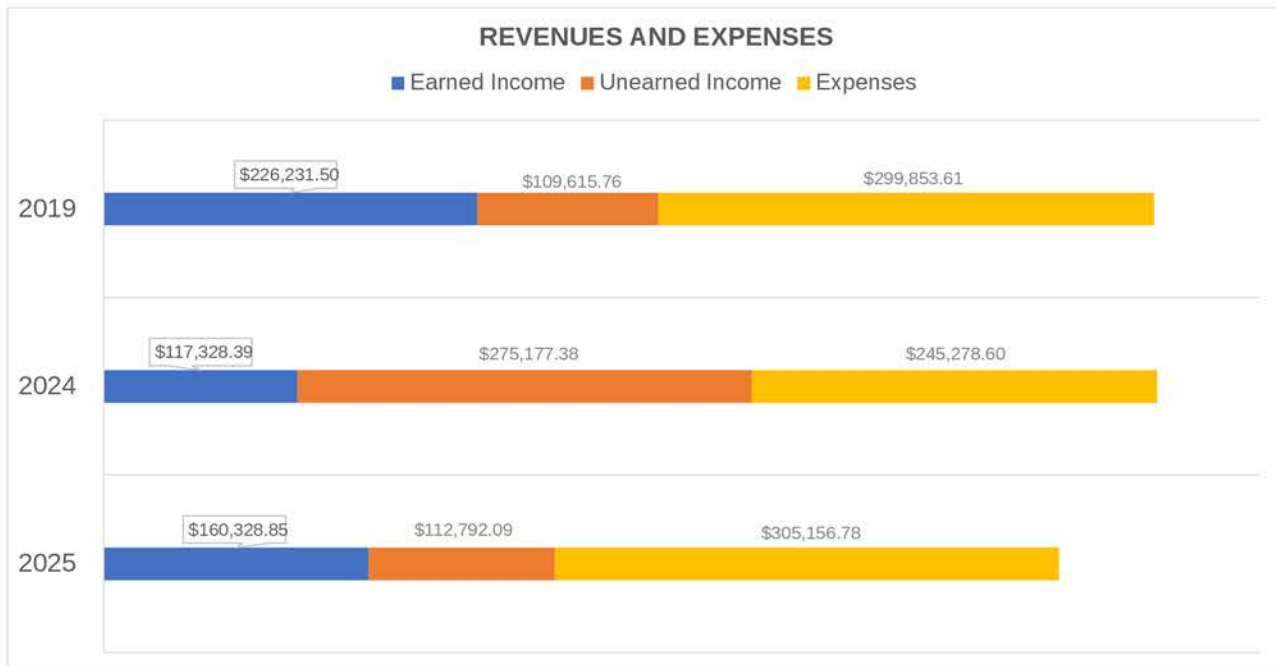
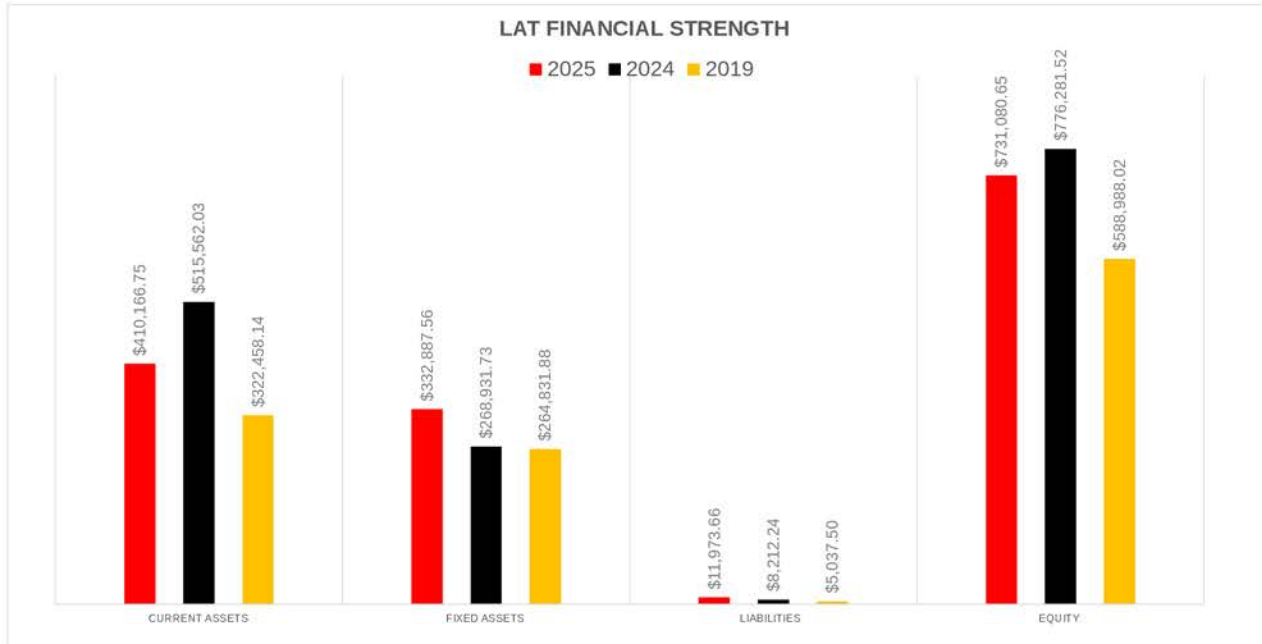
Little Art Theatre Staff

