



PROJECT SPONSOR: Orphan Girl Children's Theatre

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ORGANIZATION BACKGROUND

Orphan Girl Children's Theatre – 10/24 Play Festival

OGCT Program History:

In the fall of 1997, Ann and Rose Busch, two sisters with a passion for the arts in education, created an endowment fund to renovate a theatre space specifically dedicated to producing theatre for the young artists of Butte. Now in our twenty first season, the need for youth theatre is just as relevant today as it was when the Busch sisters left this legacy. Orphan Girl Children's Theatre is currently a 501(c)(3) non-profit arts organization in Uptown Butte, Montana. The mission of our organization is to produce theatre that fosters creativity, educates and inspires young people and their community. Our vision is to engage and transform the community through the performing arts. Orphan Girl Children's Theatre values excellence, imagination and inclusion.

Orphan Girl Children's Theatre is an all-inclusive program geared towards young artists, ages 7 to 18. Our program also welcomes participants of all ages and abilities. With an emphasis on inclusion, any person who wishes to participate is welcome regardless of ability to pay. Currently, 54 percent of our students are on scholarship. With 25.8% of Butte residents living below the poverty line, we believe we have a duty to Butte to offer scholarships to those in need. Orphan Girl Children's Theatre never declines anyone based on the inability to pay and would like to continue to offer our programs to those with financial needs.

Orphan Girl Children's Theatre strives to enhance the culture of Butte and utilize art in four meaningful ways: Arts Exposure, Arts for Arts Sake, Arts Integration, and Arts Inclusion. As of this year, we offer several ways for young artists and community members to participate. We produce 6-8 shows per season, fulfilling our Arts Exposure and Arts for Arts Sake tenants of Arts Education. Additionally, we run an After-School Academy, where we offer classes, workshops and intensives such as Stage Management, Auditioning Skills, Acting, Scene Work, Light Design, Sound Design, and more. We engage in ongoing community outreach projects with Butte-Silver Bow Montessori, Butte Central High School, Imagine Butte Resource Center, the Root and Bloom Collective/Historic Clark

Chateau, Butte Center for the Performing Arts and other local organizations. This fulfills the Arts Integration aspect of Arts Education by using art to teach other subjects or skills that can lead to success in the work force.

A few of our other current programs include our Theatre Leadership group, which offers High School students a chance to step into leadership positions in our organization and volunteer with more responsibility. These volunteer hours are tracked and lead to letters of recommendation for colleges and scholarship programs. This group sets up our older young artists to be strong examples to our younger artists, who aspire to one day join their ranks. We have an incredible group of young leaders who not only lead by example, but also lend a guiding hand to less experienced youth who are more comfortable asking for help from a peer than an instructor. Our free Storybook Theatre program for pre-school aged children is a one-hour, interactive story and craft hour that is held one Saturday each month. As Storybook Theatre has evolved this year, our Theatre Leadership students have stepped in to run this program, making it a 360-degree learning experience for everyone involved. We also offer a two-week summer camp each June. Young artists have a chance to build their own show through writing, acting, directing or designing, from the ground up. In addition, classes are offered during camp in Theatre 101, Professional Theatre, Lights and Sound, Stage Management, Directing, Puppetry, Creative Movement and more.

As we strive to continue growing our organization, we are working towards expanding our Educational Outreach Program that we can take into the schools alongside workshops. In building this program, we look to our community to see what needs are not being addressed with our youth. Butte has a growing problem with suicide, and this problem is drastically impacting our youth. In our program alone, where we see only a percentage of Butte's youth, at least 4 young artists have attempted suicide and 10 others have expressed having those thoughts. These same students are the ones who come early to rehearsal and stay as late as possible. They have expressed to us that Orphan Girl Children's Theatre is the only place where they feel safe, where they can be themselves. As a result of this growing issue, we have met with a representative from Youth Dynamics to help us put an action plan in place for these students. She has worked with us on identifying these behaviors in young people and how to approach these delicate situations.

With this growing need in mind, we are creating our outreach program to include the subject of bullying for elementary aged students and teen suicide for middle school to high school aged students. Along with a short play about this rising issue, we will offer optional workshops to go along with it such as Forum Theatre, which gives participants a chance to change the outcome of the play after group discussions. We believe that theatre can truly change lives, which is why we strongly believe in Arts Inclusion as the undocumented "fourth tenant" of Arts Education. So many of our students, whether they be able-bodied, those with special needs or disabilities, or those with emotional insecurities can all come together, accept one another and create.

