



2010 Annual Report



2010 . . . Milwaukee Public Theatre's 36th year

We reached an estimated 118,374 people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities, with 1,652 events (1,618 were free). We offered eleven stage or touring shows, four major projects, and worked with 180 organizations to provide 1,373 arts workshops, 131 longer arts residencies and 279 performances.

We partnered with schools, community-based agencies and businesses, helped sponsor Tap the Potential—a special project to counter stereotypes of people with disabilities—and took part in major community festivities, including the second annual All-City People's Parade. All this despite ongoing financial cutbacks and uncertainties. Whew!



Barbara Leigh
Co-Founder
Artistic/Producing
Director

Highlights of the Year: 2010

New Work: *One Man's Trash is Another Man's Treasure* This original musical was written and directed by Azeeza Islam with a recycling theme and featured percussive rhythms, dance, and a live band of professional musicians.

Reprised Work: *Camp We-Kan-Tak-It* A statewide tour of an original musical provided a historical perspective on the current jobs crisis by bringing to life the Wisconsin Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration.

Second Annual Project: *All-City People's Parade and Pageant* Initiated by MPT and the Milwaukee Mask and Puppet Theatre, and inspired by the Minneapolis May Day Parade, the project brought together people of all ages and cultures from throughout Milwaukee to create public art telling the community's story with giant puppets and floats.

Major Program: *Tap the Potential* This program counteracted stereotypes of disability through an art exhibit and 20 free performances throughout the community by 14 performing artists with a range of disabilities.

Winter Voices/Peaceful Warriors Dance Tribe Oneida/Ojibwe artist Thirza Defoe worked with Indian Community School to teach music, dance and stories from four Native American Nations. She and the youth troupe gave six performances in Milwaukee and Green Bay. An expanded production of ***Winter Voices: Shingabiss Tale*** was the highlight of UWM's annual Children's Holiday Festival. Thirza Defoe, Steven Hunter, Alison Forbes Wilson, and Julio Bravo performed a dynamic new version of the Shingabiss tale directed by Kathleen Stacy.

Cuentame Un Cuento Bi-lingual music and stories directed by Chilean artist Carolina Soza and performed by the Esperanza Players.

F.A.Q.S.: Facing Adolescent Questions About Sex This production, created and performed by youth, addressed teen questions about sex in upbeat, positive ways.

Tobaccosaurus Rex A lively puppet show presented entertaining information about tobacco use for elementary students.

Applied Theatre Troupe Interactive performances and workshops dealt with vital youth issues such as bullying, violence prevention, and drug/alcohol abuse.

Original and Adapted Theatreworks/Staged and Touring Shows

Milwaukee Public Theatre creates highly acclaimed theatreworks that celebrate our uniqueness and challenge us to reach our potential. Since 1976, MPT programming has included free-to-the-public musical/vaudeville/circus productions featuring artists representing many cultures. We present original theatreworks about contemporary themes and social issues, and create customized shows for civic and business events.

Trash to Treasure Project



The **Trash to Treasure Project** included performances of *One Man's Trash is Another Man's Treasure* and Recycled Art workshops. Music, dance and puppetry brought found objects and trash to life in a story about consumer and personal values, recycling, and preserving a healthy environment. In the play, an urban youth met "trash creatures" who taught him that his actions can help assure a cleaner earth for coming generations. The production featured rhythmic dance and drumming, a giant trash puppet, a set made of recycled materials, and original music by Azeeza Islam and Ernie Brusubardis.



One Man's Trash is Another Man's Treasure, MPT's original theatre production about recycling, was performed at Lincoln Center of the Arts in the spring of 2010.



The *Trash to Treasure Project* included free after-school Recycled Art workshops led by MPT artists Ron Scot Fry and Andrew Parchman. Students from Lincoln Avenue, Pierce, and Fratney Elementary Schools and Lincoln Center of the Arts created small puppets and other art objects from used materials. Lincoln Avenue students also participated in Trashion Fashion workshops with Recycled Fashion Designer Angela Smith.



