

## A Letter from the Executive Director

On behalf of Mount Baker Theatre's Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers, I am proud to share with you our annual report.

We began our 2022-23 fiscal year with a clear-eyed budget predicting a significant, but tolerable, operating loss with exciting plans for growing our programming, improving our service, and beating the budget.

An important area of growth has been the increased use of our Harold and Irene Walton Theatre. We collaborated with BAAY's State Street Theatre Company to give their senior high school students the opportunity to present *Spring Awakening* in summer 2022 and *Cabaret* this summer.

The second season of our popular Lookout Sessions had twice as many performances with several sellout shows. We also launched our Out of the Box Theatrical Series which included theatrical performances with intimate, black box-style seating.

Our 2nd annual wedding show (coming again this January) utilized the entire building, had a waitlist of vendors and double the attendance of 2022, and resulted in a large wedding being booked at MBT in summer 2023. We also welcomed many public and private rental events from a variety of Whatcom County businesses and nonprofits.

MBT partnered with Lean Revisions to improve the patron experience, specifically regarding concessions. Thanks to the hard work of our staff and the Lean Revisions team, we are proud to announce we have improved our concessions average service time to 1 minute and 10 seconds per order! Improving our customer service has enabled us to increase net revenue with our same pre-pandemic prices. We also added new equipment including a faster point of sale system and doubled the number of bars with a better layout. We will continue to make more improvements to further enhance the patron experience at MBT.

Of course, our core operation is our Main Stage programming. The community's response to our expanding roster of shows has been phenomenal. We welcomed over 20,000 more people in 2022-23 compared to 2021-22, and this year we are on track to reach pre-pandemic attendance numbers!

Thanks to the tremendous support from across our region and the hard work of our Board, volunteers, and staff, we ended the year \$156,000 better than we budgeted! Although we still had an operating loss of \$242,000, it primarily consisted of depreciation (a \$125,000 non-cash expense) and a \$93,000 planned transfer to our capital fund. If those are factored out, our net loss was only \$24,000. What an amazing achievement!

As we look ahead, our future is bright at MBT. We started the 2023-24 fiscal year with a record-breaking sales day for our season launch, and we have curated an incredible array of programming with something for everyone to enjoy. We look forward to sharing our continued successes from the 2023-24 fiscal year. Until then, we'll see you at the theatre.



With Gratitude,

*John R. Purdie II*

John R. Purdie II

Executive Director



# 2022 - 2023 Annual Report



**116**

Ticketed Events

**90**

"Rent-free" Events  
for 30 local non-profits

**29**

MBT Main Stage Series

**7**

MBT Wade Bennett King Education Series

**19**

MBT Lookout Sessions Series in Walton Theatre (9 more than last year)

**5**

MBT Out of the Box Series in Walton Theatre (New series!)

**7**

BSO Concerts

**36**

Main Stage rental events

**13**

Walton Theatre rental events

**76,446**

Tickets issued (up 42%)



**53%**

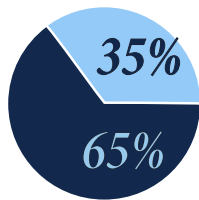
New patrons to MBT



**12%**

Patrons live 50+ miles away

**\$3,496,000**  
Revenue



Contributions  
Sales/other income

—

**\$3,613,000**  
Expenses

before depreciation

=

**-\$117,000**  
Operating Net\*

included a \$93,000 planned transfer to MBT's Capital Fund

MBT received financial support from **2,143** households, businesses, and granting agencies.

**474** more than last year! **1,300** were new supporters.

**94** volunteers donated a total of **4,208** hours of their time.

MBT supported **63** non-profits with **\$6,710** of donated tickets for their use in fundraising.

\*Unaudited