



HEART & SOUL CAMPAIGN UPDATE



HEART & SOUL CABINET

The following individuals have been heartened by our dream and have stepped forward to lead the effort in our **Heart & Soul Campaign**. Please reach out to any of them about the organization or campaign:

Gerri Aaron,
Honorary Chair

Doris Johnson,
Chair

Marian Moss,
Board Chair

Marvin Albert
Cheryl Anderson

Chris Caswell
Michael Gardiner
Sy Goldblatt
Shelley Goldblatt
Christine Jennings
Alan Kurland
Margie Nellum Lee
Carolyn Michel
Howard Millman
Dr. Randall Morgan
Eva Slane
Lois Watson
Bernard Watson

OUR DREAM IS BECOMING A REALITY

It was 18 years ago when Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe started. We didn't have a permanent home. Now, as I walk through the campus that includes the theatre and future administrative offices, I find myself asking "Is this real? Am I dreaming?"

Everyone has dreams, but not everyone has the good fortune to see them become a reality. I am blessed to see one of my dreams close to being fulfilled!

In a few months, WBTT will have our own education and community outreach space in the newly renovated Binz building. We'll have a wonderful facility to house our summer camp, to have workshops for our artists, and to hold community events on the first floor and on the rooftop garden. In addition, the administrative offices and the daytime Box Office will move to the second floor. Finally, patrons won't be walking up and down Main Street trying to find our office location.

Once we're in the building, however, the Binz name won't be applicable anymore. We would love to rename it in honor of someone's \$1 million donation. Do you know of anyone who would like to see their name in lights on a busy street, while supporting our unique mission?

This phase of construction has been made possible through the hard work and dedication of our board members and the generous donations of each of them as well as others in the community. When this building is complete, and sufficient funds are raised for Phase 2, we can begin renovating the theatre building into a topnotch, professional facility for artists and patrons alike. Talk about dream fulfillment!

Thank you all from the bottom of my heart for your support. You are the soul that keeps us moving forward.



Nate Jacobs
Founder/Artistic Director



Doris Johnson
Campaign Chair

MATCHING GRANTS COULD DOUBLE YOUR GIFT

We are delighted to announce we have received \$4.5 million in cash and pledges toward our Heart & Soul Campaign. We only have \$1.5 million to go! I also am delighted to announce a special

Challenge Match Grant for the Heart & Soul Campaign created by the following donors: Frank Brunckhorst, Shelley and Sy Goldblatt, Penelope Kingman, Brock and Julie Leach, and Elizabeth Moore. WBTT thanks

these generous donors who have collectively committed up to \$250,000 in order to inspire others to give to the campaign. Any campaign gift made by or after Nov. 17, 2017

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HEART & SOUL DONOR SPOTLIGHT: THE SCHLEGELS

Regular WBTT patrons, Jack and Priscilla Schlegel, are passionate about supporting the arts and developing the future of young people in Sarasota and beyond. This past summer, Jack and Priscilla attended a gathering at the theatre and historic Binz Building, where the plans for the theatre arts campus were presented. "When we heard WBTT's plans described directly by the architect, we became very interested. We give our philanthropic



Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe Executive Director Julie Leach, Jack and Priscilla Schlegel and WBTT Founder/Artistic Director Nate Jacobs enjoy a toast.

plans a great deal of thought and plan our giving annually. This project actually moved us to change our plans for giving this year. We study the details and the financials of most organizations we support; WBTT passed that test. What's

more, the Heart & Soul Campaign represents three important areas that are priorities for our giving: developing young people, the arts and being Sarasota based. In Sarasota, just one more theatre is not what's needed in our vibrant community,

but good theatre that broadens good thinking is worthy of our support. We also were motivated by the fact that construction is taking place now and the campaign to date is successful! It feels good to give to a success story!

GRANTS COULD DOUBLE YOUR GIFT *From Page 1*

will be matched dollar for dollar through the season. Make your campaign donation or pledge today and see the effect of your gift doubled and effectively help us raise \$500,000 for the campaign!

How Does It Work?

- Jessica and Walter Jones made a pledge of \$25,000 after Nov. 17th.
- Their gift is matched with \$25,000 from the Challenge Match Fund, doubling the effect of their gift to \$50,000.
- If interested, the Joneses receive a naming opportunity at

the Theatre or Binz Building at the \$25,000 level.

Speaking of Matching Gifts, does your company match your contributions? Many do, most often 1:1 or even 2:1 or more! If you have already made your WBTT campaign gift but have not contacted your company about a match, we encourage you to do so. If you are unsure if your company matches your gift, contact your Human Resources Department to find out.



PHASE 1 PROGRESSES; MOVE-IN DATE SLATED FOR JAN.



WBTT Founder/Artistic Director Nate Jacobs and Executive Director Julie Leach walk through the historic Binz Building as renovations are under way. Administrative staff is scheduled to move in January 2018.



For a listing of our generous donors to date, please visit <http://westcoastblacktheatre.org/capital-campaign/heart-and-soul>

MICHAEL SAUNDERS: TROUPE 'ALWAYS HAD A SPECIAL PLACE IN MY HEART'

The gift that brought us in over \$4.5 million came from long-time supporter and former WBTT Board member, Michael Saunders. "I have always believed in the Troupe, and I'm so happy to see where WBTT, and you Nate, have come after 18 years, most of which was a struggle, but you have had so much perseverance. The Troupe has always held a special place in my heart and I want to be part of this exciting journey you're on to have a permanent home—I was there when there was no permanent home, actually no



Michael Saunders with WBTT Founder/Artistic Director Nate Jacobs and Executive Director Julie Leach.

home at all—not even a foster home! I'm excited to help keep the momentum going!"

HAS THE STOCK MARKET BEEN GOOD TO YOU THIS YEAR? CONSIDER DONATING APPRECIATED SECURITIES TO WBTT

Each year, many donors choose to make charitable contributions for the benefit of their favorite causes by giving appreciated stock or mutual funds, including our generous WBTT supporters. Such gifts typically offer donors greater tax-wise advantages than gifts of cash or other resources. As you look at your year-end giving desires, you may wish to think about a gift of stock rather than cash. It is one of the most tax-advantageous and widely used gifts and it may make sense for you as well. Here are some

thoughts on how this works: If you donate stock that has increased in value since you bought it (more than a year ago) you can take a charitable deduction for the stock's fair market value on the day you give it away. You'll also avoid capital-gains taxes on the increase in value over time, which you would have had to pay if you sold the stock then gave the charity the cash proceeds.

If it's a losing stock, it may also still be tax advantageous to give but the process is different. If the stock

has lost value, it's better to sell the stock first and give the cash to the charity. You'll still be able to deduct your charitable donation, but you'll also be able to take a capital loss when you sell the investment.

For more information on how to make gifts, including gifts of stock, to WBTT, please contact Julie Leach at (941) 366-1505, ext. 103.

*Please contact your tax professionals for the best way to make a gift for your personal situation.

BE PART OF THE HEART & SOUL CAMPAIGN

We invite you to join us by considering a special campaign contribution. Pledges may be payable over five years. In addition to cash and cash pledges, WBTT is happy to accept gifts in the form of securities, property, life insurance, and other assets. For more information, please contact Julie Leach at 941.366.1505, ext. 103 or jleach@westcoastblacktheatre.org.