



The
Rita

10TH ANNIVERSARY

UNIVERSITY OF
WISCONSIN **PARKSIDE**



The Life Expressive

Artist Steve Feren's work "The Life Expressive" welcomes visitors to the Rita Tallent Picken Regional Center for Arts and Humanities.

Feren was inspired by the passion of Ferdinand Cheval, a retired postman in the south of France who spent more than 30 years of his life creating Le Palais Idéal.

Cheval — armed with only a wheelbarrow, bucket and trowel — built an imaginary castle, a wonder of the creative world.

A WORD FROM THE DEAN

It is hard to believe that it has been 10 years since the inauguration of the Rita Tallent Picken Regional Center for the Arts and Humanities. One of the highlights of my job is the thrill I get when I walk into the building, past The Life Expressive, and take a few moments to view on the large monitor in the Brookwood Entrance what's happening that week in the Rita.

It has been a very busy decade indeed! In any given year, over 50 concerts are performed in the acoustically impeccable Frances Bedford Concert Hall; we mount 40 productions in our two theatres; our galleries welcome local, national, and international artists. We host a Writers' Conference in the spring and participate in the annual celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. Our music students do an amazing job of creating a meaningful celebration of Martin Luther King Day each year. In December, our first graduate from the one-year-old Master of Arts in Professional Communication earned her degree!

At the same time, the expansion of the Rita has allowed us to engage robustly with our community in Southeast Wisconsin. The Racine Symphony regularly performs in the Bedford Hall; local community members play and sing in our bands, orchestra, and choir; world-class jazz musicians perform every March during Jazz Week; over 1400 subscribers enjoy the Foreign Film Series; regional artists display their work in our art galleries; high school teachers attend workshops offered by the Parkside art faculty; and, through our matinee series, regional high school students take advantage of our theatre performances.

When making her transformational gift to UW-Parkside, Kitty Picken sought to honor her stepmother, Rita Tallent Picken, by spurring on the creation of a Regional Center for the Arts and Humanities in Southeast Wisconsin. We would like to thank Chancellor Debbie Ford, Provost Rob Ducoffe, and Vice Chancellor Willie Jude II for their abiding support of this vision. Our semester-long celebration of the opening of the Rita carries this dream into the future with immense gratitude from us all.