We monitor our success through participation data, parent conferences, and an annual survey, which is our most tangible measure of results. The approach for collecting this data has evolved over the last year from paper surveys to an online google doc format, in order to ensure anonymity of our young artists. This gives them an open medium to answer honestly and in a candid manner without risk of judgement. In our survey from last year, we found that comprehension of our first-tier learning objectives was met by an average of 78%. For example, 81% of young artists were able to accurately define articulation as well as 94% said doing theatre made them more confident.

For our second-tier learning objectives, 76% gave examples of skill mastery. Most notably, 94% of young artists said that their reading and understanding has increased as a result of doing live theatre. Additionally, 94% of young artists said they learned something valuable about theatre, including “how to run lights,” “how to be themselves,” and “how to accept everyone.” One measurable outcome we hear from parents in our conferences, is an increase in literacy skills. Parents often let us know that the work their child is doing in our program is leading to higher grades in the classroom as well as increased levels of participation in other activities.

As a result of our program offerings, we have seen an increase in our community reach over the last year by 40 percent to 3,937 (which is based on student involvement, volunteer involvement, outreach initiatives and ticket sales) and increased our students served by 27 percent to 1,099 served (which is based on students in our programs, youth outreach programming and classes). We are rapidly growing, with more young artists and community members involved than ever.

Orphan Girl Children’s Theatre plans on using the funds from the SARTA Grant to expand our 24 Hour Play Festival, 10/24. The costs for this festival include securing artists to participate, any rights and royalties for performance, supplemental festival staff, printing scripts, marketing, and the creation of sets and costumes. We are currently entering our third year of producing 10/24 where playwrights draw playwriting challenges out of hat and stay at the theatre overnight to write 5 to 10-minute plays based on their drawn topic. The next morning, Directors and Actors arrive, receive their plays and have 8 hours to rehearse. At 7pm, the shows are performed. Participation includes community members ages 7 and up, as well as theatre enthusiasts from surrounding communities. This project is important to our community to help foster new works of art in Butte, welcome other Montana Artists to our community, and offer a different perspective of what theatre looks like in bigger cities where festivals like this are commonplace.

OGCT Board and Staff for 10/24 Play Festival:

Our full-time staff is comprised of Artistic Director, Jackie Freeman and Educational Director, Elizabeth Crase. There is also an annually rotating internship, currently filled by Kaylee Kent, in her Senior Year. Salaries are covered by a combination of private donations, program fees, grants and fundraisers, and are not included in our proposal for this project. As in past years, Jackie Freeman will serve as 10/24 Festival Director and Elizabeth Crase as Playwriting Coordinator and Technical Advisor.

All duties not covered by staff are taken on by our volunteer Board of Directors and community volunteers. The OGCT Board of Directors includes President Arnold Osmun – Fuel Construction Manager for Town Pump, Vice President Cassandra Weber – Butte Community Council Coordinator (local coordinator for the Montana 0-5 Strategic Initiative), Treasurer Craig Tippet – CPA/Shareholder for Newland and Company, Secretary Amber Moore – Stay at Home Mom (board secretary for Action, Inc), Development Director Mariya Peck – Office Manager for BSB Montessori, and members at large Steve McGee, Sue Mayer, Carly Sanon, Erin Angove, Teresa Kent, and Janel Morgan. We are anticipating full Board participation for this event, covering a wide range of duties from marketing, providing meal support for our guest artists, set-up, ticketing, location chaperoning, errands, set load-in and load-out, clean up and beyond. Orphan Girl Children’s Theatre also has anywhere from 50 to 70+ community volunteers and anticipate a large volunteer turn-out for 10/24.

EVENT SUMMARY

After drawing suggestions out of a hat and writing for 12 hours, 10 directors will be handed new plays to cast, direct and produce in the following 12 hours. These 10 short plays will premiere at the Covellite Theatre just 24 hours after their inception. This type of “extreme artist challenge” shows us what creative genius looks like under pressure. To expand our festival reach this year, we are adding free community theatre workshops the Sunday after the performances. These workshops will be led by guest artists from outside other communities and markets in an effort to enrich our cultural diversity.

