



2024-2025

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

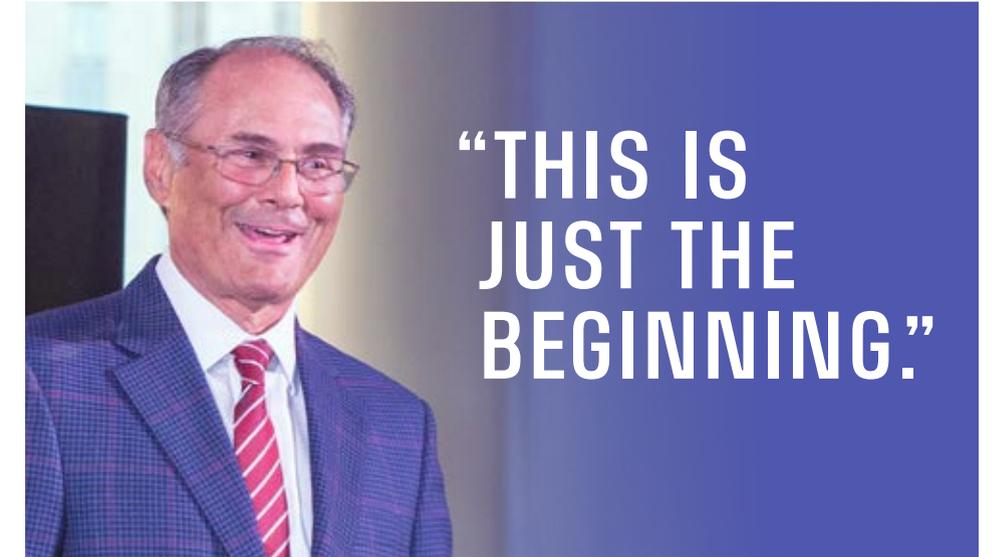


Photo by Annie Mulligan



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“THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING.”

Dear Hobby Center Community,

Four years ago, I stepped into the role of Board Chair with great admiration for the Hobby Center’s Broadway legacy and an even greater sense of possibility for how this institution could grow. Today, I am proud to see that vision taking shape in ways I could not have imagined.

What excites me most is that this is just the beginning. With strong leadership and a community of supporters who believe deeply in our mission, the Hobby Center is poised to do even more in the years ahead—to connect, to convene, and to inspire.

We’ve expanded what’s possible on this campus, from creating the Founders Club cabaret series that’s redefined intimacy in live performance, to launching initiatives like **Houston Is Inspired** that lift up the voices of local artists. We’ve celebrated the 56th season for our principal resident company, Theatre Under The Stars. We’ve welcomed thousands of students to experience theater for the first time and built partnerships that strengthen Houston’s performing arts ecosystem as a whole. Each of these changes speaks to the Hobby Center’s evolution into a place where all of Houston can see themselves reflected on stage.

With appreciation,

Rob Doty
Chair, Board of Directors
2021–2025

2024-2025 SEASON

405
TOTAL PERFORMANCES

478,705
TOTAL AUDIENCES

Photo by Annie Mulligan

“ THIS PAST SEASON HAS BEEN ONE OF GROWTH, INNOVATION, AND DEEPER ENGAGEMENT WITH OUR COMMUNITY.”



Dear Friends,

At the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, we believe in the transformative power of live performance, not just to entertain, but to inspire connection and create a sense of belonging. As Houston’s home for Broadway and a hub for local artists, we strive every day to ensure our creative space reflects and serves the vibrant, diverse city around us.

This past season has been one of growth, innovation, and deeper engagement with our community. From welcoming record-breaking Broadway audiences in Sarofim Hall, to re-imagining spaces like the Founders Club into an intimate performance venue, to bringing nearly 20,000 fifth graders through our doors for the **ExxonMobil Discovery Series**, every milestone has been driven by our vision to make the arts more accessible and inclusive.

We also launched initiatives that amplify local voices, like **Houston Is Inspired**, and new partnerships with Houston-based arts organizations. These programs aren’t

just performances, they’re opportunities to nurture the next generation of artists, audiences, and advocates for the arts.

Looking forward, we are committed to building on this momentum. With your support, we’ll continue creating meaningful experiences that bring Houstonians together and make our stages a reflection of the city we call home.

Thank you for walking alongside us on this journey. Together, we’re shaping a brighter, more connected future for the arts in Houston.

With gratitude,

Mark Folkes
President & CEO

A NEW ETHOS

In August 2022, following a national search, the Hobby Center Board of Directors welcomed seasoned nonprofit arts executive Mark Folkes as the new President and CEO. Galvanized by this transition and the rapidly shifting post-COVID arts landscape, the Hobby Center launched a visionary strategic planning process to reimagine its identity, operating model, and role in Houston's arts ecosystem. Building on a foundation of Broadway success, strong leadership, and sound financial stewardship, the organization is expanding its artistic and education programs and deepening connections across Houston.



MISSION

The Hobby Center for the Performing Arts deepens understanding of our shared humanity. We serve as a **CONNECTOR**, **CONVENOR** and **INCUBATOR** for all Houston audiences, artmakers and arts organizations. By presenting engaging performances and educational programs, we strengthen our sense of belonging to shape a more cohesive and connected Houston community.

VISION

The Hobby Center is the central hub for artists and audiences in Houston and is the driving force in the performing arts ecosystem. Building on a legacy of presenting the best of Broadway, the Hobby Center reflects the diversity of our city through a wide range of exceptional artistic and educational programming on and off stage. Compelling artists from Houston and around the globe engage audiences through dynamic and innovative artmaking and storytelling.