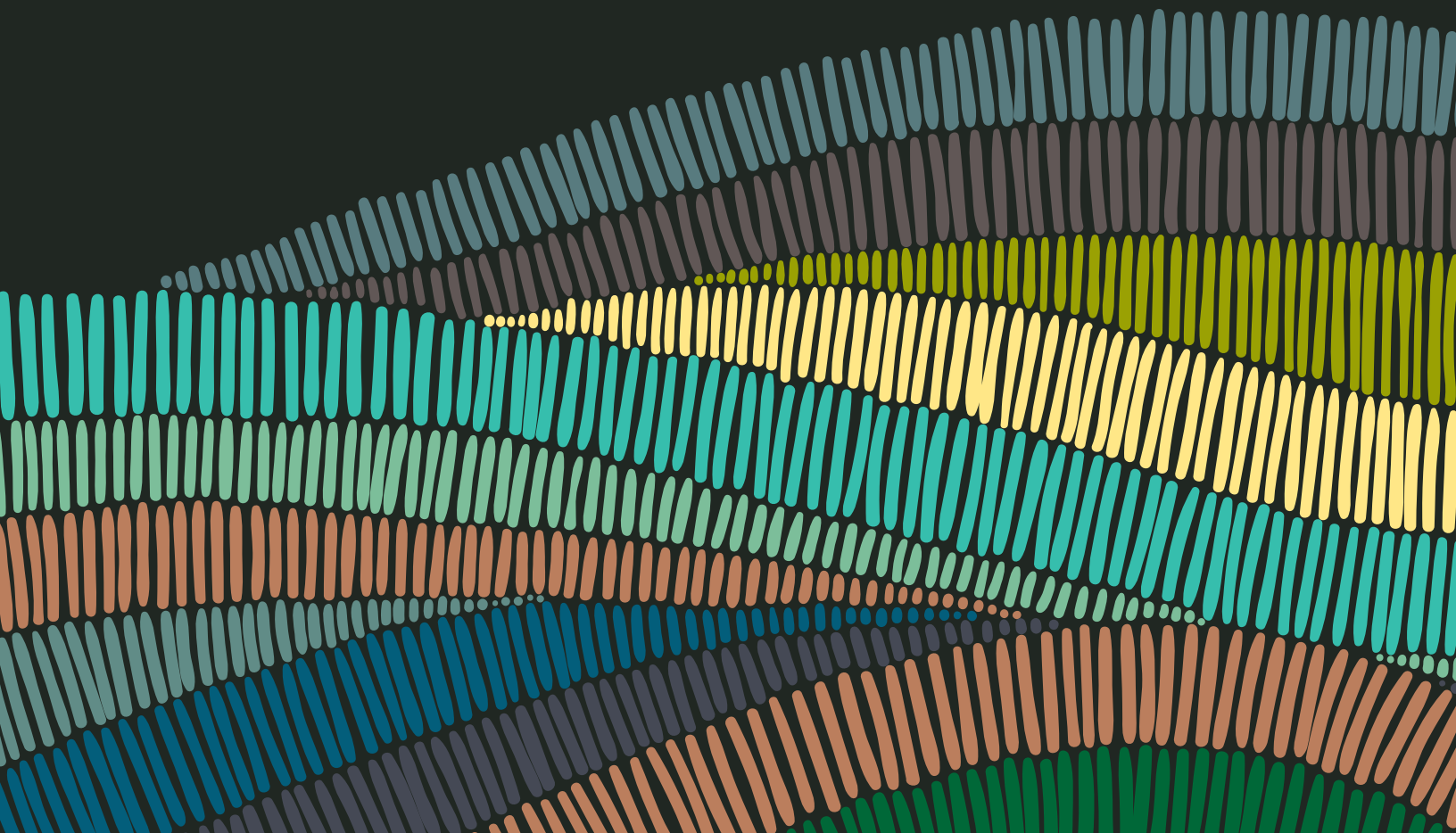
Lesley H. Walker



10TH ANNIVERSARY

CELEBRATION

SUNDAY AT THE RITA



SAVE THE DATE!

