



IN THE HEART OF THE BEAST

Celebrating Puppetry Magic & Joy

Fiscal Year 2023

**Annual Report & HOBT's
50th Anniversary Season!**

A look back at our last season and forward to upcoming programs and festivities.



Photo courtesy of Walker Art Center

In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre nurtures creative empowerment through the joy and magic of puppetry performance and education.

COMMUNITY

In Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) HOBT deepened its commitment to Minneapolis' East Phillips and Powderhorn neighborhoods. Our "refresh" of the Avalon Theater is a tangible investment in local artists, audiences, and the community-at-large. All are welcome to enter; all are invited to take part in the creativity that happens within these walls. HOBT puppetry programs take place throughout the community in schools, community centers, and arts organizations facilitated by outstanding artists that represent the diversity of one of the most diverse communities in the state.

PROGRAMS

HOBT programs in FY23 included:

- Free online and in-person workshops
- Artist residencies in schools across the Twin Cities
- Workshops and performances with community partners like Minneapolis Institute of Arts and Minnesota Orchestra
- The Puppet Fashion Show, a mainstage cabaret showcase featuring emerging LGBTQ+ artists
- April's Puppet Library launch—HOBT has only the 3rd puppet library in the USA

“(The Puppet Library is) a small miracle, a ray of hope and beauty after a long dark time.”

—Christopher True, retired art teacher



FY23 AT A GLANCE

Mainstage Performances = 4

Community Events = 11

Artist residencies in schools = 15

In-person audiences = 13,560

Workshop attendees = 925

Participating Artists = 61

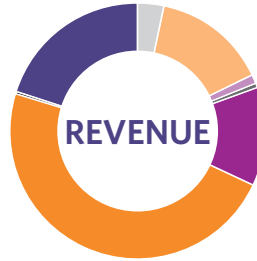
Students Served by Residencies = 670

Puppets in the Library = 287

Puppets Checked Out = 179

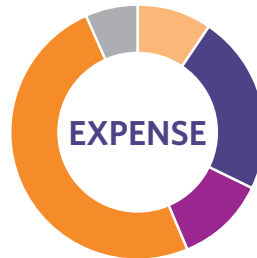
REVENUE

■ Ticket Sales	\$14,432
■ Education/Community Programming Fees	\$58,014
■ Space Rental	\$4,480
■ Sponsorship	\$2,000
■ Donor Contributions	\$50,738
■ Govt Grants & Foundations	\$191,500
■ Other Income	\$1,595
■ ERTC	\$79,423



EXPENSES

■ Management & General Operations	\$223,481
■ Education & Community Programming	\$101,861
■ Development	\$51,667
■ Mainstage & workshops	\$43,391
■ Depreciation	\$29,321



ASSETS

Current Assets

Bank Accounts	\$121,403
Accounts Receivable	\$65,375
Other Current Assets	\$5,606

Total Current Assets \$192,383

Fixed Assets \$314,234

Other Assets \$169,263

TOTAL ASSETS \$675,880

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$22,596
Credit Cards	\$2,164
Other Current Liabilities	\$19,756

Total Liabilities \$44,516

Long-Term Liabilities \$181,257

Total Liabilities \$225,773

Equity \$450,107

TOTAL LIABILITES AND EQUITY \$675,880



*Celebrating
Puppetry
Magic & Joy*

In 2023-24 HOBT Celebrates our Golden Anniversary—50 Years!

We began as a scrappy, grassroots puppet theatre collective committed to social justice. We continue to make our mark as a professional community-based arts organization that provides outstanding puppetry arts, prioritizes access and equity, and spreads the magic and joy of puppetry.

Anniversary Celebration Events February - May 2024

- Free community puppet builds
- World Premiere of *Phantom Loss* by Oanh Vu
- Puppet Library activities for kids and families like Storytimes, Puppet Shows and a Disco Dance Party
- The Puppet Prom—bring your puppet date and dance your way into HOBT’s sixth decade



Phantom Loss by Oanh Vu | Photo Yani Foreman



MEET MEGAN WEST

Megan is HOBT’s new Producing Artistic Director. She has a strong track record in supporting artists and widening the stage for all. Megan is eager to shepherd HOBT’s future.

Read Megan’s bio on our website.



“I’m very excited to be creating safe, equitable spaces for artists to do their best work. I look forward to supporting all who make this art form happen.”

—Megan West

HOBT’s Undeniable Legacy

- **Brilliant artists** whose verve and imagination sparked the creativity of artists and audiences alike
- **Mentoring** emerging puppetry artists through commissions and developmental workshops
- **Premiering** essential puppetry theatre works
- **Hosting puppetry artists** from around the country (and the world) to inspire local talent and expand mastery of craft
- **Building a home** for puppet making, performance, and teaching craft
- **Partnering** with mission-aligned organizations throughout our community
- **Creating the MayDay Festival**—a decades-long, annual event that brought thousands of Minnesotans together in an expansive tradition of parade and ritual



Getting from here to there sometimes requires a bridge

HOBT has planned an amazing future filled with mainstage

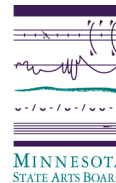
shows, community workshops, free puppet library programs, and robust educational programming. To get there, we are raising **\$300,000 over the next two years** to support expanded programming capacity.



GOVERNMENT & FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Hugh J. Andersen Foundation
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This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.



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September 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

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