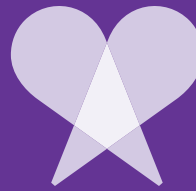


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What We Accomplish Together

Summer 2024, VOL. 1



**Entertainment
Community Fund**
Formerly The Actors Fund

Widening Our Reach is **ESSENTIAL**

This past April at our Annual Gala, we were thrilled to announce our exciting **ESSENTIAL Campaign**.

This bold and comprehensive \$160 million effort will allow us to serve more people in more places. Through the campaign, we are expanding and sustaining our vitally important programs like our career counseling sessions, as well as our mental health services. We are also growing the Emergency Relief Reserve Fund so we can respond immediately to the next crisis impacting the entertainment community. Plus, we are supporting mission-critical capital projects.

With you beside us, we envision a world in which individuals contributing to our country's cultural vibrancy are supported, valued and economically secure.

*"The **ESSENTIAL Campaign** is going to triple the Fund's impact in serving communities across the country, many of them underserved or underrepresented. It's a very, very exciting initiative."*

—Hugh Jackman, Campaign Co-Chair

But we know that a life in the arts is all too often a long and tenuous tightrope, strung from the first moments a career comes into focus all the way to retirement. Thanks to supporters like you, we provide a safety net for the entire journey.

Our Promise

The global pandemic pushed many entertainment professionals to the very brink. So the Fund made a promise; we recommitted ourselves to serving our community—whenever and wherever help is needed.



Left to Right: Bugs Bunny, Cristo Fernández and Daffy Duck accept the Medal of Honor on behalf of Warner Bros. Television Group at our Gala. Photo Credit: Tricia Baron

The goal of the **ESSENTIAL Campaign** is to extend our helping hand even further by tripling the number of people we serve. To date, we have raised more than \$125 million which has already been put towards achieving these goals. There are so many people all across America who could benefit from our support. We must be there for them as well.

Everything in our 142-year history has brought us to this moment. Together, we can make sure that the Entertainment Community Fund remains a consistent pillar in supporting a life in the arts. We look forward to sharing more about the **ESSENTIAL Campaign** with you in the months ahead.

Find out more about this life-changing campaign at entertainmentcommunity.org/Essential.

A Message from the Chair of the Board

Since I first got involved with the Entertainment Community Fund (then The Actors Fund) in 2008, I've always been struck by how much collaboration weaves through our work and our community. And that has certainly been the case in my first year as Chair of the Board, across triumphs and challenges.

The Fund was founded in 1882 by people in the arts looking to “take care of their own.” This drive to rally together was fully apparent once again last summer, when the industry faced two work stoppages at the same time; a historic and devastating period for so many but buoyed by hope and comradery.

I've also had the privilege of seeing how Fund staff collaborate to ensure that those we help are seen and valued for their whole selves, with a helping hand to make sure they thrive in this often unpredictable world. From housing to health insurance, from mental health support to sideline careers and more: the Entertainment Community Fund remains a source of strength for those who need us.

This crucial network of support includes you, too. Without your commitment to the Fund, we wouldn't be able to accomplish all that we do. It is thanks to all of you that the Fund will continue to help people in the performing arts and entertainment industry in the months and years to come, no matter what new obstacles we face.

It is a pleasure and honor to serve as the Entertainment Community Fund's Chair of the Board of Trustees, and I hope you'll continue to join me in supporting a life in the arts.

With Gratitude,



Annette Bening (she/her/hers), Chair of the Board



Annette Bening, Chair of the Board

— Your Support in Action in 2023 —

34,723 people

were helped through the Fund's programs

Over 4,600 people

participated in our clinical groups, educational seminars and Financial Wellness Program

More than 1,800 people

participated in Housing Resource Center workshops

3,900 people

took part in Career Center services, a 46 percent increase from 2022

Over 3,700 people

received our Artists Health Insurance Resource Center counseling

Introducing our Client Portal

funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies' Digital Accelerator Program

The Entertainment Community Fund addresses the unique needs of individuals working in performing arts and entertainment throughout all areas of their lives. Now, the Fund's brand-new Client Portal provides people nationwide with a seamless and convenient way to access the Fund's wide range of workshops, programs and resources—24 hours a day, seven days a week.

This innovative online resource includes customized recommendations based on someone's specific interests

and needs. Clients are just a click away from accessing an abundance of information and personalized services. We designed this experience to make the journey in the often challenging entertainment industry a bit smoother for all who use this valuable service.

And it's absolutely free!

To learn more about our Client Portal, visit portal.entertainmentcommunity.org.

— AVAILABLE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES INCLUDE —



Counseling and Consultations



Financial Assistance and Grants



Workshops and Classes



Support Groups



Housing



Health Care



Job Leads



Staff Spotlight: Kent Curtis, Social Work Supervisor

Kent Curtis, our Social Work Supervisor, is one of the many professionals here at the Fund delivering intensive case management to meet the needs of our clients.

"We can't dole out happiness, but we can try to help people's lives feel in control enough that they experience some of the joy in life."

—Kent Curtis

Kent came to the Fund more than 17 years ago, not only because of his love of the performing arts, but also because of his experience with social work and people living with HIV or AIDS. As the supervisor of our HIV Initiative, his role is not just a job—it is a calling.

When clients ask "What do I do now?" after an HIV diagnosis, Kent is there to provide answers and support. On any given day, he can be found helping people apply for grants, talking with doctors when

clients need a liaison, and making sure they have their everyday needs met, including food and a safe home.

Through his work, Kent also honors his friends and uncle who died of AIDS. There is no question that the 400 or more clients he has served throughout his years at the Fund would agree that he has done just that. He is their advocate. He is part of their surrogate family. We're so grateful for Kent and his ongoing dedication to all those he helps in the performing arts and entertainment industry.



Entertainment Community Fund

Formerly The Actors Fund

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entertainmentcommunity.org

— Your Newsletter Enclosed —

Save the Date!



2024 Jock Duncan Memorial Celebri-TEE Golf & Tennis Outing

Monday, August 19, 2024, 10 am ET
Knickerbocker Country Club, Tenafly, NJ

For details, visit entertainmentcommunity.org/golf2024

Left to Right: Rob Demery, Bill Selmon, Ken Davenport and Trustee Kenny Leon at the 2023 Jock Duncan Memorial Celebri-TEE Golf & Tennis Outing; Photo Credit: Marc Levine



Lights! Camera! Ante Up! Celebrity Poker Tournament

Sunday, September 8, 2024, at 1 pm PT
Candela La Brea, Los Angeles, CA

For details, visit entertainmentcommunity.org/events

Left to Right: Bryan Cranston, Krysten Ritter and Bob Odenkirk at the 2023 Lights! Camera! Ante Up! Poker Tournament; Photo Credit: Nina Prommer



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