Apr 24, 2022 | 1-7 pm

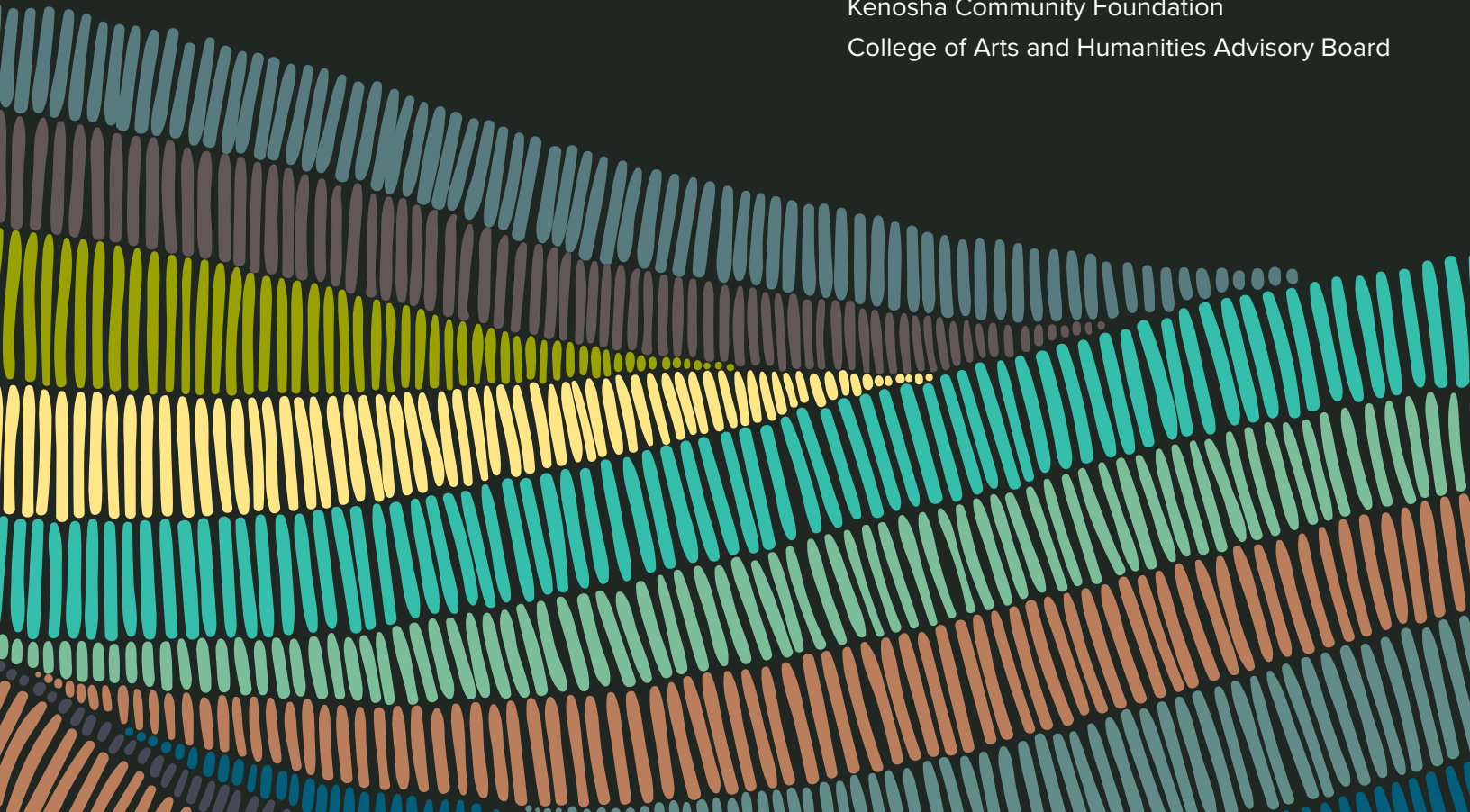
- 1-7 pm Open Labs and Studios
English and Communication student videos
- 2 pm Theatre demonstration: *She Kills Monsters*
Foreign Film Series screening: *Another Round*
- 3 pm Parkside Range concert
- 4:30 pm Reception for *Together Again*
- 5 pm Foreign Film Series screening: *Another Round*
- 5:30 pm *Together Again* awards announcement

THANK YOU TO OUR

Producing Sponsors

10th Anniversary Celebration

Betsy Brown
Dr. Don Cress
Petretti Family
Dr. Sue Cable
Julie Anding and Lisa Kornetsky
Marie Kohler
Emily K. Lauer Memorial Fund
Dragonblade Publisher Inc.
Kenosha Community Foundation
College of Arts and Humanities Advisory Board



a celebration of **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

in collaboration with the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs
and the Mahogany Gallery



BUILDING YOUR CAREER AS A BLACK ARTIST

Feb 3, 2022 | 4-5 pm | Main Stage Theatre

Panel discussion moderated by artist and educator Mutope Johnson, MFA, presented in partnership with the Wisconsin Black Art & Culture Expo.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CELEBRATION

Feb 25, 2022 | 12 pm | Bedford Concert Hall

Annual student-produced event and concert honoring the lifelong legacy and leadership of Dr. King hosted by the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs, Music Department, and the Liberal Studies program.



FREE NOON CONCERTS

Feb 11, 2022 | Major contributor to the New York City jazz scene, Greg Murphy with trio.

Feb 18, 2022 | Highly-accomplished baritone, Bill McMurray, featuring a powerful operatic rendition of *I Have a Dream*.

CELEBRATION SHRINE EXHIBITION

Feb 8-25, 2022 | Foundation Gallery

Installation of community-sourced objects assembled to pay tribute to those who've fought for social justice and those who inspire us to become better versions of ourselves.



TOGETHER AGAIN RACINE | KENOSHA

EXHIBITION RECEPTION

Apr 24, 2022 | 4:30 pm
Fine Arts Gallery

We celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Rita with the opening of *Together Again*, an exhibition of artists from Racine, Kenosha, and adjacent counties. This all-media exhibition is juried by Shana McCaw, Creative Director and Co-Founder at Current Projects in Milwaukee, WI.