Melissa Heston, Executive Director;
Caleab Wyant, Theatre Manager; Sara Gray, Bookkeeper;
Maggie Russell, Operations Manager;
Emma Beavers, Marketing Specialist;
Lareina La Flair, Volunteer Coordinator;
Concessionaires: Jeanna GunderKline, Holly Weir, Jenn Austin, River Esquivel;
Projectionists: Mark Breza, Aryah Redmond;
Volunteers: Joan Ackerman, Victoria, among others.

Special Thanks to: Sharon Greitzer, Cait Bothwell, Peter Wentworth, Sylvia Stein, Earl Reeder, Jeannamarie Cox, Sarah Courtright, Corrie VanAusdal, David Seitz, Tori Smith, Jamie Sharp, John Paulsen, Wagner Sign, Plex TV & Mas Orca, Village of YS, YSCF, Karl Yost, YS News, Mark Heiss & YS Branding, Mary Kay Smith & the Winds Cafe, Steve Bogнар, Anna Chiaretta Lavatelli, Jenny Cowperthwaite & Gilah Pomerantz.

Financial Summary 2025

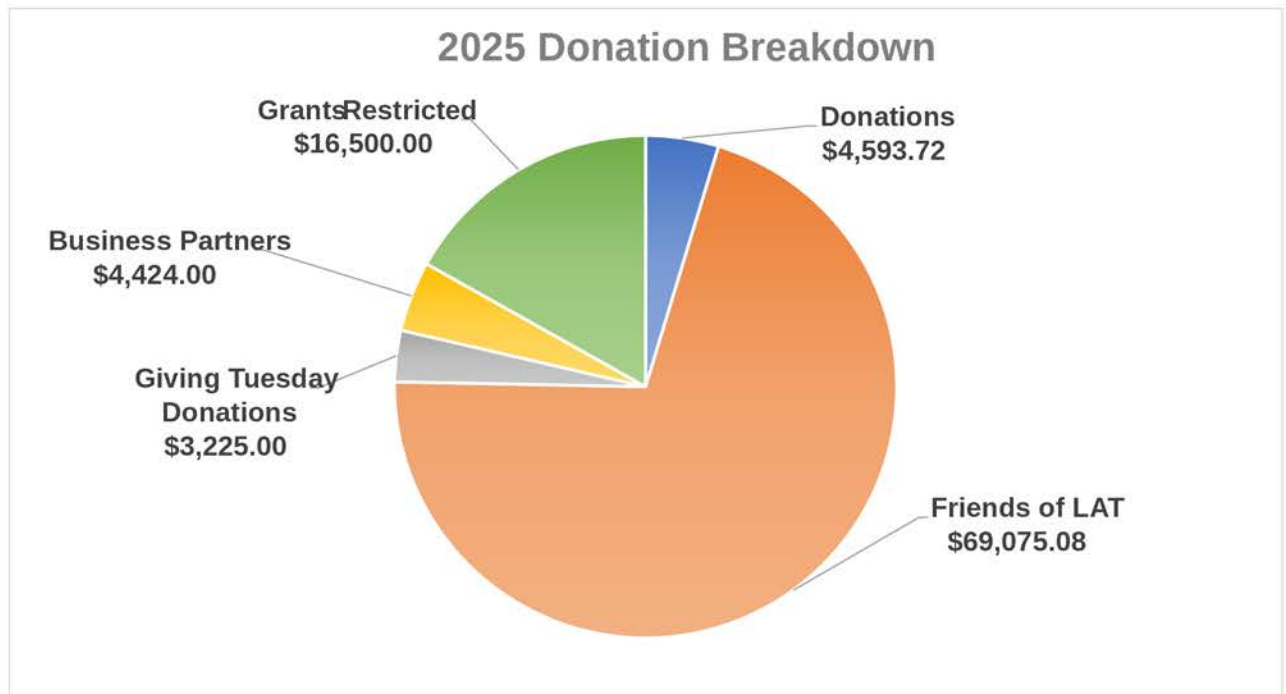
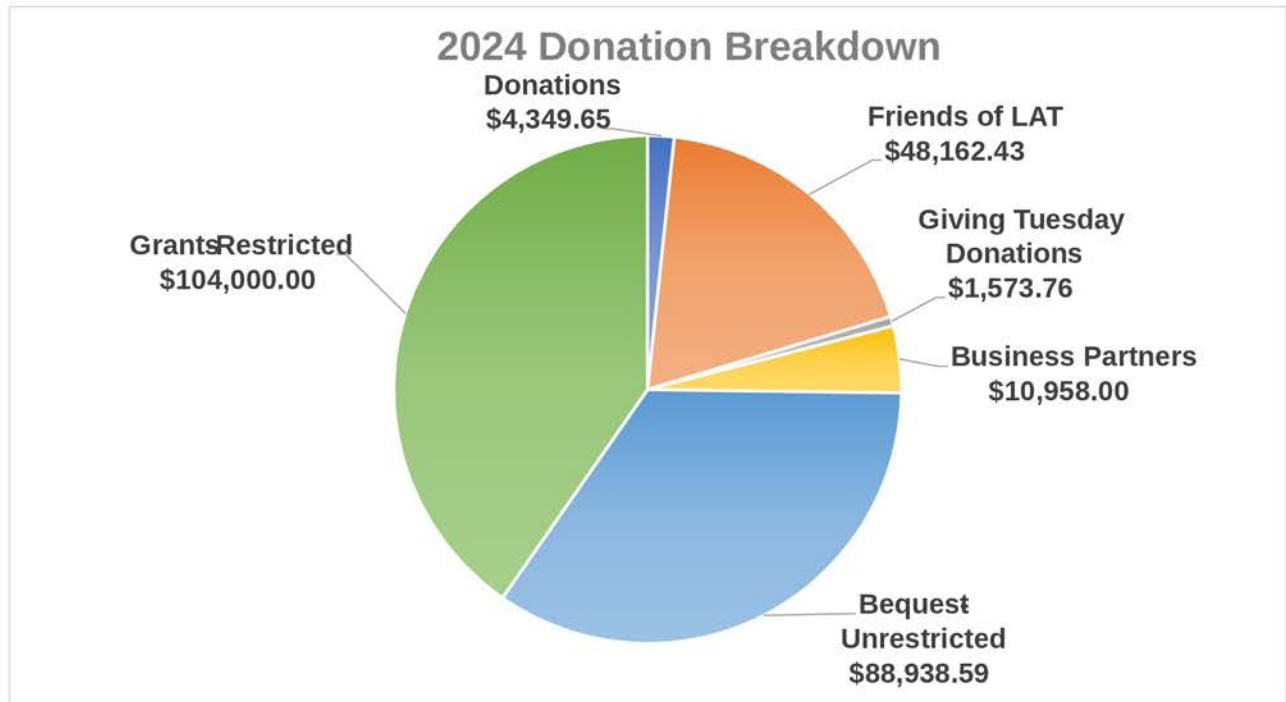
The Little Art Theatre continues to demonstrate strong financial stewardship, sustained by a diversified mix of earned revenue, philanthropic support, and grants: our balance sheet reflects the long-term health and resilience of this institution.



Our total organizational equity stands at \$731,080.65 — a reflection of nearly a century of community investment and careful stewardship. Despite a planned operating deficit in 2025 driven by capital expenditures including the new marquee, our balance sheet remains exceptionally strong.

Please note: 2024 Unearned Income included both a \$100k grant from Plex TV for the new marquee as well as a bequest for \$88k. 2025 Expenses included the 2nd Century Capital Campaign and Marquee Reveal Celebration