VALUES

- TENACITY
- RESPECT
- INCLUSION
- GRATITUDE
- EXPLORATION

With a celebrated Broadway legacy and an opportunity to do even more for Houston's creative community, the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts began a comprehensive strategic planning process during the 2022–2023 Season.

“As I listened to artists, audiences, educators, and partners across the city, one thing became clear,” President & CEO Mark Folkes recalls. “The Hobby Center was deeply valued as a presenter, but people imagined it as something bigger too: a place that celebrates Houston's diversity, nurtures new ideas, and helps shape the city's cultural future.”

Those conversations sparked a bold reimagining. In 2023, the Hobby Center unveiled a strategic plan designed to move beyond words on a page, a plan built to inspire action, connection, and measurable impact. Staff and Board members worked together to transform that vision into a highly detailed framework, ensuring the Hobby Center could evolve alongside Houston's dynamic arts landscape.

Two years into that plan, audiences and artists are already seeing the difference: the launch of an intimate performance

series in the Founders Club; Broadway stars showcased in the new **Beyond Broadway** concert series; Zilkha Hall technology upgrades empowering local arts groups to stage their most ambitious work; dynamic digital signage onsite enhancing the patron experience; a new signature annual fundraiser fueling bold new education and accessibility initiatives, and much more.

**“EVERY DAY,
WE’RE REMINDED
THAT THIS ISN’T
JUST ABOUT OUR
STAGES, IT’S
ABOUT SERVING
OUR CITY.”**

—Mark Folkes
President & CEO

GOALS

The 2024–2025 Season marked the second year of the Hobby Center's new strategic plan and we are on track to achieve our ambitious goals. Many of the programs and initiatives highlighted in this report have grown out of the strategies and tactics articulated in the plan to help bring these four key goals to life.

1.

EXPAND ARTISTIC PROGRAMMING



2.

DEEPEN EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES



3.

STRENGTHEN HOUSTON'S PERFORMING ARTS ECOSYSTEM



4.

DEVELOP AND SUSTAIN INFRASTRUCTURE



MEMORIAL HERMANN
BROADWAY
 AT THE HOBBY CENTER™



The ensemble of *The Wiz* in Emerald City in the North American Tour of *THE WIZ*. Photo by Jeremy Daniel

“Seeing *The Wiz* made it clear to us that even if you’re going through tough uncertain times, like Dorothy in the city, believing in yourself really matters,” said longtime subscribers and donors Debbie and Gene Straka. “We also find a sense of home and family with people we meet along our journey, even if they begin as strangers.”

Houston’s audiences have earned a reputation for their enthusiasm and support, making the Hobby Center a key stop for touring productions. When shows thrive here, it can propel them to audiences across the country. This season, *The Wiz* became a defining moment, breaking records for sales and attendance for comparable venues across the country.

The 2024–2025 series brought iconic productions like *Peter Pan*, *Shucked*, & *Juliet*, *Hamilton*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Parade*, and *Life of Pi* to Houston. But beyond dazzling performances, the Hobby Center made Broadway more accessible than ever. Throughout the season productions featured special opportunities for connection, artist talkbacks, masterclasses with cast members, and tactile tours for blind and low vision patrons, ensuring the magic extended beyond the stage.

“ AS SUBSCRIBERS AND DONORS, WE ENJOY THE THRILL OF SEEING STORIES AND MUSIC COME ALIVE ON STAGE, PERFORMED BY TALENTED ACTORS THROUGHOUT THE BROADWAY SERIES SEASON.”

—Debbie and Gene Straka

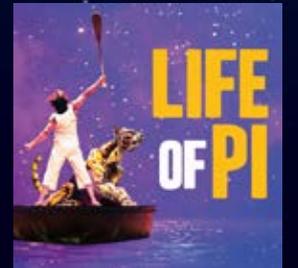
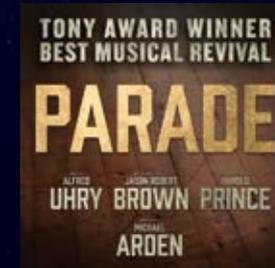
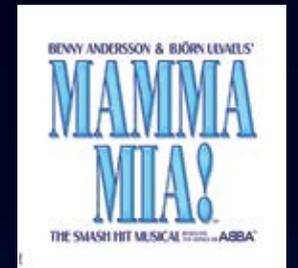
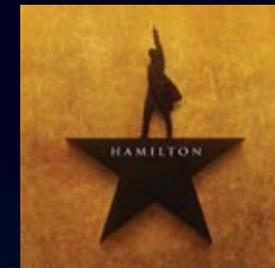
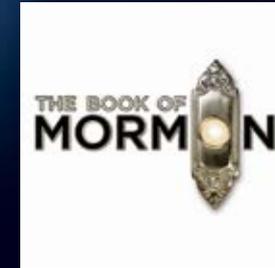
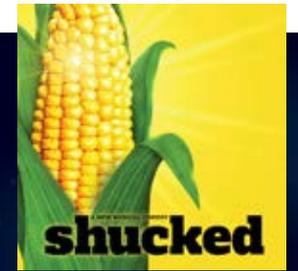
2024–2025 SEASON



218,796
 AUDIENCE MEMBERS



94%
 SEAT CAPACITY



ARTS PARTNERS

2024–2025 Participating Organizations

Apollo Chamber Players

Ars Lyrica Houston

DACAMERA of Houston

Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Houston

Houston Contemporary Dance Company

Houston Latin American Philharmonic

Houston Show Choir

Indo-American Association

Jazz Houston

Musiqqa

NobleMotion Dance

Performing Arts Houston

Texas Medical Center Orchestra

Urban Souls Dance Company

Virtuosi of Houston

The **Hobby Center Arts Partners** program is designed to nurture and amplify local companies by augmenting the traditional venue rental experience. To earn this distinction, non-profit arts organizations commit to present at the Hobby Center annually. Through this tenured commitment the Arts Partners gain access to invaluable resources: box office and marketing support, preferred dates, front-of-house operations, technical and production assistance, and community engagement services.

