

The Phoenix Theatre Company Introduces Center Stage Legacy Society



For more than a century, The Phoenix Theatre Company has been shaped by the people who believed in it, who stood beside it, and who gave their time, passion, and support to keep the lights on and the stories coming.

Today, and perhaps far overdue, we introduce a profoundly impactful way to be part of that future: the Center Stage Legacy Society.

This is The Phoenix Theatre Company's first formal planned giving program, welcoming a distinguished circle of supporters whose commitment will shape the future of live theatre in Arizona.

"Every chapter of this theatre's story has been made possible by those who believed in its future," said Vincent VanVleet, Executive Director. "The Center Stage Legacy Society recognizes those whose support will reach generations to come."

In recognition of their commitment, members of the Center Stage Legacy Society receive acknowledgment in season programs, invitations to private gatherings with artists and leadership, and opportunities to celebrate alongside fellow philanthropists and theatre lovers.

Leading this initiative is Julia Haase, The Phoenix Theatre Company's Director of Legacy and Major Gifts.

"It is an honor to lead our planned giving program and welcome members into the Center Stage Legacy Society. Some members have planned their gifts for years. Others are just beginning to think about it. What they share is a belief that this theatre is worth carrying forward, and a willingness to start a conversation about how," Haase says. "I am here to help."

Since 1920, The Phoenix Theatre Company has continued to evolve, expanding its reach through productions, education programs, and community initiatives. From summer

campus to outreach efforts to world premieres, every part of that work relies on long-term support and belief in what theatre can do.

"Leaving a legacy to the theatre is my way of keeping the arts alive in our community. It's a gift from my heart to the future," said Center Stage Legacy Society member, Dr. Sue Sisley.

The Center Stage Legacy Society exists to honor those choices and the future they make possible.

"After all these years, what still moves me is not applause. It is the honesty of this art form. A live performance asks something of the audience and gives something back, and that exchange is what keeps people coming back season after season," said Producing Artistic Director Michael Barnard. "A legacy gift is what makes sure the next person who needs this theatre will find it waiting for them."

To learn more about the Center Stage Legacy Society or to begin a private conversation about your own legacy plans, visit our website [here](#) or contact Julia Haase directly at j.haase@phoenixtheatre.com or 602-889-5287.