EXHIBITION Feb 2-May 13, 2022
uwp.edu/togetheragain

TOGETHER: RACINE KENOSHA
Aug-Oct, 2018

Art transcended borders and united communities when artists connected to Parkside's two hometowns displayed work of various mediums in *Together*, a juried exhibition presented as part of Parkside's 50 Years celebration.



AUTHORS TALK

Feb 23, 2022 | 4-5:30 pm
Bedford Concert Hall

Reception to follow

Drs. Josef Benson and
Doug Singen discuss their
book, *Bandits, Misfits, and
Superheroes: Whiteness
and Its Borderlands in
American Comics and
Graphic Novels* (University
Press of Mississippi, 2022).

THEATRE ARTS

SPRING 2022



INDECENT

By Paula Vogel

Directed by Rachael Swartz

Mar 4, 5, 11, & 12 | 7 pm

Mar 6 & 13 | 2 pm

Mar 11 | 10 am

Inspired by the true events surrounding the 1923 Broadway debut of Sholem Asch's *God of Vengeance*, a flashpoint in Jewish and queer theatrical history, *Indecent* follows the history of the play itself and the artists who risked their careers and lives to perform it.

SHE KILLS MONSTERS

By Qui Nguyen

Directed by Brian Gill

Apr 29, 30, May 6 & 7 | 7 pm

May 1 & 8 | 2 pm

May 6 | 10 am

Agnes Evans leaves her childhood home in Ohio following the death of her teenage sister, Tilly. When Agnes finds Tilly's *Dungeons & Dragons* notebook, however, she finds herself catapulted into a journey of discovery and action-packed adventure in this high-octane dramatic comedy laden with homicidal fairies, nasty ogres, and '90s pop culture.

MORE MUSIC

SPRING 2022



COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA WITH DAVID MASON

Mar 5, 2022 | 3 pm
Bedford Concert Hall

Alvaro Garcia, Conductor

Reception to follow



WIND ENSEMBLE AND COMMUNITY BAND WITH ELIANA FIRMANI-ALCOCER '18

Mar 10, 2022 | 7 pm
Bedford Concert Hall

Laura Rexroth, Conductor

Reception to follow



PARKSIDE RANGE

Apr 24, 2022 | 3 pm
Bedford Concert Hall

Ami Bouterse, Director

JAZZ WEEK



THE BAD PLUS

Mar 17, 2022 | 7 pm
Bedford Concert Hall

Reception to follow

Mar 14-19, 2022

One week, seven concerts.

We are excited to reprise our tradition of Jazz Week that offers to audiences the gamut of contemporary jazz today from Big Bands, to Free, to Fusion, and Soul.



AUTHOR TALK: PENG SHEPHERD

Apr 19, 2022 | 5:30-8 pm
Bedford Concert Hall

Reception to follow

The Department of Literatures and Languages and Straylight Magazine are excited to welcome to campus author Peng Shepherd, whose planned keynote engagement at the Writer's Conference 2020 was canceled due to the pandemic.

ABOUT PENG SHEPHERD

Peng was born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona, where she rode horses and trained in classical ballet, and has lived in Beijing, Kuala Lumpur, London, Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., and New York.

Her first novel, *The Book of M*, won the 2019 Neukom Institute for Literary Arts Award for Debut Speculative Fiction, and was chosen as a best book of the year by Amazon, Elle, Refinery29, and The Verge, as well as a best book of the summer by the Today Show and NPR's On Point. A graduate of the NYU MFA program, Peng is the recipient of a 2020 fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as the Elizabeth George Foundation's emerging writers 2016 grant. Her second novel, *The Cartographers*, is forthcoming from HarperCollins in March 2022.

An abstract graphic on the right side of the page consists of several vertical, wavy bands of color. The colors include green, yellow, blue, red, orange, pink, and light blue. The lines are thin and closely spaced, creating a textured, almost woven appearance. The overall shape is roughly rectangular but with wavy, organic edges.