Most Arts Partner performances take place in Zilkha Hall, which recently received technical upgrades to support expansive artistic vision. This program aligns with the Hobby Center’s mission and strategic goal of strengthening Houston’s performing arts ecosystem, ensuring these vibrant, diverse voices continue to flourish and resonate across our city.

“Our organization had long dreamed of being able to perform at the Hobby Center, and that dream came true in June 2023 when we contracted to mount our 90th anniversary concert in Zilkha Hall. From initial meetings to tech rehearsal to the show itself to packing up and moving out, working with the administrative staff and the entire backstage crew was natural, effortless, and enjoyable. Their commitment to customer service and production excellence aligns perfectly with our organization’s vision, mission, and values. This past June, we once again performed our spring concert in Zilkha. Thanks to our deepened relationships as a result of becoming an Arts Partner, the experience from beginning to end was even better than in 2023. We proudly refer to the Hobby Center as our “spring home”.”

—**Mark Calima and Van English,**
Executive Directors, Houston Show Choir



Ars Lyrica Houston, *Theodora*, Photographer Lynn Lane



Photo provided by Houston Show Choir

Photo provided by Houston Contemporary Dance Company

EXPANDED ARTISTIC PROGRAMMING

In 2023 the Hobby Center embarked on a venture to expand artistic programming, stepping into a new realm of actively curating varied and vibrant arts and entertainment experiences for Houston audiences.

In 2024–2025, this artistic expansion progressed, offering audiences diverse performances like *Dragons & Mystical Beasts*, *All Things Equal: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg*, and *Forbidden Broadway*. “The Hobby Center is known in Houston as the premiere venue for the top national Broadway tours right out of New York. However, there is so much more art touring on the road and in the community to bring to our stages,” says Elizabeth Constant, Hobby Center Programming and Events Manager. “We selectively curate new titles to complement the other live performances Houstonians can see in the city.”

“We hope to expand and diversify our programming, surprising audiences with the variety of shows we present and the incredible artists they can encounter across our campus. Whether you’re a regular or visiting for the first time, there’s always something new and inspiring waiting for you.” adds Deborah Lugo, Hobby Center Vice President of Programming and Education.



Losers Cirque, Photographer Tomáš Prazák



Dragons & Mystical Beasts, Photographer Robert Day



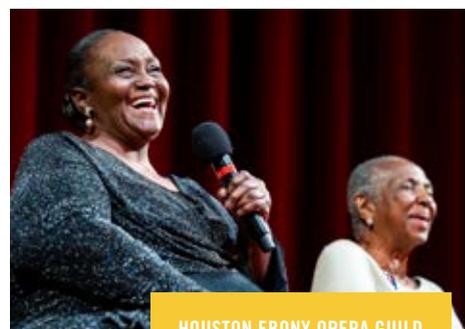
Photo courtesy of Bay Street Theater



ANA MARÍA MARTÍNEZ
WITH ANDY EINHORN



FLY DANCE COMPANY



HOUSTON EBONY OPERA GUILD

HOUSTON IS INSPIRED

2024-2025
Season Artists

FLY Dance Company
Houston Ebony Opera Guild
Ana María Martínez with Andy Einhorn

The Hobby Center's **Houston Is Inspired** Zilkha Hall residency program was created to amplify Houston artists and arts organizations by giving them the space and resources to dream bigger. This new initiative provides selected artists with more than just stage time; they receive full technical and production support as well as access to the Hobby Center's complete infrastructure, including marketing, development, communications, and operations teams.

For the Houston Ebony Opera Guild, the residency became a deeply meaningful homecoming. As the first group to perform on Sarofim Hall's stage when it opened in 2002, their return to Zilkha Hall for their 40th anniversary performance felt like a milestone achievement.

“THIS IS WHAT DREAMS ARE MADE OF.”

—Jorge Casco, FLY Dance Company, Executive Director

“I want to take a moment to personally express my deepest gratitude for the incredible support you provided during our inclusion in the Houston Is Inspired initiative,” shared Artistic Director Dr. Jason Oby. “As one of the final events in my Houston Ebony Opera Guild career, I couldn't have asked for a more meaningful and gratifying way to close this chapter.” Houston Ebony Opera Guild Board leader Connie Howard echoed his sentiments: “One of the most rewarding experiences ever! This formidable team took my hand, stayed by my side and kept me on course with what was needed. Warmth and professional courtesies are things I will remember from this team.”

Through Houston Is Inspired, the Hobby Center is investing in Houston's creative future, ensuring local voices continue to inspire audiences for years to come.

