

FOUR SEASONS

A 60th Anniversary Campaign







Saratoga Performing Arts Center (SPAC)

has fostered connection through the performing arts for nearly 60 years. It has become a transformative year-round home serving the Capital Region and beyond through artistic excellence, educational programming, community outreach, and economic vibrancy.

Its exquisite setting in a 2,400-acre park surrounded by hiking trails, geysers, and natural mineral springs draws lovers of arts, culture, and nature for performances by resident companies New York City Ballet, The Philadelphia Orchestra, and Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center as well as Saratoga Jazz Festival and concerts by Live Nation, in addition to year-round dance, jazz, classical, and world music.

At SPAC, the power of the arts and the beauty of our natural world harmonize to educate, connect, and inspire all.

SPAC is a 501c3 charitable organization.





Dear Friends,

Thank you for being a part of our truly remarkable SPAC community. Even after over eight years at the helm of SPAC, I still marvel at the sense of connection and generosity that this community has for SPAC and our city, as well as at the unique partnership with New York State Parks that has made this magic possible for six decades. Much like the dancing cycles of the seasons, SPAC continually undergoes the processes of rebirth—and none like the transformative shifts that have taken place in the last ten years. SPAC has become a dynamic year-round home, making significant contributions to the cultural, educational, and economic prosperity and community wellbeing of the Capital Region. This has only been possible because of your generous support.

Over the last decade, SPAC has embraced an expanded definition of the arts with culinary, literary, visual, and healing arts complementing the world-class performing arts that appear on our stages.

Our arts education and community programming has also expanded exponentially, now serving over fifty thousand students every year. In keeping with this growth, in 2021 we opened the SPAC School of the Arts, and in 2022, after two years of closure due to the pandemic, it became our honor to re-open the doors to Spa Little Theater and commence a robust schedule of year-round dance, theater, jazz, classical, and world music offerings. It has been a joy to see how our community has embraced the new and spirited activity in this beloved space with as much vigor as our cherished summer season.

Today SPAC welcomes more than 500,000 visitors through our gates each year. And now, as we near our 60th anniversary, we embark on the next phase of SPAC's growth.

In 1966, members of the Saratoga community came together to build SPAC. Sixty years later, I am asking the Saratoga community to help ensure that all we have created here together endures well into the future. With private and public support, most notably from our trailblazing government partners NYS Parks and Empire State Development, we plan to renovate Spa Little Theater. In tune with SPAC's role as a steward of our place in the natural world, the venue will be more energy efficient, featuring a fresh and accessible design. We also seek to safeguard our financial future by growing our programming and operations reserves, so that SPAC can continue to engender a vibrant arts landscape across the Capital Region.