1ST ANNUAL SPANISH PROGRAM COLLOQUIUM *Tertulia: Una noche bohemia*

Apr 21, 2022

Black Box Theatre

The Department of Literatures and Languages presents the inaugural Spanish Program Colloquium. The idea behind the theme, *Tertulia: Una noche bohemia*, draws inspiration from the terms *tertulia* and *bohemia*, which together refer to social gatherings with literary or artistic overtones. Tertulias in particular were literary salons popular in Spain dating back to the 17th century that were at first held in private homes, but later in the 19th century in clubs and cafés.

In a café-inspired ambiance within the Rita, students will present a variety of work in the spirit of this year's theme, including but not limited to original research, poetry and other forms of creative writing, and musical or short theatrical performances.



TRANSFORMATIONAL GIVING

Enhancing the Experience at the Rita Tallent Picken Regional Center for Arts & Humanities since 2012

RITA TALLENT PICKEN AND KITTY PICKEN

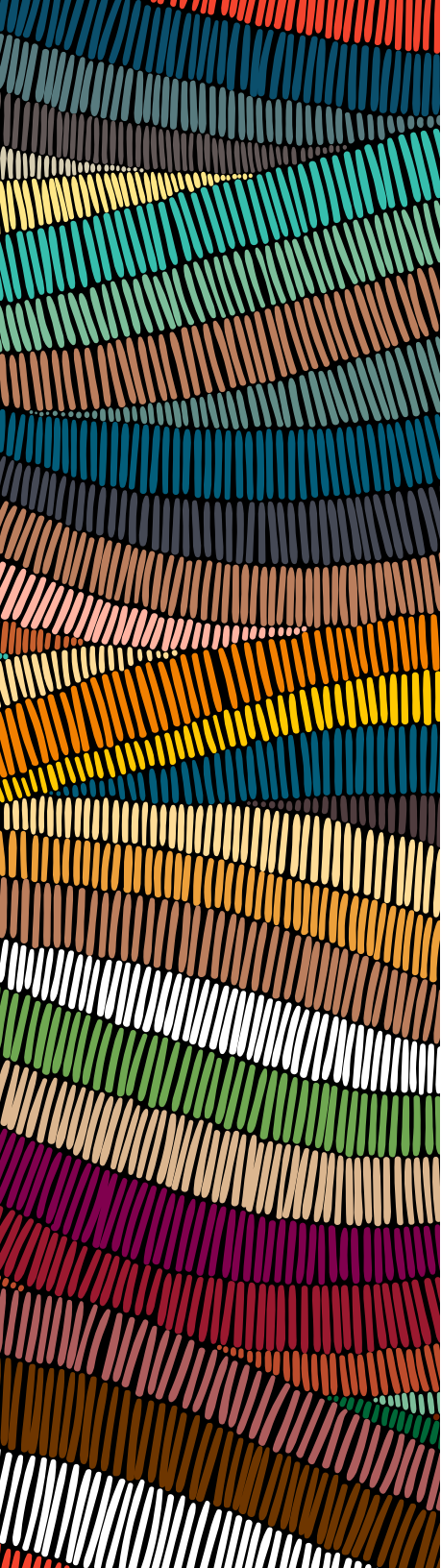
The desire to create a campus and community destination for the arts inspired a transformational gift of \$3.5 million – the largest private contribution in UW-Parkside’s history to date. Beyond the dollar amount, at the heart of her generosity, Kitty Picken sought to celebrate her stepmother Rita Tallent Picken’s commitment to community and to making our region into a great place to live through life-long learning and the arts. In her remarks at the naming ceremony of the Rita Tallent Picken Regional Center for the Arts and Humanities in 2012, Kitty described an ancient Egyptian belief that a name is a living thing. “You live again when your name is spoken or written,” Kitty said, “and so she [Rita] is here with us today.”

Providing UW-Parkside students with a transformational education and building community through the arts and humanities is at the core of our mission. The Picken gift allowed the College of Arts and Humanities to furnish the Rita with state-of-the-art technologies and equipment in the two theatres, art studios, and classrooms. But, even more importantly, the gift has provided significant scholarship funds to over 100 students and counting through the Picken Arts & Humanities Scholarship, supported a 10-day choir trip to Wuhan, China in 2019, and provides funds for students to participate in arts-related opportunities such as the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival and the International Competition of Collegiate A Cappella.