Photo Credit Left to Right: Lynn Lane, Lynn Lane, Annie Mulligan

“It's an opportunity for me as an artist and as a creative and as a human being to share a little bit more about myself creatively. I do material from shows that I've done in the past, but then I also get the opportunity to sing songs that I love and explore other things. Hopefully, the audiences will leave getting to know me a little bit better as a person.” – Sutton Foster



2024-2025
Season Artists
Cheyenne Jackson
Adrienne Warren
Sutton Foster

Series Sponsors
Admiral Transfer and Rigging
Ken Bohan and Dean O'Kelley
Amy Cope-Gibbs and Jon Gibbs

BEYOND BROADWAY

Beyond Broadway offers a unique opportunity for internationally renowned Broadway artists to more closely connect with audiences, sharing their real-life creativity, personality and artistic genius. The series launched in 2023-2024 with Renée Elise Goldsberry, Alan Cumming, Patti LuPone, and the Barricade Boys. The 2024-2025 Season lineup featured powerhouse performances by Cheyenne Jackson, Adrienne Warren, and Sutton Foster. These one-night-only events aren't just concerts; they're conversations, laughter, and moments of surprise that move artists and audiences alike with their deep sense of connection.

“The Beyond Broadway series is checking so many theater icons off my must-see bucket list! This series is attracting major star power to Houston, demonstrating our city has avid Broadway and theater fans that can sell out 2,600+ seat halls.”

– Kate Dearing Fowler,
Board Member



Dean O'Kelley, Ken Bohan, Cheyenne Jackson, C.C. Ensell, Duke Ensell, Amy Cope-Gibbs, Jon Gibbs. Photos by Annie Mulligan.

LIVE AT THE FOUNDERS CLUB

Presenting Sponsor **ExxonMobil**

In 2023, reflecting on the desire to shape an expanded identity for the Hobby Center that is rooted in artistic creation and strengthening of the arts landscape in Houston, we began to consider the possibility of a third performance venue—one completely different from the traditional proscenium theaters of Sarofim Hall and Zilkha Hall. And so, **Live at the Founders Club** was born.

This unique series transforms an underutilized event space into an intimate, nightclub-style lounge featuring a style of event not frequently found in Houston. Highlighting both Houston-based artists and touring talent, the series encompasses jazz, world music, the Broadway songbook, and more. Live at the Founders Club offers food and beverage service, a full bar, and a casual yet elegant environment for community connection. With less than 150 seats, every night feels like a private concert—made even more special by a stunning view of Houston’s skyline.

“ We love that many of the performers are local or grew up here and went on to great success elsewhere—it’s so much fun to see such a great mix of hometown talent and nationally and internationally known performers.

THIS IS THE KIND OF PROGRAMMING THAT IS UNDER-REPRESENTED IN THIS CITY AND WE’RE SO GLAD THE HOBBY CENTER RECOGNIZES THAT.”

—Jane and Dick Schmitt,
Live at the Founders Club Performance Underwriters



2024–2025 Season Artists

Raquel Cepeda & Marvio Ciribelli
Camille Thurman & Darrell Green
Presented in partnership with Jazz Houston
Katie Rose Clarke & Steven Jamail
Teresa Zimmerman
Ben Hope & Katie Barton Hope
Sally Mayes
Storm Large
Luciane Dom
DeQuina Moore

“ Having the opportunity to contribute to the creation of the Founders Club at the Hobby Center has been

AN IMMENSELY REWARDING EXPERIENCE.

This series not only showcases world-class talent but also celebrates Houston’s rich diversity of cultures in a unique setting.”

—Ken Kades, Board Member and Facilities Committee Chair

Photos by Annie Mulligan

EXXONMOBIL DISCOVERY SERIES

When Anderson Elementary Principal Kristin Falcon walked into the Hobby Center with her fifth graders, she wasn't sure what to expect.

"Before we attended the show, only about half my students knew about *The Wizard of Oz*, and none of them had ever seen a live stage production of this classic story," she shared. "Since then, several have checked out the book from our library, and many made connections between *The Wizard of Oz* and the new movie version of *Wicked*. Experiences like this improve literacy and cultural competency in our children."

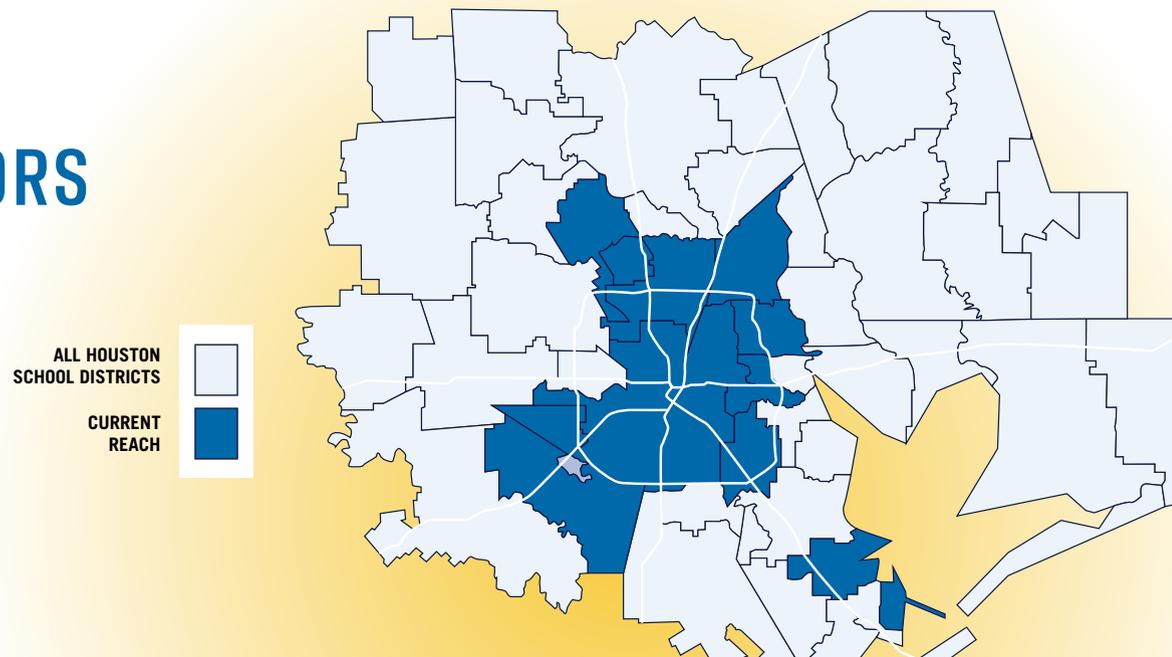
The **ExxonMobil Discovery Series** is the Hobby Center's cornerstone education program, giving thousands of Houston-area fifth-graders their first live arts experience through performances offered **completely free of charge to schools, including bus transportation**. Created specifically for

