

**Vicksburg Performing Arts Center
2018-2019 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 2018-2019 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, 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 October, the 4th through 8th graders treated PAC audiences to a delightful adaptation of four of Barbara Park's best-selling books - **Junie B. Jones, the Musical**. In November, audiences saw the high school students perform **The Heart of Robin Hood**, a re-imagined telling of the classic tale filled with swashbuckling, acrobatics, comedy, romance and original music, played on-stage! The high-schoolers (with some help from the 4th-8th graders) once again took to the air performing a beautiful production of the beloved musical, **The Wizard of Oz**. The job they did was amazing and gave our students, families and communities an unforgettable theatrical experience.
- Record attendance for both **All** drama productions.
- The PAC was able to help the Vicksburg Rotary SHOWCASE go to new heights in 2019 with a new show format. serve the needs of the crew of the S.S. Rotary Ann as they set sail on their 65th voyage! These local entertainers captivated the audience with a blend of exciting stage acts and the comic antics of the crew and chorus.
- Our district had the privilege to continue our partnership with the Irving S. Gilmore International Keyboard Festival. Vicksburg was given the opportunity to host two Festival events. First, rooted in extensive classical piano training and a background in extreme sports, martial arts, and video games, Alpin Hong presented a retro-fitted mash-up disguised as a piano recital. Vicksburg was also treated to a recital by Elliot Wu, who was selected as a 2018 Gilmore Young Artist Award winner. Mr. Wu is one of only twenty-six pianists 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 fifth phase in a proposed 5-year plan to upgrade 102 lighting fixtures.
 - B. Maintenance on all stage draperies and soft goods in need of repair
 - C. Upgrades of, and repairs to, sound system components (auxiliary amps, playback devices, headset communication, wireless microphones).

- D. Steinway piano maintenance. The tone of our piano was addressed through a process called voicing. After years of use, the felt hammers can lose their original shape, develop grooves, and can drift from the ideal tone—sounding too soft, or too bright, or generally uneven. During voicing the piano hammers, through filing and ironing, are reshaped to their proper original shape. Then the hammers are hardened or softened in key spots until the overall “voice” of the piano is uniform, strong, and beautiful.

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

- 8** community organizations
 - 17 school/student organizations,
 - 12 bands
 - 12 choirs
 - 1 string ensemble
 - 3 dance studios
- Bold indicates increases from 2014-2015**

The PAC facility held:

- 19 theatre performances
 - 17 concerts
 - 7 dance recitals
 - 7 video presentations
 - 11 award presentations
 - 26** meetings
 - 2** choral festival
 - 2 talent Shows
 - 5** workshops
 - 1 senior photo shoot
 - 1 strings recital
- Hundreds and hundreds of rehearsal hours.
Our lecture hall served as a classroom every day of the school year.
- Bold indicates increases from 2016-2017**

- 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