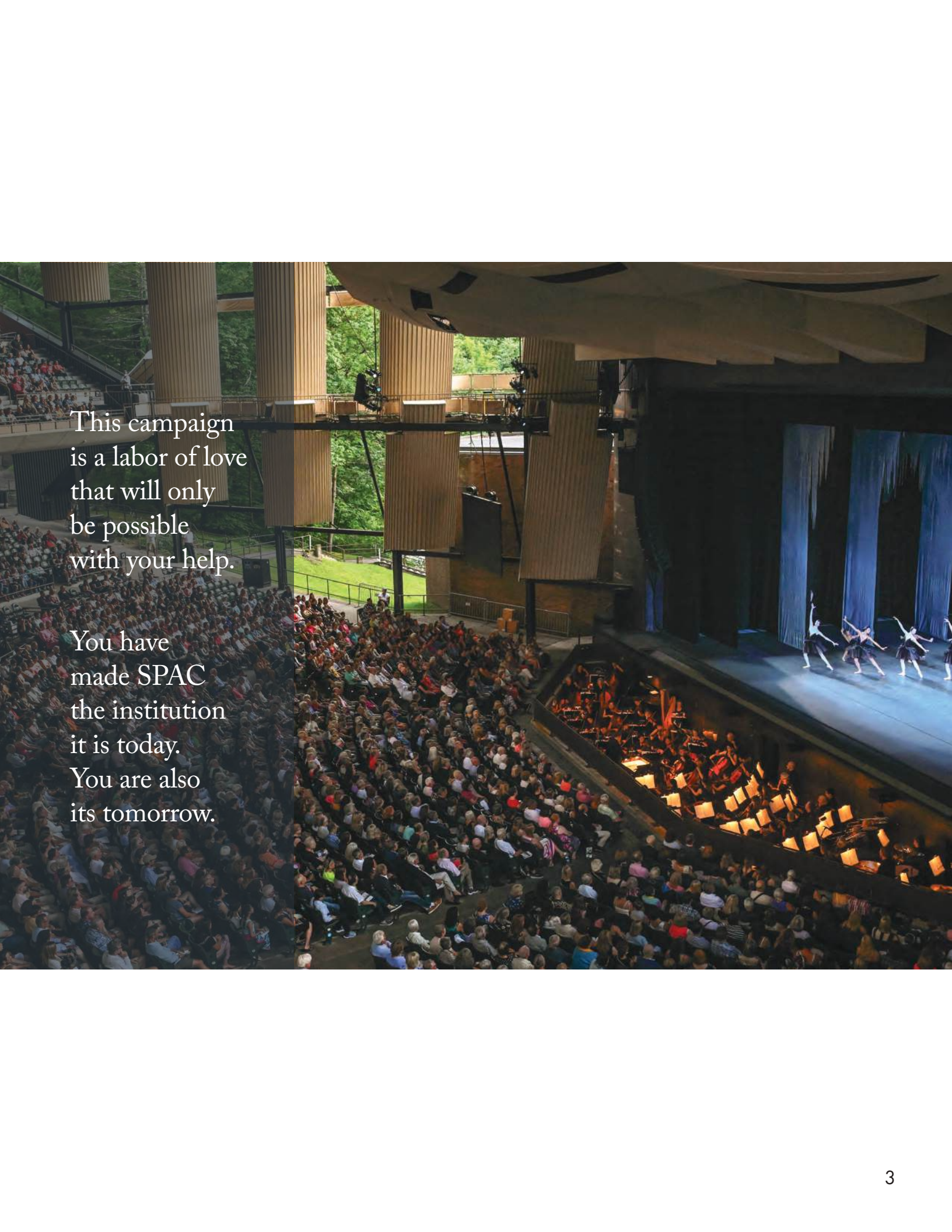
Our campaign will strengthen SPAC in ways that lift Saratoga's potential as a year-round eco-cultural tourism destination of the highest caliber for years to come, serving the broadest possible audience, as well as the astonishing roster of world-class artists and companies that grace our stages.

This campaign is a labor of love that will only be possible with your help. You have made SPAC the institution it is today. You are also its tomorrow. Thank you for your enduring support.

With deep appreciation,



Elizabeth Sobol
Chief Executive Officer, Saratoga Performing Arts Center



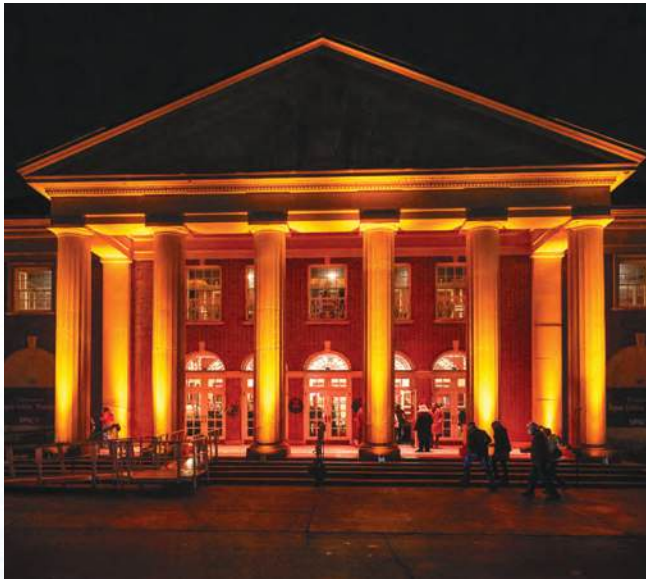
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SPAC Turns 60

Invest in the renovation of Spa Little Theater and year-round art, performance, and education

Celebrating our 60th anniversary in 2026, Saratoga Performing Arts Center is thrilled to launch the \$17.5 million Four Seasons Campaign to renovate our historic Spa Little Theater and expand vital resources to ensure that SPAC's new and signature programming continues to thrive, 365 days a year and for years to come.