this pivotal age, when curiosity is high and connections are forming, the program partners with Houston and touring artists to bring dynamic performances to the stage. Each production is paired with TEKS-aligned curriculum guides, helping teachers prepare students for the experience and extend learning beyond the theater, bringing lessons to life in their classrooms.

This season, the series grew to welcome nearly 20,000 students and teachers from nine districts, with plans to reach 40,000 students next season, and a long-term goal of reaching 90,000 annually. By partnering with local artists, the program not only inspires students but also expands the reach of Houston's creative community.

"The ExxonMobil Discovery Series welcomes fifth graders to the unforgettable world of live performing arts. Through powerful performances and meaningful interactions with artists, students are not only entertained—they're inspired. I'm deeply moved seeing our fifth-grade audiences engage with the magic of a live performance. In the Q & A portion, students often ask "how did you get into this?" Our artists help these students imagine a role for themselves in the performing arts—whether as a performer, technician, administrator, or passionate audience member, the seed is planted", says Ange Finn, Board Member and Chair of the Education and Engagement Committee.

18,976 STUDENTS & EDUCATORS SERVED



2024–2025 Season

School Districts

- Aldine ISD
- Alief ISD
- Dickinson ISD
- Houston ISD
- Pasadena ISD
- Sheldon ISD
- Spring ISD
- YES Prep Public Schools

Arts Organizations

- Ars Lyrica Houston
- DACAMERA of Houston
- Ensemble Theatre
- FLY Dance Company
- Houston Contemporary Dance Company
- Musiqqa
- Open Dance Project
- ShaWanna Renee Rivion
- TAIKOPROJECT
- Urban Souls Dance Company

Photos by Lynn Lane

HAMILTON PROJECT

28
HIGH SCHOOLS

2,200
STUDENTS

10
DISTRICTS

\$308,996
UNDERWRITING
DOLLARS RAISED

When *Hamilton* was scheduled to tour Houston, Hobby Center donor Tom Elsenbrook saw an opportunity to create something extraordinary. Inspired by the show's powerful connection between history, art, and civic engagement, Elsenbrook rallied the community to fund a program that combined Broadway with education.

Through his leadership, donors came together to support **The Hamilton Project**, making it possible for more than 2,200 students from nearly 30 Houston-area Title I high schools to attend a FREE performance of *Hamilton*. A curriculum specialist and a diverse steering committee designed classroom curriculum and creative projects to prepare students before they entered the theater. Over several months, 65 teachers across 10 school districts implemented classroom curriculum with support from the Hobby Center, earning TEA-approved professional development hours as they led students through 10 TEKS-aligned lessons. The

curriculum guided a final project where students selected an event from the Founding Era and re-told it in their own words through an artistic lens, deepening their civic knowledge and amplifying their unique voices before attending the live performance. This ambitious effort was supported by over 40 donors and partners, united behind Elsenbrook's vision to make *Hamilton* accessible to students who might never otherwise set foot in a theater.

"The students' enthusiasm was incredible... This may have the best audience for any *Hamilton* production," Elsenbrook reflected. "The students made Houston proud."

Even the cast felt the energy in the room. "I love student groups! It re-energizes the cast. This group of students in particular had a maturity that other student groups maybe haven't had. It was impressive to see how they stayed engaged through the entire performance," shared Marja Harmon, who plays Angelica Schuyler.



Photos by Jacob Power



Photos by Jacob Power



Hamilton Project Chair, Tom Elsenbrook



Kimberly Cutchall, Matt Henneman, Judge Caroline Dozier, Houston City Council Member Julian Ramirez

"THIS EXPERIENCE MADE ME FEEL LIKE MY VOICE MATTERS. I USED TO THINK POLITICS WAS BORING AND NOT FOR PEOPLE LIKE ME. NOW I WANT TO WRITE ABOUT HISTORY AND USE MY ART TO TALK ABOUT THINGS I CARE ABOUT."

