

KATHARINE HEPBURN CULTURAL ARTS CENTER

GRATITUDE REPORT

2018/2019



the **10** kate
old saybrook

Sheila E.
August 26, 2018

A full-page photograph of a woman with dark, curly hair, wearing a black lace dress with intricate patterns. She is singing into a microphone and has her arms raised in the air. The background is a warm, orange-toned brick wall.

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Mandy Gonzalez, October 2, 2018

DEAR FRIENDS,

We're not quite sure there are enough ways to say **thank you** for the amazing year you made possible at the Kate! We started the fiscal year on July 1, 2018 hopeful that many would join us as we planned a celebration of our first 10 years. We ended the fiscal year on June 30, 2019 with more friends than ever—45,000 arts enthusiasts attended live music, theater, opera, dance, and film events and hundreds more participated in our education programs last year. That represents more people coming through our doors than any prior year!



This *gratitude report* hopes to capture just how special those 12 months were. Not only did programs like Kate's Camp for Kids, Missoula Children's Theatre, and Connecticut Public's *The Kate* television series continue to thrive, but we also successfully partnered with the Garde Arts Center to jointly present *The High Kings* at the Garde in March 2019. We were honored to again serve as the host location for two important community events: the Heroes Tree which is decorated with gold, silver and blue stars to honor those who have served or are serving our country and organized by local Gold Star Mother Kathryn Cross; and the annual Black Friday Concert that raises funds toward the Gowrie Group Challenge to benefit the Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries.

We launched several new initiatives that broaden the Kate's connection to the community, including our wonderful partnership with the Peach Pit Foundation and Veteran Tickets Foundation whereby we offer Connecticut veterans tickets to Kate events. And, we are proud to announce a **new Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center Scholarship** that will be made available to an Old Saybrook high school senior each year beginning in 2020 (read more on page 9).

Of course, our dedication to upholding Katharine Hepburn's legacy continues as we look for unique ways to share our growing museum collection and present programs that prove Kate is as relevant today for her talent, her bold style, and her beliefs as she ever was. Having just acquired items of clothing from her wardrobe, costume sketches, and even her 1968 passport, the Kate also looks for distinctive pieces that may be loaned to the museum. If you have an item of Katharine Hepburn memorabilia or know of friends who do, feel free to reach out to us and be part of an initiative to tell Kate's story in an even bolder way.

With much to celebrate and even more to look forward to, we again express our appreciation to all our Members, donors, volunteers, trustees and patrons. Thank you for being at the center of our growth and success.

We'll see you at the Kate!

Sincerely,

Brett Elliott
Executive Director



Paul Tracey
President



A TIME TO CELEBRATE

Though we wouldn't be officially launching our 10 year celebration until the February 2019 Oscar Night Party, the excitement was in the air from the moment the 2018-2019 fiscal year began. It was our pleasure to host so many friends, old and new, at these special gatherings.

Annual Gala Honoring Ann Nyberg

August 25, 2018

The Kate presented its 3rd annual *Spirit of Katharine Hepburn Award* to our biggest cheerleader, Ann Nyberg, at our summer gala. Given to an individual who embodies the spirit, independence, and character of the legendary actress, the award recognizes individuals who possess the same tenacity and fortitude of our namesake. A resident of Madison, she is the longest-serving, full-time female news anchor/reporter in Connecticut television history and is WTNH-TV's longest-serving anchor/reporter, where she produces the Emmy-nominated show "Nyberg."

Ann is both a trustee of the Kate and author of *Remembering Katharine Hepburn: Stories of Wit and Wisdom About America's Leading Lady*.

Award recipient Ann Nyberg with Deb Abildsoe of presenting sponsor GSB Wealth Management, and Kate Executive Director Brett Elliott.



9th Annual Oscar Night Party

February 24, 2019

Another dazzling evening to honor our namesake, Katharine Hepburn, and her record of four Oscar wins. This event, organized by our Volunteer Guild and supported by student volunteers from Old Saybrook Senior High School, raises significant funds for artistic programming at the Kate.

The team from the H&R Block Old Saybrook office, Producer Sponsors of the Oscar Party.





Volunteer and Staff Holiday Party

December 4, 2018

We gathered the wonderful team at the Kate on a rare night off for our annual Volunteer and Staff Holiday Party. Many thanks to the more than 200 people who help us do what we do and for making the season bright for so many with donations to the Old Saybrook Holiday Giving Initiative.

Development Associate Ruth Yakaitis and Volunteer Coordinator Shirley Colquhoun, with an abundance of toys collected at our holiday party.

Paint Night with Vista

October 24, 2018

We joined with our community partner, Vista Life Innovations, for an eerily fun Halloween-themed Paint Night!