10/24’s contribution to Butte’s economy and long-term redevelopment of the community:

Inspired by knowing Butte as Montana’s Festival City, Orphan Girl Children’s Theatre wanted to bring new art and artists to Butte with a festival dedicated to theatre. The goal of 10/24 is to enrich the artistry of Butte with new plays, while bringing artists and patrons to Butte from all over Montana. The Arts and Culture enrichment of Butte is ever-growing. In the same way that An-Ri-Ra and the Folk Festival celebrate music and dance, we hope to grow 10/24 to the point that the “24-Hour Play” itself is just a portion of a larger theatre festival with performances that offer a little something for everyone.

The economic impact of theatre arts on the community of Butte and Southwest Montana, including our local young artists is invaluable. The measurable impact comes from the increase of artists and patrons in Butte as they visit local restaurants, bars and hotels on the weekend of the festival. In our first year, the 10/24 Play Festival had 45 participants, 13 volunteers and 100 patrons, with participants and patrons from Anaconda, Butte and Virginia City. Last year our numbers increased to 60 participants, 18 volunteers and 125 patrons. We were also able to expand the scope of our out-of-town participants to Cardwell, Whitehall, Ramsay, Deer Lodge, Phillipsburg, Dillon, and Helena in addition to retaining participants from Butte, Anaconda and Virginia City. At the conclusion of last year’s festival, we sent a survey with the following questions and received these responses:

1 – During the festival, did you stay in a hotel or other accommodations in Uptown Butte? 8% of participants stayed in Butte from out-of-town (one response specified the Copper King Hotel).

2 – During the festival, did you eat anywhere or get coffee in Uptown Butte? 42% visited Uptown Businesses such as Gamers, Headframe Spirits, Hummingbird Café, Jimmy John’s, Metals Bank, Oro Fino, Taco del Sol, Broadway Café, the Hungry Squirrel, Venus Rising, Fred’s Mesquite Grill and other downtown businesses.

3 – If there was a free workshop event on the Sunday after the festival, do you think this would enhance the experience of 10/24? 52% said yes, 36% said it would depend on the type of workshop that was offered.

This year, invitations will also go to theatre companies around Montana, as well as press releases in Anaconda, Bozeman, Butte, Deer Lodge, Helena, Missoula, Polson, Virginia City, Whitehall and Whitefish. Local schools will also get notification of how to participate via a flyer distribution. We are hopeful that with the funds from the SARTA Grant, we can continue to grow 10/24 participation, expand our audience and share this innovative style with the community of Butte.

10/24's promotion of Butte and it's cultural history and resources:

The process of creating ten original short plays over such a short timeline, requires the use of many locations. In our last two years, we have used the Orphan Girl Theatre, the Butte-Silver Bow Public Library, and the Covellite Theatre. This year, we plan to continue the use of these venues as well as expanding to include the Mother Lode Theatre and The Historic Clark Chateau. The performance is annually held in the Covellite Theatre.

The ability for our Young Artists to step outside of the Orphan Girl Theatre and work in these historic locations creates an appreciation for Butte's history, culture, and for other arts organizations in Butte. The differences between the Orphan Girl Stage and the Covellite Theatre Stage presents incredible learning opportunities for our young artists. The ability to adapt between rehearsal space and performance space, the differences in acoustics requires advancing their projection skills, and the larger house size creates an opportunity for a wider audience. Working on different stages creates a type of adaptability that also transfers into other areas of life.

The cultural impact on our young artists extends beyond what they will learn through exposure to this style of theatre. As our audiences and young artists grow and become leaders in the Butte community, they will be more likely to contribute in a meaningful way through their individual artistic talents, as future patrons of the arts in Butte, and as creative leaders in any career field. Theatre Arts expose us to a diversity of age, culture, life experience, and create a forum for communication on common ground.

Performing our 10/24 Festival at the Covellite Theatre also presents an opportunity to bring theatre patrons to this beautifully restored space and drive their exposure. We love the adaptability – from concerts, to live radio, to theatre – the Covellite is incredibly versatile and we want our patrons to love it as much as we do.