—Ariana L., Wheatley High School Student



Steven and Jennifer David



Lisa Helfman and Lee Haverman

VOLUNTEERS AND ACCESSIBILITY

375
AVERAGE MONTHLY
VOLUNTEERS

424
SHOWS & EVENTS

41,768
APPROXIMATE
VOLUNTEER HOURS

40
ACCESS TEAM
VOLUNTEERS

At the Hobby Center, accessibility is woven into every performance. Open Captioning, Audio Description, Braille & large print programs and American Sign Language interpretation are offered for every Broadway production, ensuring all audiences can experience the magic of live theater. Since 2015, the Hobby Center's **Access Team** has set a high standard for inclusive arts experiences. These specially trained volunteers, easily recognized by their signature yellow golf shirts and black jackets, are present at every public performance, ready to assist patrons with accessibility needs.

From operating a golf cart shuttle between the parking garage and front doors to providing venue-owned wheelchairs and escorting guests all the way to their seats, the Access Team ensures every visit feels seamless and welcoming. They also manage Assistive Listening Devices and Audio-Description headsets and support special events like Sensory Inclusive Performances and pre-show Tactile Tours.

This is more than a program; it's a reflection of the Hobby Center's belief that everyone deserves to feel at home in the arts. Whether helping a family navigate the lobby, guiding a first-time visitor to their seat, or quietly ensuring that technology is in place to support patrons of all abilities, our volunteers and Access Team embody our promise to create a space where every guest feels included, supported, and celebrated.



Craig Chaszar, Rachel Sieber, Carolyn Chaszar, Rebecca Kutsko, Fabiola Seward and Jeanine Smith

“ Many of our patrons would not be able to attend if not for the kind and caring assistance of the Access Team members.

**I CAN'T THINK OF A BETTER
WAY TO SPEND MY TIME.”**

– Jeanine Smith,
Access Team Member



Disney's The Lion King Sensory Inclusive Performance. Photo by Lynn Lane

PHILANTHROPY

At the Hobby Center, philanthropy is the force that fuels every story, every performance, every student's first gasp when the curtain rises. More than 20 years ago, our community came together to raise nearly \$100 million to build this campus. Today, that same spirit of generosity is transforming how we serve Houston's artists, audiences, and young people.

While philanthropy played a vital role in the Hobby Center's creation, fundraising had not been a major driver of ongoing operations in subsequent years. Now, as we expand our programming and seek to serve as a connector, convenor, and incubator for all Houston audiences, artmakers, and arts organizations, we are simultaneously expanding our focus on philanthropy.

The 2024-2025 Season marked several milestones in our giving programs. For the first time, the Hobby Center received a grant from Houston Arts Alliance and a \$5 million capital improvement grant from the Sarofim Foundation, historic investments that strengthen our ability to innovate and sustain this beloved campus. Annual individual, foundation, and corporate giving also expanded, with hundreds of supporters—from first-time donors to 10+ year champions—making our boldest initiatives possible.

"Philanthropy is the reason the Hobby Center exists," said Mark Folkes, President & CEO. "It's what allows us to dream bigger and ensure this campus remains a vibrant, inclusive hub for all of Houston."

On May 17, at the Hobby Center's second annual fundraising event **A Night at the Cabaret**, guests gathered for an unforgettable evening featuring Tony Award-winner Renée Elise Goldsberry. Chaired by **Lesha and Tom Elsenbrook**, the event raised over \$325,000 to fund education and accessibility initiatives, including free performances offered to thousands of Houston-area students through the ExxonMobil Discovery Series. "Because of you, in the next school year we'll welcome 40,000 Houston students to FREE performances right here at the Hobby Center – one of our city's landmarks," Lesha shared with guests.



—Lesha and Tom Elsenbrook, Chairs, A Night At The Cabaret

Throughout each season, Hobby Center supporters enjoy a range of special donor events and benefits that honor their contributions and impact. With nearly \$10 million raised this year across a range of initiatives, the Hobby Center is activating its stages in new ways and putting a spotlight on Houston's role as a leader in the arts.

To every donor who is making this possible: THANK YOU for helping us share the magic of live performance with all of Houston.

Walker and Anna Hobby



Hallie Vanderhider and Bobby Dees



Vicki West and Ralph Burch



A NIGHT AT THE CABARET MAY 17, 2025

Tony Award winner Renée Elise Goldsberry performs with Tommy Tune Award winner and Jimmy Award nominee Alyssa Dorsey



Kate Dearing Fowler and Jenna Laird



Claudia Kreisle, Jennifer Hazelton, Liz Furman, Renée Elise Goldsberry, Gentry Brann, Melissa Bond

SPECIAL THANKS

\$250,000+

City of Houston through Houston Arts Alliance
 The Jerry C. Dearing Family Foundation
 ExxonMobil
 The Hamill Foundation
 Sarofim Foundation

\$100,000-\$249,999

The Elkins Foundation
 Houston Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs & Mid-America Arts Alliance
 The Humphreys Foundation
 Whalley Family Foundation
 The Wortham Foundation, Inc.

\$50,000-\$99,999

Ken Bohan and Dean O'Kelley
 Cullen Trust for the Performing Arts
 Leshia and Tom Elsenbrook
 H-E-B
 Hobby Family Foundation
 Ken and Mady Kades
 Marlene Marker, The Marker Group
 Texas Commission on the Arts
 United Airlines

\$25,000-\$49,999

Amy Cope-Gibbs and Jon Gibbs
 Pam and Rob Doty
 Admiral Transfer and Rigging
 George & Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation
 H.G. Ash Foundation
 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo
 Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion
 Doug Pitcock
 Vivian L. Smith Foundation
 Gene and Debbie Straka



Alvin Abraham, Lupe Bustamante, Claudia Kreisle, Pat Mitchell, Stacy Feltham (and Rosie the dog!)