The arts have
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With the loss of the arts in many schools, Spa Little Theater is a place where live performances can spark the minds and imaginations of our youth. We are proud to support its renovation.

—Lois and Matthew Emmens



We believe the arts are a catalyst for a more dynamic, creative, and empathetic society. Through inspiring and accessible programs, the arts have the power to foster connections amongst people and promote understanding and compassion for each other and the world around us. A charitable investment in the Four Seasons Campaign is an investment in the communities we serve, not only in our role as one of the nation's top performing arts centers serving more than half a million visitors each year, but also as a driving force in arts education and a leader in our local economy.

Please join us in bringing the magic of SPAC to life with enrichment, education, healing, and inspiration all year long.

Spa Little Theater Renovation Plans

Nearly 100-year-old historic and nationally significant theater, in the heart of Saratoga Spa State Park

Our next major milestone in transforming SPAC is the restoration of a key component of SPAC's beautiful campus, Spa Little Theater. The acoustically exceptional 500-seat theater has not been renovated since it was built in 1935 and is in pressing need of modernization and repair. Spa Little Theater is a critical part of SPAC's holistic package of arts, education, and community programming and is now at the crux of our initiatives, all year long.



A Year-Round Home for Arts, Education, and Community

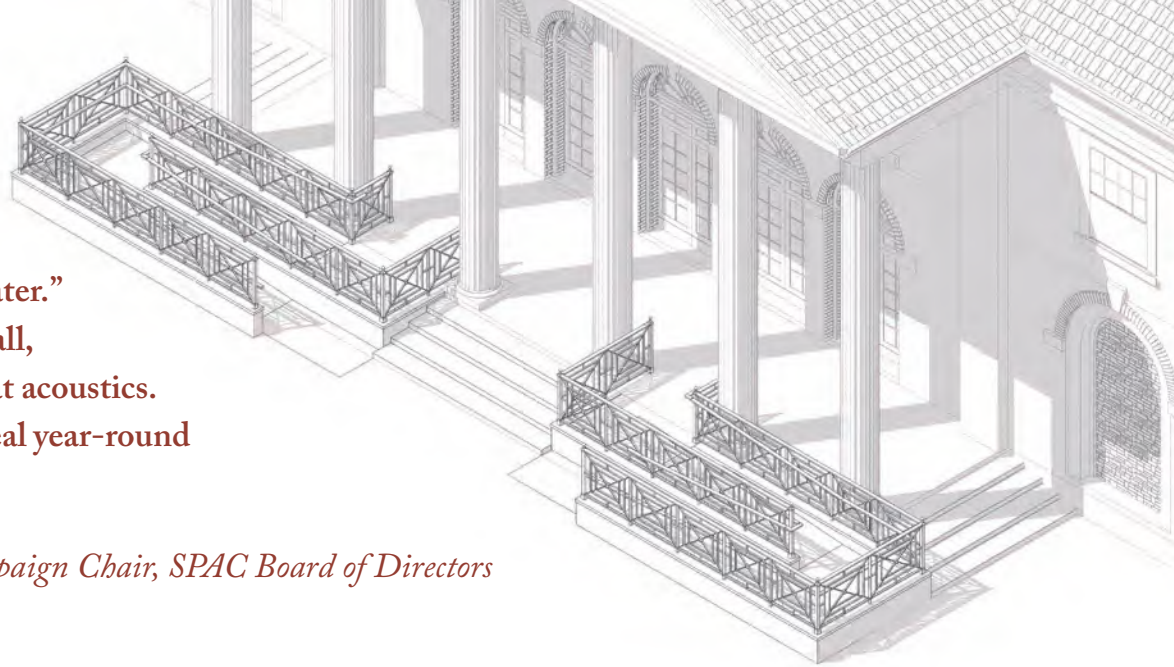
Since taking over administration of Spa Little Theater in 2022, SPAC has:

- Welcomed 35,000 individuals to programs and events at Spa Little Theater.
- Presented 100 cultural events including classical, jazz, folk, and world music programs, as well as theater and dance.
- Expanded Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center's summer season to a year-round residency.
- Created space for cultural, community, and corporate partners such as Caffè Lena, New York State Parks, the Saratoga Book Festival, Northshire Bookstore, Saratoga Voices, Homemade Theater, Global Foundries, and more.



