



YEAR IN REVIEW 2020-21

Reopening the Garde

YOUR REGIONAL NON-PROFIT CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, FILM & EDUCATION

Year in Review 2020-21

In March 2020, the Garde faced an uncertain future as it struggled to protect the theater and serve the community during the pandemic, in preparation for the theater's eventual opening. Here are the highlights of that challenging time.

MAKING THE GARDE SAFE

With support from generous donors, the Garde was protected with these improvements

- Installed touchless restroom fixtures
- Provided touchless hand sanitizers in the lobby
- Increased filtration of air ventilation to MERV 14
- Installed UV-lights inside lobby HVAC systems
- Installed backstage UV-light air purifiers
- Installed new HVAC system with Merv 13 filtration for storefront classroom
- New safety railings in the balcony and stairways



THE SHUTDOWN OF THE GARDE CREATED AN EXTREME HARDSHIP OVER TWO YEARS:

	FYE July 2019	FYE July 2021	LOSS
REVENUE	\$1,870,000	\$ 303,000	84%
PERSONNEL	\$ 809,000	\$ 318,000	60%



“

US Senator Richard Blumenthal said Steve Sigel has been a strong advocate for the arts not only in New London but across the state. Sigel had traveled with Blumenthal throughout the state, mobilizing the arts community during his initial push for federal funding through what was then known as the Save Our Stages Act.

‘The more I went around the more inspired and passionate I became about this cause,’ Blumenthal said.”

The Day

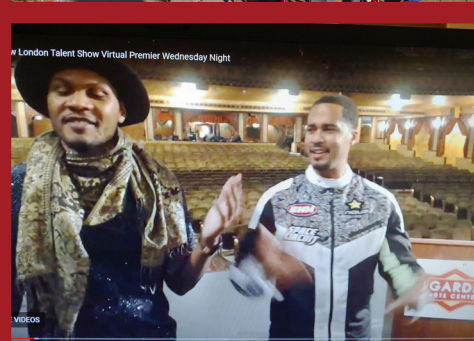
“ We are so grateful for our partnership with the Garde.
This is what it's about. Community helping each other. ”

Reona Dyess - Drop In Learning Center, Executive Director

A closed theater opens itself to those in need

We provided safe spaces for a variety of community needs

- The national book launch of resident writer Jeff Benedict's NY Times bestseller "The Dynasty"
- Hosted The Arc Eastern Connecticut's 5th Annual Film Festival fundraiser which included high-quality award-winning films about people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD)
- Premiered the documentary film "Those People", the story of the New London Talent Show, produced by The Day and Curtis Goodwin (Best Documentary, Mystic Film Festival)
- Received 100,000 donated masks from the Rossi Group
- The Garde lobbies, Oasis Room, and storefronts housed classrooms for the Interdistrict School for Arts and Communication (ISAAC) middle school and the City of New London public schools
- Provided rehearsal space for the New London Community Orchestra
- Use the Garde marquee as a voice of the community - in big bold letters
- Partnered in promoting the New London Census
- Opened a new satellite bookstore of Bank Square Books, *Title IX*, in the Garde cottage
- Provided a home for The Writer's Block InK, a non-profit organization that encourages youth to use writing and performance as tools to address personal and social challenges
- Helped found CT Performing Arts Center Coalition, a new state-wide alliance of the six urban-based major performing arts centers: The Garde, The Bushnell (Hartford), Place (Stamford), Palace (Waterbury), Shubert (New Haven), and the Warner (Torrington). Together we have worked together to raise funds for the arts and **reopen our theaters!**



ON SEPTEMBER 5, 2021, THE GARDE OFFICIALLY REOPENED WITH A CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED MELISSA ETHERIDGE CONCERT.

Since that day more and more events are being added to the 2021-22 Reopening Season. Purchase today online at gardearts.org or call the Box Office at 860-444-7373 ext 1

Since March 13, 2020, the generosity of hundreds of donors made sure that the Garde - with a skeletal staff, significant overhead, and diminishing resources - survived the pandemic and continued to serve the community while planning for a post-Covid reopening.

BUSINESSES (\$5000 AND UP)

A Touch of Grey
Atlantic Broadband
Blu-Prints Unlimited
Charter Oak Federal Credit Union
Chelsea Groton Foundation
Conway, Londregan, Sheehan & Monaco
Dominion Energy
Jewett City Savings Bank
Liberty Bank
Mohegan Sun
Olde Mistick Village
People's United Bank
Secor Auto Group
The Shops at Mohegan Sun

FOUNDATIONS

Anderson Paffard Foundation
Bodenwein Public Benevolent Foundation
Edward and Mary Lord Foundation
Frank Loomis Palmer Fund
The Chester Kitchings Family Foundation
The Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut

GOVERNMENT

City of New London
CT Department of Economic and Community Development
CT Office of the Arts
US Small Business Administration

For further information contact Jeanne Sigel
860-961-4106 jsigel@gardearts.org