Allocation of Funds for 10/24:

The last two years of 10/24 were funded fully by in kind donations and OGCT's operational budget. Our intentions for use of the SARTA dollars are three-fold. First, we hope to compensate some of our local artists and vendors who have committed to us this year and have contributed to the festival in the past through donations and/or volunteerism. The ability to pay them for their services allows us to thank them for their support and helps sustain their businesses. We would also include other local businesses such as Montana Pro Audio, where in the past we have relied solely on our own limited sound and technology. Second, we hope to expand the scope of our festival by allocating funds to bringing in guest artists for our new workshop portion of the festival. Finally, we plan to expand our marketing efforts across the state of Montana to draw a larger audience. These improvements will allow us to accommodate more participation and patronage which will in turn drive the economy of Butte.

Creating self-sustainability in the long term:

We truly believe our 10/24 Play Festival has the potential to grow each year to the point that we will be producing a multi-faceted theatrical event. Now in our third year of producing this festival, we believe that SARTA dollars could help us expand in meaningful ways. While we certainly saw an increase in participation and attendance last year and we are hopeful that the expansion of our marketing will boost visibility and can help us to grow our attendance even more. Based on past feedback, participants and patrons find the innovative style of 10/24 to have a unique draw. Once people participate, they are much more likely to return to participate again and again. We are confident that the expansions SARTA will allow us to make will boost our visibility as an organization, setting us up for success in future years.

Budget and duration:

The festival will be May 10-12, 2019 but the marketing and Outreach portion has already started. The season was announced in June of 2018 and as of July 2018 is on Facebook, the Butte Community Calendar and the Lively Times. Our playwriting class the week of December 17 – 20 is dedicated to teaching the art of writing a short play in preparation for this festival, we believe mentorship in every step of this process presents a unique opportunity for our young artists to learn and grow. The skills they learn through this process will contribute to their success as future leaders.

The Covellite Theatre is already reserved for the Performances on May 12. In January, we will revisit with Covellite facilitators to follow up on event details. Writing, workshop and rehearsal spaces have already been booked for May 10-12 and include the Historic Clark Chateau, the Butte-Silver Bow Public Library, the Mother Lode Theatre, Orphan Girl Theatre and the Covellite Theatre.

In January, we will officially send out invitations to Artists, Theatres and Universities. January and February we will secure guest artists for the workshop portion of the festival and we will begin to gather workshop materials needed.

In April, all press releases, print marketing and ad materials will go out. There will also be an informal meeting in late April for participants and volunteers to gather information and sign up.

The weekend of May 4 there will be a Volunteer Meeting where duties will be assigned. During the week leading up to the festival we will assemble sets, props and costumes. May 10, the festival begins with an informational meeting and participants and volunteers split into their groups to write, rehearse and then perform. Sunday after the workshops, facilities are cleaned by our volunteer staff and all facility keys are returned.

	SARTA	IN KIND/OGCT
	Staff Costs	
Stage Manager	\$200.00	\$ 200.00
Assistant Stage Manager	\$200.00	\$200.00
Tech Crew	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Photographer	\$0.00	-
Total	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00
	Production Costs	

Rights/Royalites	\$0.00	\$100.00
Scripts	\$0.00	\$200.00
Video License	\$0.00	\$0.00
Props	\$0.00	\$100.00
Costumes	\$0.00	\$250.00
Set	\$0.00	\$300.00
Lighting	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sound	\$0.00	\$75.00
Venue Fee	\$1,200.00	\$0.00
Marketing/Printing	\$500.00	\$500.00
Ticket Fees (Vendini)	\$300.00	\$400.00
Credit Card Fees	\$200.00	\$200.00
Food	\$0.00	\$200.00
Misc	\$0.00	\$150.00
Total	\$2,200.00	\$ 2,475.00
Workshop Costs		
Guest Artists	\$800.00	\$800.00
Workshop Materials	\$100.00	\$150.00
Total	\$900.00	\$950.00
	SARTA \$4500.00	IN KIND/OGCT \$4825.00

Partners and roles: Our biggest partner in this endeavor is the Covellite Theatre, who has made it their mission to bring theatre and art into their amazing space. We have selected that space not only for its beauty and convenient Uptown location, but because we believe in their mission and want to support their business with our venue fees. As another way to increase participation from out of town artists, OGCT is looking to partner with a local hotel for discounted rooms in exchange for a high volume of bookings and free marketing. OGCT will also reach out to a few local restaurants that can serve as sponsors for the event by way of giving coupons in order to drive sales at their establishment during the festival. We strive to make our partnerships as beneficial as possible for all parties and to drive the local economy through the duration of this now annual event.