Rob and Pam Doty



Molly and Miles Marks

\$10,000-\$24,999

James and Maryam Baird
 Elizabeth and Steven Bender
 The Berry Family
 Ralph Burch and Vicki West
 Kori and Chris Caddell
 ChemCentric
 Pat, Debbie and Kelly Conlon
 Dusty and Jessie Corning
 The Doan Law Firm
 Greg and Terri Ebel
 Enbridge
 Marjorie Evans
 Mark Folkes and Christopher Johnston
 Harriet and Joe Foster Foundation
 Gatewood Family Foundation
 Julie and Robin Goytia
 Matt Henneman
 Houston ISD Foundation

Ann and Johnny Johnson
 Paula and Steve Letbetter
 Stan and Melanie Levy
 Lugano
 Kristi and David Lumpkins
 Mrs. Sharon and Ms. Angie Lutz
 Michelle and Jeff Majewski
 Miles and Molly Marks
 Jonathan and Melissa Martin
 Marnie and Nicolás Medina
 Pat Mitchell
 Bobbie Nau
 Jim Nicklos
 The Nicol Family
 Petrello Family Foundation
 Pilot Energy
 Maria and Jorge Romo
 Nancy and Bryan Ruez
 Shawnie and Paul McBride
 Melinda and Chuck Schmermund

Jane and Dick Schmitt
 Chau Nguyen and Jay Sears
 Jordan and Dylan Seff
 Jeri and Marc Shapiro
 Spectrum Catering
 Anil and Shaila Sreedharan
 Steve and Anne-Laure Stephens
 Swagelok Texas Mid-Coast
 Betty Tapick
 Bette and Ralph Thomas
 TotalEnergies
 Stephanie and Frank Tsuru
 Sara and Rick Watts
 Michelle and Michael Whitney
 Anonymous (1)

Michelle Majewski, Katie Fields, Debbie Hance



Renee and Steve Ash



Greg and Terri Ebel



The Bernier Family



Ange and David Finn



Debbie and Gene Straka



Jessie and Dusty Corning



Marjorie Evans and Jackie Clark

\$6,000–\$9,999

Sharise and Stephen Amante
 Pooja and Chirag Amin
 Dr. Anisha Arora
 Steve and Renee Ash
 Blair and Alexis Barlow
 Dean and Sara Bass
 Ghost Foundation
 Dr. Joseph Bernier and Dr. Maria Bernier
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 Rick Bobigian and Julie Johnson
 Melissa Bond and Allan Barr
 Jim and Susan Boone
 Dr. and Mrs. Gregory Botz
 Nancy and Arthur Brand
 Mr. Richard P. Bush
 Dr. Patrina Michelle Clark
 Charles and Stacy Clines
 Tim and Kim Coonfield
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 David and Kimberly Dominy
 Jenny Elkins
 Elizondo Family
 Dr. Shannon Hardy and Dr. Kyle Eskue
 Cherrill Farnsworth and Peter Pavluk
 Stacy Feltham and Marc Cutler
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 The Fleming Family
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 Matt and Liz Furman
 GAILLE PLLC
 Gatti Family Fund
 Evan B. Glick
 Debbie and Britt Hance
 Anne Taylor and Edward A. Harris
 Micheal W. Hart Insurance Agency, Inc
 Marshall and Shary Heins
 The Hermosa Family
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 Vy and Jim Hopkins
 Vance and Karen Howard
 Sheila and Ron Hulme
 Caroline Baker Hurley and Bruce Hurley
 The Jakubik Family
 Jill and Dunham Jewett
 JB and Marie Jones
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 Dr. Jennifer Kan/Mr. Tim White
 The Joan and Marvin Kaplan Foundation
 The Vinita and Akash Kapoor Foundation
 Dr. Bernard Katz
 Kellogg Family Charitable Fund
 Devika Kornbacher
 George C. Lancaster
 Suzy and Bob LaForge
 Kirsten and Taylor Landry

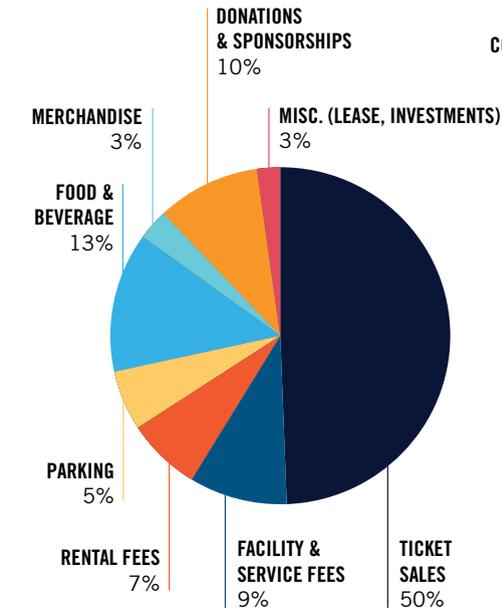
Tommy and Liz Lee
 Laura and Keefer Lehner
 Kyle and Leigh Anne Leinen
 Craig and Diana Llewellyn
 Michael Lord and Anne Marie Ruskowski
 Stacy L. Lord I Judy Wallace
 Michelle and Mark Lowther
 Bobby and Shelly Lupher
 Katherine and Paul Manuel
 Karen K. Maston
 Michelle and Jack Matzer
 Christiana and Luke McConn
 Millis Development
 Marsha Montemayor
 Brooke and Shahin Naghavi
 Geraldine and Christopher Nash
 Dennis and Sally Nelson
 Beverly and Staman Ogilvie
 Kay Onstead
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 Cabrina and Steven Owsley
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 Radoff Family Foundation
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 Mrs. Raye G. White
 Margaret Alkek Williams
 Lisa and Craig Wilson/ Welcome Group
 Dr. Gina Garner and Mr. Charles Winter
 Trish and Steve Yatauro
 Michelle and Brad Zschappel
 Anonymous (2)