Greg Beebe, Sennheiser's Director Professional Audio, with Kate Executive Director Brett Elliott.

Business Member Reception

April 24, 2019

The Kate is fortunate to be embraced and supported by many local businesses who contribute to a vibrant community. We recognized their contributions at a reception on the patio, followed by an electrifying performance by The Blues Brothers Revue. Many thanks to all who contributed to the swag bags—especially Sennheiser for providing everyone with an AMBEO Smart Headset!



Member Reception

May 15, 2019

Members are the life force of the Kate! Beyond being some of our most ardent fans, Members provide year-round support and enhance their Kate experience with several benefits.

The annual Member Reception offers a chance for Kate staff and trustees to connect with our Members. The weather was on our side this year as we hosted a lovely outdoor reception catered by Red Hen. Members also enjoyed a wine tasting by Angelini Wines and got a sneak peek at some of the new museum acquisitions of Katharine Hepburn's clothing and passport!

Members Evelyn Gezo, Richard Patterson, and Lori Fritzer enjoying the reception.



Community Open House

May 27, 2019

In honor of our 10th year, the Kate hosted an Open House immediately following the traditional Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony in Old Saybrook. Kids crafts were offered and guests toured the theater and backstage areas, and everyone enjoyed refreshments on the patio.

Kate Volunteer Guild member Lindley Sawyer helping participants with kids' crafts at the Open House.



Volunteer Recognition Reception

June 18, 2019

It's hard to put into words just how special our volunteers are but we could start with dedicated, enthusiastic, welcoming, and generous. Collectively, they donate more than 22,000 hours each year! In June we recognized all of them for their contribution of time to the Kate and honored those who had been volunteering for 10 years with a special gift.

Here's to our volunteers who have been donating their time to the Kate for 10 years!



A TIME FOR SHARING OUR LOVE FOR KATE

A Growing Museum Collection

Over the past year we added to the museum collection with several items of clothing that were either from stage and film productions or part of Katharine Hepburn's personal wardrobe. We have also recently acquired her 1968 passport, an autographed original LP of the *On Golden Pond* soundtrack, and several pieces of important ephemera documenting her life. The Kate looks forward to not only growing our collection, but sourcing other items that can be loaned to us as we explore opportunities for new and unique museum exhibits.



Your Kate Stories

Your Kate Stories continued to come in throughout the year and are now archived on our website. It has been a pleasure to read and share the wonderful sentiments and vivid memories of our friends and patrons. Here is a favorite . . . retired Lt. John Kuzminski attended The Corvettes Doo Wop Revue show in February 2019 and mentioned the Kate firetruck that existed. As promised, he stopped in to share photos of the Old Saybrook Fire Department 1959 ladder truck that Ms. Hepburn helped to purchase. Though she was too modest for public recognition, the truck bears a license plate that says *Kate*!



In Memoriam

The Kate is a close-knit family of staff and volunteers and this year we lost a dear member of that family. **Kathy Ring** was a volunteer from the moment the Kate opened its doors. In addition to ushering and assisting with special events, she was a familiar face at the box office window for years. Kathy was a friend to many and always brought humor and energy to the room. She will be greatly missed and forever remembered by her Kate family.



A TIME TO BE INSPIRED

Katharine Hepburn served as a role model and inspiration for others in her field and beyond. While we hope that the performances and programs at the Kate also serve as inspiration, we often find ourselves on the other side of the coin—in awe of the people and partners we are privileged to work with!

Kate's Camp for Kids

July 9 through August 10, 2018

More than 150 campers, ages 5 to 10, joined us for weekly journeys exploring music, dance, and theater through mini-musicals presented on the Kate stage at the end of each week. After six camp seasons, we are still amazed at how creative, tenacious, and entertaining these young artists can be!



Anti-bullying Musical "Her Song"

September 28, 2018

More than 400 students from shoreline schools attended a performance of the anti-bullying musical *Her Song*, which starred local teens and was written by Madison resident and Emmy nominee, Jill Nesi. This powerful piece addresses the effects that exclusion and negativity have on our youth and informs students about ways in which they can stand up against the cycle of insensitivity. The cast also performed an evening show that was open to the general public.





Sharing a Love for Classic Films

April 30, 2019

Students from Norwich Free Academy's Classic Movie Club and several members of Rose City Senior Center toured the theater and enjoyed a private screening of the Kate Classic *Mary of Scotland*. This unique trip was part of the Classic Movie Club's ongoing community service and outreach efforts with the Senior Center and we were excited to be a host venue!