Giving Summary



We are pleased our 2025 focus on Friends paid off



Audience Growth & Insight: 2019-2025

The COVID-19 pandemic and change in leadership brought the Little Art Theatre to a near standstill. In 2021, our first partial year back, we welcomed just 1,736 guests. We are focused on building a strong, stable team to support our work into the future. Many variables can affect attendance from weather to programming, to competing local events and time. By 2025, one key measure tells the full story of our recovery.

Attendance Summary

Ticket Sales	2019	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
JAN	1258		494	634	597	1120
FEB	1597		531	907	499	635
MAR	1268		498	614	710	1019
APR	1068		678	677	769	777
MAY	897		811	696	558	1148
JUN	1451		450	1185	661	1075
JUL	1988		1115	1706	685	432
AUG	2141		630	964	624	1052
SEPT	1976	96	644	705	911	943
OCT	1230	505	972	1170	1183	1589
NOV	1946	580	447	926	677	1058
DEC	1797	555	411	793	822	954
Attendance	18617	1736	7681	10977	8696	11802
# Shows	555	93	371	350	298	352
Average Attendance	33.54	18.67	20.70	31.36	29.18	33.53
% of 2019 Avg.		56%	62%	93%	87%	100%

The story here is not simply one of total volume — it is one of quality engagement. While total annual attendance in 2025 reflects a leaner programming calendar than 2019, our average audience per screening has fully returned to pre-pandemic levels. When the Little Art opens its doors, the community shows up.