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

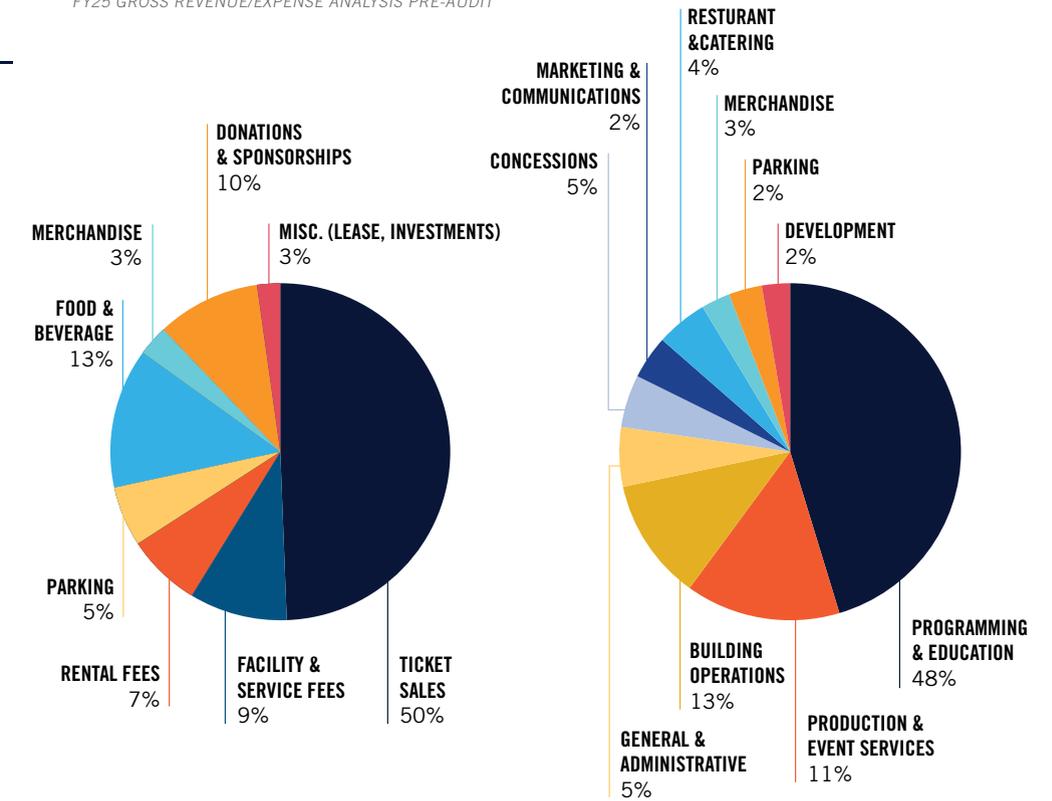
The Hobby Center is experiencing a period of sustainable growth, driven by record-breaking philanthropy and the ongoing success of Broadway programming. For decades, the organization has maintained an operating surplus, funding annual capital improvements, such as this year's structural renovation of the area around the administrative building, and in 2025 established a Board-designated reserve fund and endowment to strengthen long-term financial resilience.

REVENUES \$42,537,061

FY25 GROSS REVENUE/EXPENSE ANALYSIS PRE-AUDIT



EXPENSES \$39,346,891



\$1,000–\$5,999

Doug and Marla Allen
 Marsh McLennan Agency - Houston
 Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Baldwin
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 Lauren Brollier
 R. Seth Bullock
 James and Dorothy Carlson
 Liz and Matthew Cavanaugh
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 Ellie Francisco
 Kate and Steve Fowler
 John Gore Organizatgion
 Albert and Ethel Herzstein
 Charitable Foundation
 Hildebrand Fund
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 Liz and Greg Pipkin
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 Vicky and Michael Richker
 Joseph Rose
 Lauren Reid
 Mary P. Ricciardello and
 Douglas A. Sandvig

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 DCCM
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 Shannon and Lisa White
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 Jeanne and John Willis
 Tom and Susan Witt
 Jo Dee Wright
 Gina and Joseph Wyszynski
 The Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation
 Anonymous (1)

Donor listing reflects donations including season support, special events, and capital projects as of August 18, 2025.



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Photo Credit Top to Bottom: Lynn Lane, Annie Mulligan, Annie Mulligan, Lynn Lane

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ELIZABETH MCCLEES
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JAMES GROSS
Security

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CHIP MANFRE
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ARMANDO MOTA
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RUSTY TAYLOR
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DEBBIE THOMAS
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KEITH THOMAS
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WILLIAM MELENDY
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Security Supervisor

STEVE SCOTT
Audience Services Manager

DEBBIE TELLEZ
Audience & Accessibility Services
Coordinator

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Zilkha House Electrician

MARK DOLNEY
House Electrician

NATHAN HAWORTH
Production Manager, Zilkha Hall

JACK JACOBS
Production Manager, Sarofim Hall

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THE
HOBBY CENTER
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

THANK YOU!



Students at ExxonMobil Discovery Series, DACAMERA performance. Photo by Lynn Lane.

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