Spa Little Theater is a perfect “Goldilocks theater.” Not too big, not too small, it’s just right—with great acoustics. At 500 seats, it is the ideal year-round venue for SPAC.

— Susan Law Dake, Campaign Chair, SPAC Board of Directors



The project will revitalize Spa Little Theater with:

- ▶ 17,125 square feet of renovation including exterior and interior restorations.
- ▶ A new floor plan and new accessibility measures including ADA-compliant entrances to the theater and stage.
- ▶ Theater upgrades including updated seats, increased ADA seating, a brand-new stage floor, refreshed interior, and an environmentally efficient state-of-the-art HVAC system.
- ▶ Complete transformation of the lobby featuring a new layout that includes an increased number of fully renovated and accessible public restrooms and an enhanced box office experience.
- ▶ Creation of an elegant dining and entertainment space with a newly constructed café, concessions, and bar to service guests at all performances.
- ▶ Reconfigured multipurpose community room with an adjacent outdoor patio, fully equipped with audiovisual technology.
- ▶ Brand new artist suite featuring spacious dressing rooms, updated shower facilities, and an elegant green room.
- ▶ Installation of new security and building management systems.



Artistic Vision

Four Seasons of Tradition and Innovation: On and Off the Stage

Since our 50th anniversary in 2016, SPAC has significantly expanded our artistic footprint. In addition to reaffirming our commitment to beloved favorites like New York City Ballet, The Philadelphia Orchestra, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, and Saratoga Jazz Fest each summer, we now offer artistic excellence throughout all four seasons of the year and have introduced a dynamic roster of contemporary composers, choreographers, and performers from around the world to our community.



Alongside our legendary performing arts offerings, we have expanded our definition of the arts to encompass a thriving culinary arts program, visual arts exhibitions, literary arts programming, and healing arts initiatives.

With your support, SPAC will sustain our signature programs while continuing to expand our artistic offerings. We are eager to activate new spaces, collaborate with new artists, and engage with new audiences, opening the hearts, minds, and souls of all who visit.



Education and Community

The Power to Illuminate, Educate, and Inspire

At SPAC, education and artistic programming go hand in hand, with initiatives that guide students of all ages towards self-empowerment through artistic discovery in a welcoming and joyful environment.

SPAC provides unique arts and community programs to:

- 50,000 participants each year in 21 counties in Upstate New York.
- More than 120 schools and nonprofit organizations.



We provide year-round programs, free admission to performances, educational workshops, and weekly classes for people of all ages and backgrounds throughout the SPAC campus (SPAC School of the Arts, the Amphitheater Grounds, and Spa Little Theater) and in public schools across the region.

As we expand programming at Spa Little Theater and widen our artistic footprint, our arts education and engagement initiatives will also grow. We invite you to help us provide even more communities with arts and learning experiences otherwise unavailable to them.



SPAC brings vitality and beauty into our community and hope for our next generation. By supporting SPAC, I know that we're making our community an even better place to live.

— Charles Wait, Jr., Chair, SPAC Board of Directors

Facilities and Operations: The “Nuts and Bolts” that Keep SPAC Thriving

SPAC seeks to be a place of gathering and connection, where all are welcome

SPAC’s community-centered ethos is inextricably connected to the ground on which we stand and the buildings in which we sit. Our wide-ranging artistic vision and growing arts education initiatives take place within SPAC’s campus in Spa State Park: the Amphitheater and SPAC Grounds, Spa Little Theater, SPAC School of the Arts at the Lewis A. Swyer Studios, The Pines (including the indoor multipurpose Nancy DiCresce Room and second-floor Pines Terrace with breathtaking views), Charles R. Wood Discovery Stage, Julie Bonacio Family Pavilion, and the Hall of Springs.