2010 State-Wide Tour

UW-Arboretum, Madison
Devil's Lake State Park, Baraboo
(two shows)
Wisconsin Interstate State Park,
St. Croix Falls
St. Croix Festival Theatre, St. Croix Falls
Washington Park Senior Center, Milwaukee
Old World Wisconsin, Eagle (four shows)

In 2010 we reprised *Camp We-Kan-Tak-It*, an original multi-media musical comedy developed by Rogers Keene of Voices Theater, partially funded through a grant from the Wisconsin Humanities Council. A new Resource Guide, "Fireside Chatter" by Mary Schueller, focused on the Works Progress Administration. The play was performed eight times at six statewide venues and included a special event in Milwaukee with a panel discussion and bus tour of CCC/WPA sites, presented in collaboration with Historic Milwaukee and Milwaukee County Parks.



Smitty (Samuel Porten) and Geezer (Patrick Porten) in a performance on the outdoor stage at Devil's Lake State Park. David Peterson composed original music and lyrics.

Let's Make a Parade! All-City People's Parade . . . and More

The 2010 *All-City People's Parade* was held on Monday, September 6 as part of the Labor Day Parade ending at the Summerfest grounds with Laborfest. Milwaukee Public Theatre and Milwaukee Mask and Puppet Theatre led community artists and organizations in creating this unusual public art event.

The "Waking Up!" theme was prompted by concerns about the recession, the degraded environment, and the lack of real public discourse. Hundreds of volunteers created and participated in a positive and affirming parade with music, dance, and powerful images which expressed our community's fears but also celebrated its hopes and dreams.



After countless hours of creative work, hand-built floats, marching units, drummers and dancers got to work "Waking Up" crowds as the second annual All-City People's Parade moved down Milwaukee's Wisconsin Avenue on Labor Day. The planned Pageant at Laborfest was pre-empted by President Barack Obama's speech.

We wish to thank the Milwaukee Labor Council for including the *All-City People's Parade* in the Labor Day Parade. The 2010 projects were partially funded by the Wisconsin Arts Board and National Endowment for the Arts, Milwaukee Arts Board, Milwaukee County CAMPAC, United Performing Arts Fund, Greater Milwaukee Foundation/Abert Fund and Mary Nohl Fund, Helen Bader Foundation, Norma and Robert Ragir Foundation, Max Fund, Gardner Foundation, Greater Milwaukee Realtors Youth Foundation, Merrill Lynch, International Molded Fibre Association, Jewish Community Foundation/Jack and Lucy Rosenberg Foundation, MPS Partnership for the Arts, Action Recyclers, Heartland Funds, Ogden and Co./Clybourn Partners, and many individuals. Media sponsors were ShepherdExpress and 88.9 Radio Milwaukee.

More Parades . . .

Summer of Peace Parade: This collaboration with community organizations, schools and individuals focused on violence prevention activities and culminated in a community-wide parade, rally and youth summit at North Division High School.

Dia de los Muertos Parade: MPT and Milwaukee Mask and Puppet Theatre artists helped to create masks, colorful puppets and other elements for a parade, which began at the United Community Center and ended with a performance at Walker's Point Center for the Arts.



Champions of the Arts Awards

MPT introduced a new special event to recognize individuals who support and contribute to the local arts scene. Awardees included Daisy Cubias, Milwaukee Mayor's Office; Christine Harris, Cultural Alliance Milwaukee; Vic Thomas, Summerfest. The event, held at Turner Hall, also featured entertainment and functioned as a fundraiser for the *All-City People's Parade*.



*Daisy Cubias, Max Samson, Vic Thomas, Barbara Leigh and Christine Harris pictured at the **Champions of the Arts Celebration** in August.*

Healing and Wellness Arts



Mouth-painting demonstrations were provided by Jeff LaDow during Tap the Potential events, including the kick-off celebration at the Moving Art exhibit at Mitchell International Airport.

