Infrastructure and Inspiration – SRP's Dedication to the Arts and the Community

An Interview with Molly Greene



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For many years, our theatre has thrived through the support of our community and the home-grown love of the arts passed down from generation to generation. Molly Greene, Secretary of The Phoenix Theatre Company's Board of Directors, has had a lifelong fascination with the arts and now uses her position as Senior Director of Policy, Strategy & Consumer Affairs with the Salt River Project to pour into the institutions that continue to bring joy to the Valley. Molly has been a long-time friend of the theatre, joining our Board of Director's five years ago and SRP has sponsored many of the shows that have graced our stages, including our upcoming production of *Mary Poppins*.

"I've always been involved in non-profit work, both personally and professionally. I'm pleased that SRP supports employees serving on Boards within the non-profit communities," Molly said.

After many years of working with arts and community-based organizations around the Valley, Molly's choice to support The Phoenix Theatre Company was not a difficult one to make.

When asked about what specific attributes drove her towards our theatre, she said, "It is truly best in class. The Phoenix Theatre Company is a regional theatre with live musical accompaniment for every production, and that quality is just extraordinary. In part, it's due to the Producing Artistic Director, Michael Barnard's tremendous talent in selecting, casting and building top musicals, but it's also due to the professional connections both Michael and Executive Director, Vincent VanVleet have curated over their careers. TPTC attracts talent from producers and cast members alike resulting in some of the best productions in the country."

But Molly's interests don't only lie in the theatrical! Through her involvement in the arts, she has recognized that communities require more than just power and water for their well-

being, and by investing in the arts and creating a place where people can thrive, it generates more opportunities to give back and truly invest in people's quality of life. Where SRP's and The Phoenix Theatre Company's values intersect is in providing educational and enriching experiences that serve the public.

"The impact of this theatre goes way beyond performances through education, health and wellness, youth programs and community outreach," she said. "One particularly impactful program is Partners That Heal, where improvisation techniques are used to facilitate communication with people in hospitals, shelters and trauma situations. Seeing this approach deployed with children and adults who are scared or anxious really builds trust with the medical personnel and caregivers. That's probably one of the most unexpected programs that The Phoenix Theatre Company provides that truly changes lives."

To Molly, a partnership between SRP and The Phoenix Theatre Company made sense because of those shared values.

"The partnership with the Salt River Project feels so natural. Both organizations are deeply rooted in the community and dedicated to helping the Valley thrive. Investing in the quality of life of Arizonans is critically important to our children, our workforce and our broader community. SRP has a long-term commitment to the people we serve," Molly said."I like to think of it as; SRP powers communities and The Phoenix Theatre Company enriches them."

SRP's commitment to the well-being of future generations fit practically perfectly with the themes of *Mary Poppins*.

"Mary Poppins teaches us serious life lessons and does it in a very light-hearted way, inspiring us to be kinder and cheerier, and it's really such a delightful story. SRP recognizes there's important work to do, such as ensuring that water and power are delivered reliably, but we don't want to lose sight of our connection to the community," she said.

"*Mary Poppins* tells a very charming story of caring for one another, which is the basis of our not-for-profit work - to build strong communities through both service and stewardship – so drawing from some of those common threads between *Mary Poppins* and The Phoenix Theatre Company, as well as SRP, we both see the potential of what can be, and look beyond to what's immediately visible. Both organizations invest today for future benefits."