Investment in Our Future

A key marker of institutional maturity is the responsible stewardship of reserves — not just earning, but protecting and growing for the long term. In 2024, with the help of the Yellow Springs Community Foundation, we initiated an endowment. In 2025, the Little Art Theatre took a meaningful step forward by formalizing our investment strategy through a partnership with Smith, Moses & Cozad. These decisions reflect the board's commitment to ensuring that the resources entrusted to us by our community are managed with the same care and intentionality that we bring to every film we screen.

With \$731,080.65 in organizational equity and over \$27,000 in the 2nd Century Endowment, the Little Art Theatre has financial assets to protect and grow. The endowment and a structured investment strategy ensures that our reserves work for us — generating returns that can support future operations, capital improvements, and provide financial reserves.



The 2nd Century Capital Campaign

On the evening of August 15, 2025 — as 400 members of our community gathered beneath the glow of our brand-new marquee — the Little Art Theatre successfully completed Phase 1 of the 2nd Century Campaign. This capital initiative is our most ambitious undertaking in decades. Its purpose is simple and profound: to carry the Little Art Theatre forward not just to our centennial in 2029, but for an entire second century and beyond — ensuring that future generations will have a place to gather, to be moved, to laugh, and to dream.

The **Second Century Campaign**, with a goal of \$2M by 2029 will support a series of phased improvements to our historic facade, infrastructure, and programming in addition to our endowment held at the yellow springs community foundation.

Phase 1: New Marquee: COMPLETE — Unveiled 8/15/25. Our new marquee inspired by the 1940's marquee honors our history and signals our future. Funded in partnership with a grant from Plex, and Lead Gifts from Maureen Lynch & Richard Lapedes, YSCF, The Dayton Foundation, and many local donors.

Phase 2 & Beyond:

- **Historic Building Facade** - Funds have been secured with a generous lead gift from Ellen & Rod Hoover to restore the facade repairing the brick and cornice.
- **Interior Renovation** - Accessibility ramp near stage to outside, updated lobby layout and a “chair fund” to replace worn seating, creating a more comfortable and welcoming experience for every guest.
- **Technology Fund** - To provide state-of-the-art projection and sound equipment to deliver the best possible cinematic experience.
- **LAT Back Porch** - A future back porch deck facing Kieth's Alley with a 100th Anniversary mural commission — extending the Little Art experience beyond our walls.
- **Programming Fund:** Continued investment in diverse, community-driven programming including support for the YS film fest, cultural events, educational screenings, and more.
- **Building our Endowment** - to ensure financial stability for the next 100 years!



Join Us!

The Little Art Theatre isn't just about movies — it's about coming together, finding compassion and commonality, and ensuring that this theatre remains a place where stories matter. Join us and be a part of the Little Art Theatre story.

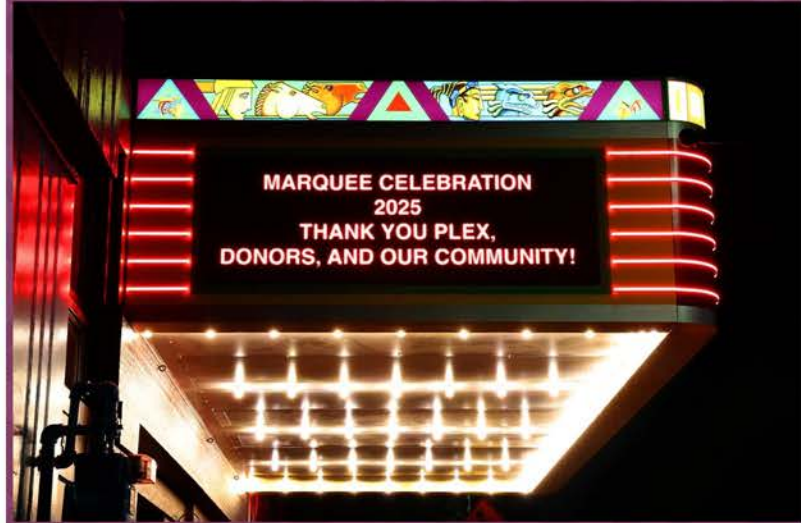
Whether you buy a ticket, become a Friend of the Little Art, bring a group, volunteer your time, or simply spread the word — you are part of what keeps this theatre alive and thriving.

Come see a film. Bring someone new. The popcorn is hot, the lights are low, and... it's ***the best place to watch a movie, together.*** A seat is waiting for you!



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Photos Courtesy of the Village of Yellow Springs



247 Xenia Ave
Yellow Springs, OH 45387
www.littleart.com
(937) 767-7671