Original Healing and Wellness Arts Theatreworks

F.A.Q.S.: Facing Adolescent Questions About Sex:

Vignettes and monologs dealing with HIV/AIDS and STDs resented in collaboration with MPS, the AIDS Resource Center and the 16th Street Health Center. The upbeat performances were followed by talk-backs with a health professional.

Tobaccosaurus Rex: An object puppet show about tobacco use was presented for elementary schools, followed by an interactive workshop with role-play to practice ways to say “No” to peer pressure.

Applied Theatre Troupe: Interactive performances and workshops empowered youth audiences to step into the action and role-play the results of their choices. Theatreworks included: ***Joey’s Lunch Money Blues, Party Girl,*** and ***Amy’s Addiction.*** The program was sponsored by MPS with the Center for Applied Theatre and is directed by Mark Weinberg and Jenny Wanasek.

Capaz (“Capable” in Spanish): In 2010 MPT completed a two-year grant for ***Capaz*** and ***Tasawari,*** sponsored by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs. Both projects presented short interactive plays about health care access for minority families of children with disabilities.

MPT has a strong commitment to increasing access to effective healing arts and wellness programming. We create touring shows and workshops with a focus on health education for children, youth, families and seniors.



In 2010 our work with special needs populations included collaborating with VSA Wisconsin and others on **Tap the Potential**, providing performances and art exhibits by artists with disabilities. Performers/sites included: Rose Onama/Mill Road Library, Capitol Drive Library and Clinton Rose Center; William Sweeney/Washington Park Senior Center; Carolyn Atwell/Wauwatosa Library and Core El Centro; Jeff LaDow/Callahan YMCA, Kenosha; Cindy Bentley/Marian Center; Cammy Draheim, Barbara Leigh, Jeff LaDow, and Voices of Independence Singers/Mitchell Airport; and Barbara Leigh, “The Art of Healing from a Patient’s Point of View”/Marquette Nursing School.

MPT Tap the Potential artists also participated in NAMI Greater Milwaukee’s upbeat “Creativity Heals 2010” event, celebrating the role creativity plays in healing and wellness and destigmatizing mental illness.

Rainbow Circus: This circus arts workshop/residency presented at multiple after-school sites promoted youth confidence, self esteem, and team cooperation while teaching fitness and healthy food choices. The residency incorporated juggling, tumbling, balance work and theatre skills, and ended with a circus performance for peers and families.

Special events and community-building celebrations

Dozens of free-to-the-public arts activities were presented during the summer months. Milwaukee Public Theatre artists performed clowning, circus and variety acts, and provided giant puppets for community parades and celebrations including:

- AIDS Walk
- Al’s Run
- All-City People’s Parade with Laborfest
- Bay View Bash
- Bay View “Chill on the Hill” at Humboldt Park
- Champions of the Arts Celebration
- Community Art and Funk Festival
- Dia de los Muertos Parade
- Fourth of July celebrations: Alcott Park and Hart Park
- Gordon Park Energy Independence Day
- Indian Summer Festival
- Juneteenth Day
- Holiday Parade
- Lanterns for Peace
- Locust Street Festival
- Memory Walk, Alzheimer’s Assn.
- National Night Out: Kosciuszko Park and Hillside
- South Shore Frolic Parade
- Summer of Peace
- Summerfest Kids’ Day
- UPAF Ride for the Arts
- Walk to D’feet ALS



Some of the bicycles decorated for Gordon Park’s July 4 Energy Independence Day.

Educational Workshops and Arts Residencies

Milwaukee Public Theatre designs workshops and longer residencies featuring artists from many cultures and arts disciplines. Workshops are tailored for all ages and abilities and engage participants in hands-on learning through creative activities while having fun.