Welcoming Our Veterans

Through a grant from the Peach Pit Foundation, the Kate now partners with the Veteran Tickets Foundation, an organization whose mission is "... to provide tickets to events which reduce stress, strengthen family bonds, and build life-long memories and encourage service members and veterans to stay engaged with local communities."

As a not-for-profit organization, the Kate carefully balances proceeds from ticket sales and the expense of putting on a show, which can be tricky with just 260 seats. This grant allows us to offer complimentary tickets to veterans and their families to enjoy the performing arts.

"Thank you so much Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center and VetTix for the tickets to Treasure Island. It was a unique take on the play, with only two performers. We all loved how we were included in the play. Thanks for turning a basic summer day into a magical experience that will not be forgotten!"

—Kjrsten, United States Army

Second Graders Bring Art to Life

January 17, 2019

Second-grade students of ACES Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet School in Hamden took a class trip to the Kate as part of a special project they had worked on that explored history through the arts. Each student researched actors and actresses who appeared in movies with Katharine Hepburn. Dressed as their "character" they took to the Kate stage and shared with us all they had learned from the viewpoint of that person.



A TIME TO LOOK AHEAD



The Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center Scholarship

The Kate is very proud to announce the inaugural Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center Scholarship established in honor of our 10th year. Its purpose is to annually recognize a high school student residing in Old Saybrook who has demonstrated participation in and an appreciation for the performing, visual or literary arts. In her youth, Katharine Hepburn was an avid athlete and fan of movies. During her time studying at Bryn Mawr College, she developed a love for acting and decided to pursue a theatrical career. After many Hollywood movies and roles on Broadway, she retired to Old Saybrook where she continued swimming and golfing, as well as painting. She was also very well-known for her baked goods. This scholarship award honors Ms. Hepburn's diverse interests in the arts and her independent and spirited approach to life. The award is a \$1,000 scholarship to be used to further one's study in an area of interest at a college, trade school, or formal certificate program.

Be a Part of the Kate Walk of Fame!

Pure Prairie League, the very first band to ever play in our theater, was welcomed as the inaugural artist in the Kate's *Walk of Fame*, a paver walkway that will be situated directly in front of the newly restored iconic white columns on the Main Street side of the building. **Individuals, businesses, and local organizations can sponsor a paver and add a custom message.** These will be complimented by *Walk of Fame* pavers featuring names of artists who have graced the Kate's stage and those of our *Spirit of Katharine Hepburn Award* recipients. Thank you to the many friends who have already sponsored a paver; to learn more about this exciting project, visit thekate.org/donate, or use the enclosed envelope. We look forward to breaking ground in the spring!



MEMBERS & FRIENDS

2018 / 2019



The Kate just wouldn't be the same without our Members.
It's your support that brings life to the arts in our community.
For that we share a sincere **thank you.**

KENNEDY CENTER CIRCLE

Christine and George "Sonny"
Whelen IV

OSCAR CIRCLE

Barry and Jackie Gosin
Timothy and Nancy Haviland
Sabra Purtill

EMMY CIRCLE

Francis Adams, Jr.
Diana and Jerry Brophy
Stacey and Malcolm Cohen
Terri and Cosmo Corigliano
Elizabeth DeLuca
Edie and Skip Gengras
Patricia and Sam Jones
Paula and William Meo

GOLDEN GLOBE CIRCLE

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Kim and Angus Grant
Elisabet and Frank Landrey
Shannon and Brian Lapierre
Vivian Partridge
Rich and Cindy Patterson
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Meg Ferguson
Virginia and Rodney
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Victoria Graboys
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Lindley Sawyer

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Nancy and Frank Urban
Robert and Barbara Welsh

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Shireen and John Aforismo
Joy Anderson
Michelle and Mike Bjorkman
Peter and Joan Cahill
Peggy and Bill Chadwick
Charles Schwartz Foundation
for Music
Gene Chesaneck in memory of
Patricia Chesaneck
Paul and Kathy Connolly
John Coutoupis
Maribeth and Kevin Danby
Donna FitzGerald
Michael Giliberto and Anne
Mengden
Jeanne Guertin-Potoff and
Morton Potoff
Sandy Hart
Susan Kelly
Tom and Pam Moriarty
Susan and Wayne Mountz
Thomas Scanlon and
Kathryn Johnson
Penny and Steve Sigal
Bonnie and Tom Stone
Laura and Al Tiezzi
Bruce and Ivy Weiss
Tara A. Winch

