

OUR STORY

From the first days of The Fox in the 1930s, Saturday mornings meant **the theatre was filled with Tucson children.** Countless attendees who couldn't afford the 10-cent ticket received discounted or free entry, and many of them got the chance to develop public speaking and performance skills on the theatre's stage by participating in shows and events. The Fox was truly a home for ALL of Tucson's youth, from all walks of life.

Today, The Fox Tucson Theatre is keeping that vision – and more – alive with the KIT (Kids In the Theatre) Youth Arts and Culture Program. Introduced as the renovated theatre has become a leading Tucson performing arts center, **the three-year-old KIT program is blossoming to offer a wide range of uplifting and enriching youth-oriented programming.**



THE NEED

The timing of the KIT program could not be better. With local schools facing budget cuts and challenges in providing basic instruction, and the community's poverty rate at twice the national average, too many of our young people are in situations where they are at risk of not getting the opportunities and support they deserve – and need. Research indicates that exposure to the arts engages children in critical ways, fostering individual growth in fundamental areas such as problem solving, creativity, empathy, curiosity, and confidence. Through creative collaboration with a variety of partners, the Fox Tucson Theatre's KIT Program is stepping up to fill these needs, and we are making great strides.

Nonetheless, the issue is a vast one, the need is great, and it is only with the support of community investment that we can significantly extend and deepen the powerful impact we are already seeing.

OUR PROGRAMMING

- **Public family shows**, ranging from musicals, movies, and magicians to dancers, singers, and stunt animals;
- **School matinee shows**, in which students—many of them from underserved schools—experience large-scale educational performances in the “living museum” that is The Fox;
- **Educational offerings**, including Q&A sessions with visiting artists and historic theatre tours for schools;
- Subsidized rentals for non-profit **youth performing arts groups**;
- Community-wide, free summer **literacy events**, addressing “summer learning loss” for students, connecting them to local literacy partners, and making literacy fun through movies, characters, hands-on activities, and giveaways;
- Complimentary **ticket distribution to educators**, honoring their commitment to our community;
- Complimentary **ticket distribution to youth facing significant adversity** and their families / caregivers;
- Ongoing development of programming to more fully include and benefit **underserved and at-risk youth.**

OUR NUMBERS

21

Youth arts group performances presented or hosted by The Fox in the 2018-2019 season

15,687

Attendees to family shows hosted by The Fox in 2018 alone



614

Survey responses from educators about how to best serve them with school-oriented programming

1,025

Complimentary tickets given to educators



1,200

Books given away at the 2019 Fox Summer Literacy Event

Family-oriented shows scheduled for the 2019-2020 season

30

33

Local, nonprofit youth-serving partners

3,000

Complimentary tickets distributed in the 2018-2019 season to youth facing significant adversity and their families / caregivers

OUR IMPACT

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[The] family gave the show rave reviews. 'We have never been able to go to anything like this before, and if we didn't get these tickets may never have been able to go.' ...I believe strongly that by helping a person expand their experience, it helps them dig more deeply into the wellspring of hope for a different future. What better medium than the arts.

– clinical therapist at community healthcare/service organization

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The families all expressed what a gift it was to give their kids some joy as they go through some of the most difficult times you can imagine. Most also expressed that they never would have had the opportunity to treat their families to a show at the Fox due to not having the funds to do such things.

– executive director of a local non-profit

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...all of our families were delighted with the show... for many families in our community, this experience was a 1st. Many have not ever had the opportunity to attend this type of event, due to financial struggles or even language barriers. – school director

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