As an Artist In Residence at Lincoln Center Middle School of the Arts since 1979, MPT works extensively with Milwaukee Public Schools, Boys and Girls Clubs, Community Learning Centers, and other educational institutions.

**46 Schools and 16 CBOs sponsored
131 Arts Residencies**

*Theatre, Dance, Music, Circus, Visual Arts and Crafts
for people of all ages, cultures and abilities*

27th St. School	Longfellow Elementary
53rd St. School	Manitoba Elementary School
81st St. School Boys & Girls Club	Mary Ryan Boys & Girls Club
Agape Community Center	MEC School
All-City Peoples' Parade Workshops	Messmer High School
Allen-Field School	Mitchell St. School CLC
Audubon School	Neighborhood House
Barton Elementary	Neu-Life Community Resource Center
Brookfield Elementary School	New School
Cass St. School	Next Door Foundation
Clement Ave. School	North Division High School Boys & Girls Club
COA Goldin	Oneida Nation Elementary School
COA Riverwest	Pierce Ave. School
Core El Centro	Pius High School
Davis Boys & Girls Club	PMG Educational Services
Dover St. School	Project Ujima/Children's Hospital
Eco Village	Riverside High School CLC
Fitzsimmonds Boys & Girls Clubs	Sherman Multi-Cultural School Boys & Girls Club
Fletcher Elementary	South Division High School
Forest Home School	Starms School
Fratney School	SUPAR School
Gaenslen School	Tenor High School
Garland School	Thurston Woods School
Green Bay Ave. School	Townsend St. School
Gwen Jackson School	Transition High School
Hi-Mount School	Walker's Point Center for the Arts
Hopkins St. School	Washington High School
Indian Community School	Westside Academy/Our Next Generation
JW Riley School	Woodland Pattern
Keefe Ave. School	
Kilbourn Elementary	
Lincoln Ave. School	
Lincoln Center of the Arts	



Captain Bones (Steven Hunter) leads students at the Mitchell Boys and Girls Club CLC.



*Young students at Keefe Avenue School participate in a **Story Bridge** workshop session.*

StoryBridge

A core group of elder storytellers and professional artists work with children at Keefe Avenue School to increase communication, writing and literacy skills. The spring session was directed by Azeza Islam; the fall semester was conducted by Sheri Williams Pannell and Kim Ballou.

Senior volunteers included: Joan Janus, Gerri Sykes, Robert Anderson, Sharon McKinney, Don E. Pannell, and Annie De Walt.

Custom and Special Events



Ajula Performance Troupe perform at the annual UPAF Ride for the Arts.

MPT's Ajula Performance Troupe features both experienced professional artists and talented youth from Milwaukee's central city. Founded in 1999 in collaboration with N'Dongo Diop, **Ajula** continues to discover and perform music, dance and stories of the African diaspora under the direction of manager Kathleen Stacy, lead movement coach Steven Hunter, lead drummer Jarvis McElrath and lead dancer Sonya King Thompson. **Ajula** functions as an artistic collective reaching out to southeastern Wisconsin, honoring traditional cultures and exploring contemporary issues through theatre, dance and music. The ensemble is housed at the Milwaukee Housing Authority Community Services Building.

MPT Artrepreneurship Program increased earned income through stronger and consistent relationships with the business community and the marketing, creation and management of high quality special events and projects featuring a broad range of MPT artists. Producer/Director Kathleen Stacy initiated the project to increase earned revenue, enhance MPT's opportunities to engage new sources of corporate support and board members, increase employment for more MPT artists, and develop new, self-funded programs and production elements that generate future earned revenue for MPT.