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR

George S. Abele
Mark and Camille Alberti
Diane and Don Allen
Jonathan and Jeanne Allen
Mike Appleby
Stephen and Katherine Axilrod
Louis and Alice Bartolotta
Anne Bartosewicz-Mele and
Anthony Mele
Maureen Bedus
Jan Beebe
Pat and Tom Berarducci
Nancy Bishop
Ross and Joyce Bray
Dennis Buccilli
Frank and Shari Bugaj
Alan and Sharon Cantor
Susan Cecchini
Gwenne and Ray Celmer

Virginia Clarke
Thomas Connors
Audrey B. Conrad
Jennifer Cox
Peg Curran
Harcourt and Michelle Davis
Tyler and Pamela Dennett
Frank and Deirdre Donnantuono
Norma Dyson
Greg and Leslie Eck
Gene and Kay Ely
Sara and Craig Fanning
Charlie and Deb Farrow
Craig Frenkel
Lori and Steve Fritzer
Robyn and Jonathan Gengras
Elaine and Ken Gilmore
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James Iovieno
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Barry Kelly
Christopher Kilbourne
John and Heather Kiss
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Martha Leclair
Lamar and Lisa LeMonte
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Bunnie and Jim Lubs
Michael and Rebecca Lucht
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Duby McDowell
Phyllis McDowell
Lynn and David McFarlin
John and Marcia McGowan
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Jeffrey Todd Minor
Dr. Peter Mohrer
Linn Morgan
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Lisa Picarazzi and Patrick Larkin
Christine Picklo and Alan Schwarz
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Kristen Schaeer
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Shepard and Marlene Stone
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Sydney Anderson and Ray Gaulke
Ray and Elizabeth Archambault
Ruth Armentano
Herbert and Annemarie Arnold
Barry and Wilma Asch

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Wolman	Sharon A. Klein	Robert and Mary Reed	Thomas and Andrea Wing
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Gerry Neipp	Gerald and Barbara Labriola	Susan Riley	Grace Wong

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Walt and Laura Yeager
Kurt Zemba and Cathy Frank
Darlene Ziobron

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David and Marie McFarlin
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Diane Hitchcock
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Jonathan Parsons
Bruce Pastuszak
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Laura Reid
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Nancy Renna
Daniel Peter Rex
Vincenza Richards
Nancy and Nicholas Robert
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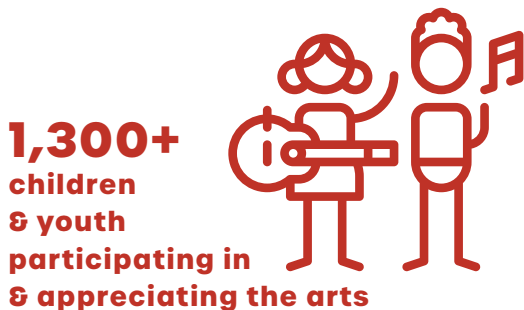
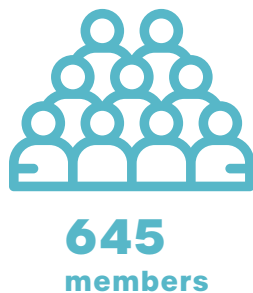
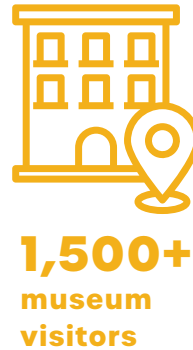
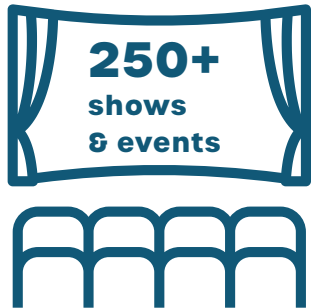
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BY THE NUMBERS

2018 / 2019



our audience

- 12%** Old Saybrook
- 44%** shoreline towns
- 34%** remainder of CT
- 10%** outside of CT

income \$2,710,900

- 53%** Kate program revenue
- 30%** memberships and contributions
- 9%** special events
- 6%** community partner programs
- 2%** other / investment income

expense \$2,542,133

- 68%** artist & production costs
- 16%** administrative & occupancy
- 8%** fundraising
- 6%** marketing
- 2%** legal & professional



Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center
300 Main Street
Old Saybrook, CT 06475
860-510-0473

THEKATE.ORG   

GRATITUDE REPORT 2018 / 2019

Humble Pie

November 20, 2018



Marc Cohn and the Blind Boys of Alabama

January 7, 2019



From *The Kate*, a Connecticut Public original series that is filmed in front of a live audience at the Kate. Now in its 5th season, *The Kate* is aired on more than 200 public television stations nationally. Featured performers include Marc Cohn and the Blind Boys of Alabama, Sheila E., John Oates and Rosanne Cash.