The heart of our mission is to provide communal experiences around the transformative power of the arts. The financial ability to remain nimble and resourceful is crucial for us to confront the ongoing material realities of SPAC’s operational administration, maintenance and upkeep, security, inevitable emergencies, and the sustainment of a dedicated, fairly compensated staff. At a payroll cost of \$3M+, SPAC employs a lean but mighty team of some 35 full-time staff, a substantial crew of 450 part-time seasonal employees, and countless volunteers each summer who bring the magic of SPAC to life for half a million visitors.

None of SPAC’s programming is possible if these less glamorous, yet equally important, elements are not supported. Your gift to the Four Seasons Campaign will help to support the “Nuts and Bolts” of our day-to-day operations.



The heart of our mission is to provide
communal experiences around
the transformative power of the arts.

EMPLOYEES

35

full-time

450

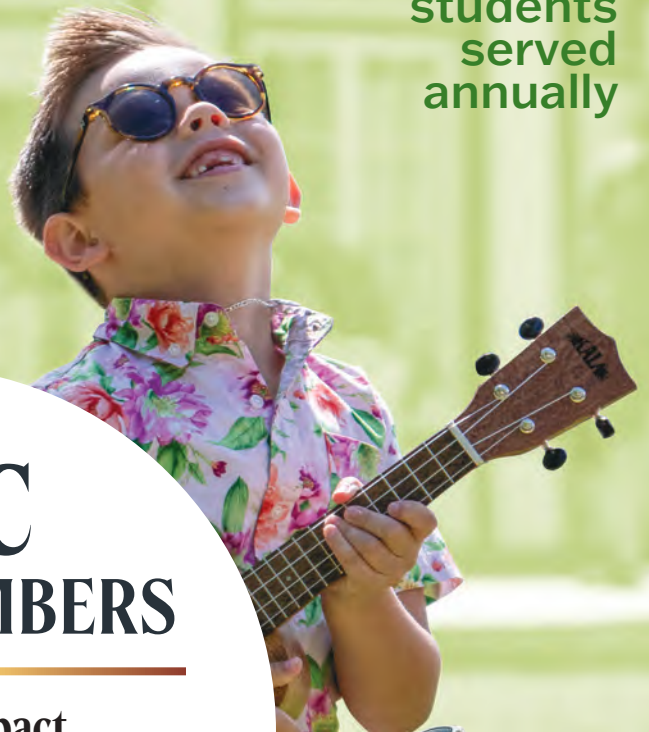
part-time &
seasonal



EDUCATION IMPACT

50,000

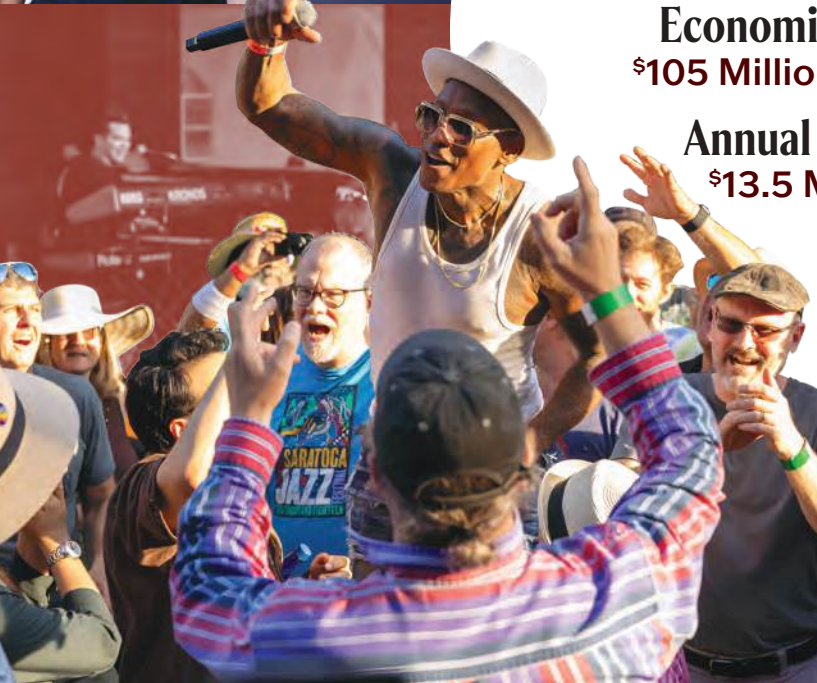
students
served
annually



SPAC BY THE NUMBERS

Economic Impact
\$105 Million annually

Annual Budget
\$13.5 Million



120+

events annually

PERFORMANCES & PROGRAMS

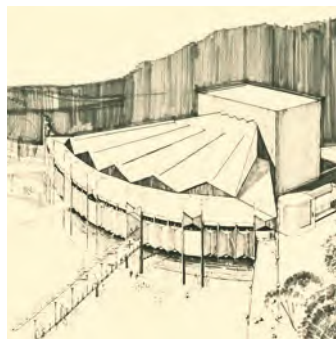
500,000

ANNUAL VISITORS

Four Seasons Campaign Breakdown



SPAC at 60: A History of Harmony



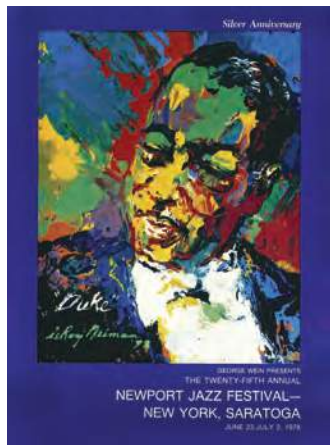
JUNE 1966

Saratoga Performing Arts Center (SPAC) is born, dedicated by NY Gov. Nelson Rockefeller.



AUGUST 1966

The Philadelphia Orchestra debuts at SPAC with Beethoven's *Consecration of the House Overture*, conducted by Eugene Ormandy.



JULY 1978

