

**Vicksburg Performing Arts Center
2015-2016 Annual Report**

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The ongoing charge of the Vicksburg Performing Arts center is to initiate and support opportunities to significantly enrich the educational opportunities of our students and to enhance the quality of life in our community.

Over the 2015-2016 season, Vicksburg Community Schools made significant advances in fulfilling the mission and charge of its Performing Arts Center to serve our students and the community. Here are some highlights:

- Sustained growth in participation in, and audiences, continues to be seen in our extra-curricular musical theatre program. Once again, opportunities to participate in productions were offered to the 4th – 8th grades and the 9th – 12th grades. In November, audience's' spirits soared with excitement as the PAC presented the extremely challenging but very successful musical – **Roald Dahl's James and the Giant Peach, Jr.** Audiences also saw the high school students perform the classic tale of Helen Keller - **The Miracle Worker** and the tongue-in-cheek salute to 1950's and 60's sci-fi movies - **Little Shop of Horrors.**
- The PAC was "ship-shape" and able to serve the needs of the **63rd Annual Vicksburg Rotary Showboat** which saw the crew take a satiric look at the election process.
- In the fall, our district had the privilege to welcome back our old friend Tom Knific and the Western Jazz Quartet. Recently honored with a prestigious Chamber Music America residency award, this talented group of WMU music department faculty instructed a special master class for Vicksburg High School jazz band students because of the district's' and community's continued commitment to support strong fine arts programs in our schools. Our students had the unique opportunity to showcase what they learned in a special public performance with the WJQ.
- In the spring, our district had the privilege to welcome back the Irving S. Gilmore International Keyboard Festival. Vicksburg was given the opportunity to host two Festival events. First, pianist Terrence Wilson Wilson guided audiences through the world of dance and movement through the sounds of the grand piano. Vicksburg was also treated to a recital by Daniel Hsu, who was selected as a 2016 Gilmore Young Artist Award winner. Mr. Shu is one of only twenty-six pianist, to have received this prestigious honor.

- In order to keep pace with the demands on our equipment and technology, the following steps were undertaken:
 - A. The third phase in a proposed 5-year plan to upgrade 102 lighting fixtures.
 - B. Repair of all stage draperies and soft goods.
 - C. Upgrades of, and repairs to, stage monitor speaker inventory.

- The PAC was ready and able to serve the needs, and contribute to the successes of:

4 community organizations
 18 school/student organizations,
 12 bands
 13 choirs
 1 string ensemble
1 brass ensemble
 3 dance studios

Bold indicates increases from 2014-2015

The PAC facility held:

25 theatre performances
 22 concerts
 7 dance recitals
 4 video presentations
11 award presentations
 12 meetings
 1 Choral festival
 2 Talent Shows
1 Dance Workshop
 Hundreds and hundreds of rehearsal hours.
 Our lecture hall served as a classroom every day of the school year.
Bold indicates increases from 2014-2015

- My goals continue to include:
 - A. Maximizing the availability, readiness and safety of the facility
 - B. Working with groups (teachers, students, community members, VCS support staff) in way that ensures event successfulness
 - C. Supporting facility users through administrative support (ticket office, budgeting/accounting, procurement, PR) & technical expertise (equipment maintenance, set design/build/paint/rigging, lighting set-up/programming/operation, sound setup/operation)

As we go forward, we will be taking decisive action to ensure our successful future as a lively, dynamic arts and cultural organization. This action will include building on our successes with an exciting and varied performance season and a rededication of our efforts to the importance of the arts in our schools and in our lives. Please join us as we blaze the direction for arts education and performance for another exciting year and a truly promising future.

Timothy Fuller
Performing Arts Center Manager