MPT's 2010 corporate and community **Artrepreneurship** clients included:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Acuity Insurance | Milwaukee Hilton Hotel |
| American Heart Association Midwest | MUHS Mothers |
| Alcott Park Independence Day | Open Society Institute |
| Assurant Health | The Pfister Hotel |
| Aurora Health Care | Professional Events and Consulting |
| Boys & Girls Clubs | Remodelers Advantage |
| Brookfield Plaza | Rogers Medieval |
| Business Journal | Shullys Catering & Cuisine |
| HACM | Summerfest |
| Holton Holiday | UWM |
| Lia Sophia | VISIT Milwaukee |
| Make A Wish | Wauwatosa Civic Celebration |
| MillerCoors | Wisconsin Club |
| Milwaukee Ballet | |



For an Assurant Health Zoo event, Jungle Jammin' Feno leads MPT dancing animals.



Milwaukee Public Theatre Jester plunges headfirst into corporate team building for Remodelers Advantage business meetings in Kohler, Wisconsin.

Spectacolo!

MPT provided customized event entertainment for all ages, from children to executives to convention guests across southeast Wisconsin in 2010 with jugglers, mimes, acrobats, dancers, magicians, clowns, puppets and musicians performing strolling pageants, interactive vignettes and staged showcases.

Milwaukee Public Theatre 2010 Financial Report

2010 Income & Expenses

January through December

Income

Corporate Grants	\$16,000
Earned Income	263,694
Foundation Income	64,063
Government Support	50,480
Individual Contributions	7,087
Benefit & Events	13,330
Interest/Miscellaneous Income	2,296
UPAF	83,401

Total Income \$500,351

Expenses

Facilities & Occupancy	20,367
Outside Services	189,025
Programs & Operations	47,104
PR/Marketing/Fundraising	12,098
Wages	199,922
Payroll Tax Expense	15,882

Total Expenses \$484,398

Total Outreach

People Reached*	118,374
Free Events	1,618
Performances/Parades	279
Arts Workshops	1,373
Arts Residencies	131
Total Number of Events	1,652

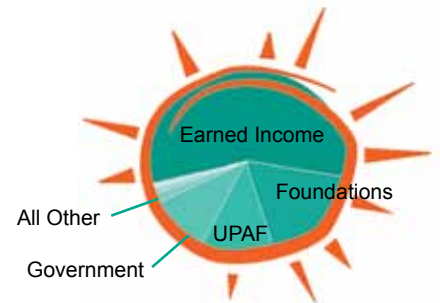
*Estimate based on sponsor reports

Special thanks to **Lincoln Center of the Arts** and the **Milwaukee Housing Authority** for providing affordable storage, rehearsal and performance space, and helping MPT serve low-income Milwaukeeans.



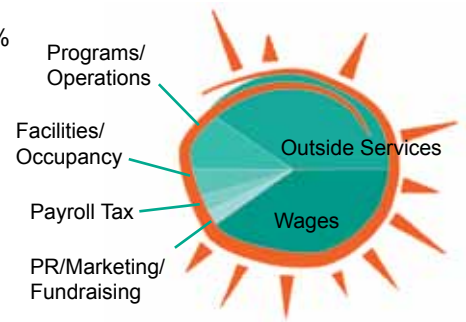
Income Summary

Earned Income	56%
Foundations	17
UPAF	15
Government	10
Corporate Grants	<1
Individuals	<1
Interest/Misc.	<1



Expense Summary

Wages	40%
Outside Services	38
Programs & Operations	>10
Facilities & Occupancy	5
Payroll Tax Expense	>4
PR/Marketing/Fundraising	>3