First Saratoga Jazz Festival takes place, billed as Newport Jazz Festival at Saratoga.



JUNE 1985

Grateful Dead sets SPAC attendance record of 40,231.

JULY 1966

New York City Ballet (NYCB) premieres at SPAC, the first time in history a ballet company has a permanent summer home.

JUNE 1967

Harry Belafonte headlines SPAC's first Special Event concert.



JULY 1978

Dance superstar Mikhail Baryshnikov makes his NYCB debut at SPAC.



2014

Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center partners with SPAC as a new resident company.





2016

SPAC celebrates its 50th anniversary.

2019

SPAC's educational programming reaches a new high of over 49,000 students (up from 5,000 in 2016) with in-school dance residencies, workshops, performances, and family events.

2021

SPAC School of the Arts opens in the Lewis A. Swyer Studios, offering music, theater, and dance classes for all ages.

2023

SPAC hosts inaugural fundraiser Summer SPACtacular.

2017

The Charles R. Wood Discovery Stage is completed, becoming SPAC's second stage.



2020

SPAC's campus is transformed and modernized with the completion of The Pines, the Julie Bonacio Family Pavilion, and new amenities buildings. New initiatives in the culinary, literary, visual, and healing arts are launched using the new facilities.

2022

SPAC takes over full administration of Spa Little Theater, expanding its programming with a year-round Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center residency and new fall and holiday programming.

2025

SPAC launches *Four Seasons: A 60th Anniversary Campaign* and breaks ground on Spa Little Theater renovation project.



2026

SPAC turns 60 and unveils the transformed Spa Little Theater.

**We invite you to join our 60th anniversary celebration
by making a commitment to the Four Seasons Campaign.**

**For further information and
to make a campaign gift:**

Contact Jana Gordon, CFRE

Senior Vice President of Development
518.584.9330 ext. 102 or
jgordon@spac.org

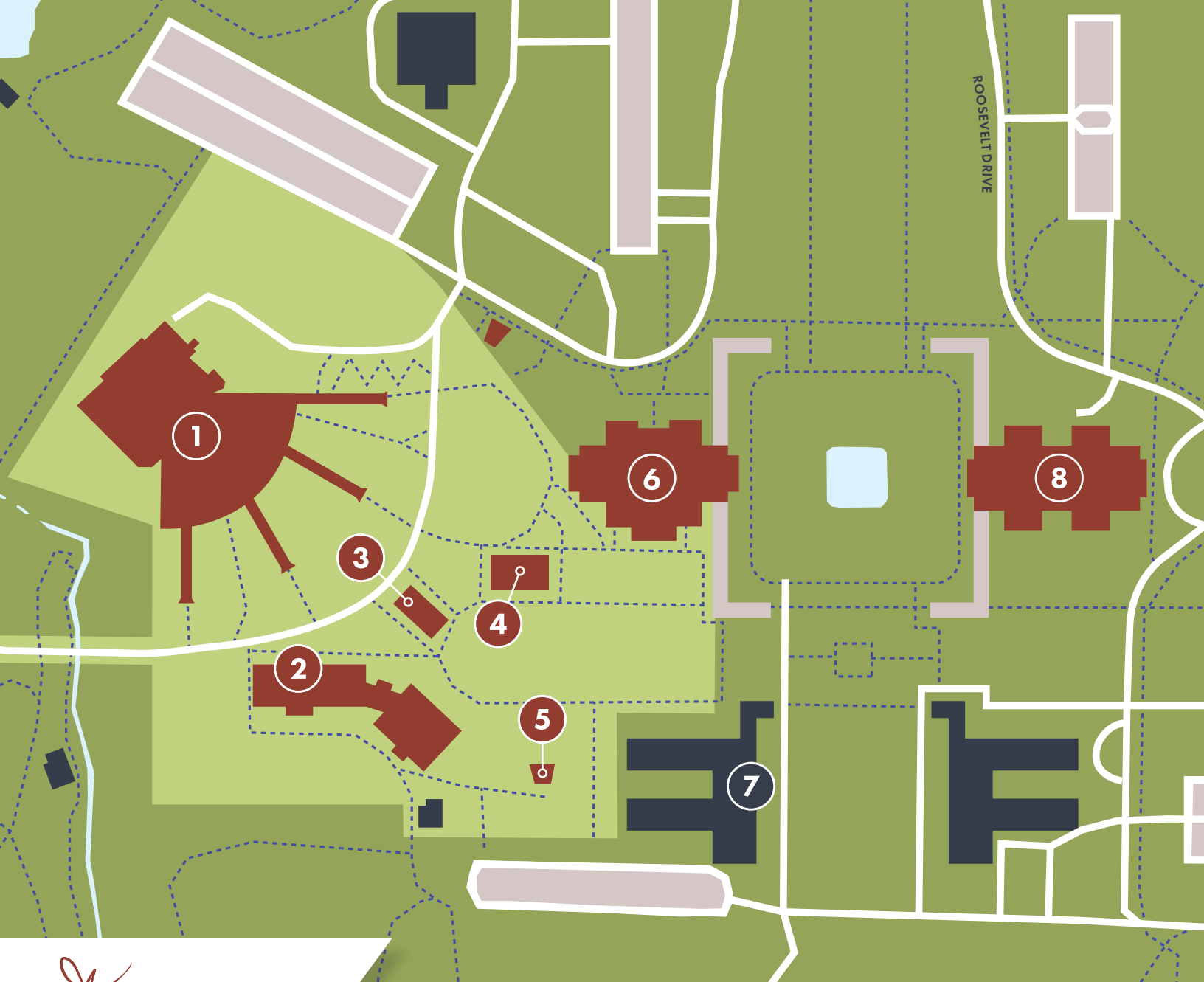
Online

spac.org/four-seasons

Mail a check

Saratoga Performing Arts Center
Development Office
108 Avenue of the Pines
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866





1. Amphitheater
2. The Pines
3. Julie Bonacio Family Pavilion

4. Pinecone
5. Charles R. Wood Stage
6. Hall of Springs

7. Roosevelt Baths & Spa
8. Spa Little Theater

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