Donors

Action Recyclers	Merrill Lynch
A.O. Smith	Meyer and Norma Ragir Foundation
Bank of America	Milwaukee Arts Board
Don Senzig Memorial Fund	Milwaukee County CAMPAC
Elizabeth Brinn Foundation	Milwaukee County Commission for Persons with Disabilities
Forest County Potawatomi Foundation	MPS Arts Internships
Gardner Foundation	MPS Partnership for the Arts
Greater Milwaukee Foundation/Donald and Barbara Abert Fund and Mary Nohl Fund	Milwaukee Labor Council
Greater Milwaukee Association of Realtors Youth Foundation	National Endowment for the Arts
Heartland Funds	Non-Profit Management Fund
Helen Bader Foundation	Natural Resource Technology
Richard & Ethel Herzfeld Foundation	Ogden & Co./Clybourn Partners
Housing Authority of Milwaukee	Robert Ivens Machinery Co.
International Molded Fibre Association	WE Energies
Jewish Community Foundation/Jack and Lucy Rosenberg Foundation	Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin
Koessler Family Foundation	Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development
LISC	Wisconsin Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities
Max Fund	United Performing Arts Fund and numerous individuals



Adekola Adedapo and the Berkeley Fudge Quintet perform jazz at MillerCoors event.



"Elliot Nice" (Michael Weber) and his law enforcement colleagues prepare to raid the Marcus birthday event at the Pfister.



Lynaira Navarro greets children at MPT's Summerfest Kids Day parade.



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MPT Mission/Vision

Milwaukee Public Theatre is a professional, not-for-profit outreach company that creates and presents performing arts productions and related arts and education activities that increase awareness of current social issues, promote accessibility and diversity, and provide healing arts resources.

In creating and presenting the arts, these goals and objectives are considered and addressed:

- To make the arts financially, intellectually and geographically accessible to everyone;
- To create art that encourages people to develop and use critical thinking skills;
- To promote the arts as a resource for personal, community and cultural growth and transformation;
- To develop imaginative art forms that empower individuals to participate in the ongoing creation of their culture;
- To apply theatrical traditions and forms that contribute to a deeper understanding of current social issues, conditions and concerns;
- To create art that promotes well-being and celebration.

MPT Staff 2010

Barbara Leigh, Artistic/Producing Director
Carolyn Mello, Outreach Coordinator
Angela Smith, Outreach Coordinator
Bethamie Wyatt, Special Projects Coordinator
Katharina Hren, Bookkeeper/Office Manager
Kathleen Stacy, Producer/Director
Azeeza Islam, Associate Artistic Director
Linda Beckstrom, Marketing Communications
Carolina Soza, Artistic Director, Esperanza Players
Jenny Wanasek, Artistic Director, Applied Theatre Troupe
Mark Weinberg, Artistic Director, Applied Theatre Troupe

Milwaukee Public Theatre was founded as Friends Mime Theatre in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1974 by Dr. Barbara Leigh and Michael John Moynihan. One of the region's few professional outreach theatres, the company has created over 200 original productions and touring/outreach events that travel to audiences throughout the Milwaukee community, and the state, region and nation.

Milwaukee Public Theatre Board of Directors 2010

Jacqueline Harcourt, President
United Community Center

Jill Haas, Vice President
Merrill Lynch

Rachel Dobrauc, Secretary
Messmer High School

Ken Myszka, Treasurer
Technology Consultant

Omar Barberena
Job Corps

Emilio De Torre
ACLU of Wisconsin

Verdia Hampton
Kohl's Credit Center

Azeeza Islam
Milwaukee Public Theatre

Hope Johnson
Gerald L. Ignace Indian
Health Center

Willie Johnson, Jr.
Milwaukee County Supervisor

Jack Keyes, Attorney

Barbara Leigh, PhD
Milwaukee Public Theatre

Gerri Sykes
Community Volunteer

Gary Tuma
Walker's Point Center for the Arts

Advisory Board Members

Arthur Alvarez
MillerCoors Brewing Co.

Daisy Cubias
Mayor's Office

Dante Houston
Rockwell Automation

Chris Straw
New Prospects

Harriet McKinney
Milwaukee Jewish Committee

Redonna Rogers
Center for Teaching Entrepreneurship

Sean Walker
Clifton Gunderson

Courtney M. Williams
Johnson Controls

Pa Britney Xiong
Western Bi-lingual Employment
Services