This year the gift will help fund study abroad experiences, field trips, invited speakers and artists. Our students benefit from these robust educational opportunities because of the generosity and vision of Kitty Picken. And, thus, does Rita continue to live among us.



"Rita Tallent Picken," University of Wisconsin-Parkside Digital Collections
© The Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System



FRANCES M. BEDFORD

In December of 2011, the centerpiece of the new Rita music wing debuted: the acoustically superb Frances Bedford Concert Hall welcomed two sold-out concerts of Handel's *Messiah* to its newly finished stage. Fittingly enough, Emerita Professor of Music Frances Bedford played the harpsichord continuo as she had done since 1993 for each of the triennial performances of this beloved work. As the Rita project was conceived, refined, and built, Frances made a remarkable and inspirational gift to the Music Department, naming the new concert hall and inspiring generosity in others. Her tireless effort and vision led to the creation of the Gift of Music Endowed Concert Fund, and the Gift of Music Endowed Scholarship matching program. These funds ensure that Parkside music students thrive in their education and after graduation as performers and teachers throughout our region and country.

ELIZABETH (BETSY) BROWN

Betsy Brown established the Howard J. Brown Artist-in-Residence Endowment to commemorate her late husband's love of symphonic music. Howard Brown was the president and publisher of the Kenosha News for over 50 years. Throughout those years, Betsy herself worked tirelessly on the expansion of services in the Kenosha Public Libraries system; and she served on the board of Women and Children's Horizons. Together, this power couple established a legacy of deep commitment and boundless generosity to the Kenosha community. Betsy's support affords UW-Parkside the opportunity to bring world-class musicians to the Bedford Hall each spring. To date, we have hosted three exceptional musicians – incidentally, all three are Kenosha natives: Paul Cortese, violist, living and working in Europe; Rachel Velvikis, French horn player and member of the Seraph Brass; and David Mason, principal violist for the Japan Philharmonic Orchestra. In addition to playing in a concert, the recipient of the Howard Brown residency offers masterclasses to Parkside students as well as students in KUSD and RUSD.

HEIDI SKATRUD

In 2014, Heidi Skatrud established the Lois J. Skatrud Theater Arts Scholarship Fund to celebrate her mother's 25-year commitment to youth education in the arts. In 1987, Heidi's mother Lois started a children's theatre troupe, the Milton Optimist Club's Kids on Stage, in Milton Wisconsin. She co-directed plays for 27 years, working with nearly 1,000 children. Lois said about the scholarship created in her name: "Helping students finish college to pursue a career in the theater is my dream." Each year, since 2017, a UW-Parkside theatre arts major has benefited from the Skatrud family generosity and their mother's devotion to youth theatre.

DAVE BEACH AND CARMEN RIGAU

Professor Emeritus Dave Beach and Carmen Rigau, a former school counselor, are inveterate music lovers and concert goers. They are also deeply committed to social justice and seek to make an impact through education. Creating generous music scholarships allowed them to marry these two passions. They said: "We each were aided by others throughout our early lives. Establishing these scholarships honors and perpetuates this kindness." The Beach-Rigau scholarship is awarded annually and covers over 75% of a student's in-state tuition. Additionally, Beach and Rigau sponsor musical groups for our Noon Concert Series. Thanks to their continued generosity, we are able to program high quality, professional music groups free of charge to our community.

EMILE H. MATHIS

Emile H. Mathis II was an accomplished art dealer, appraiser, conservationist, and framer. From Superior Wisconsin, he moved to Racine and opened the Mathis Fine Art Gallery in 1972. He was extremely active in the Racine community, supporting Downtown Racine Revitalization, the Racine Art Museum, the Prairie School, and the Racine Zoo. The opening of the Rita and its expanded number of art galleries led him to make a significant gift that allows the College to bring in artists of regional and national reputation. One of our galleries now bears his name. In keeping with his commitment to the visual arts and art education, Mathis' generosity makes it possible for Parkside students to experience remarkable art in all its forms.

ROLLIN JANSKY

Rollin Jansky served as an assistant professor of art at the UW-Kenosha Center beginning in 1965, and was a founding faculty member at UW-Parkside when the campus opened. As an artist, Jansky was known for his large-scale polyester and fiberglass sculptures, and he also created welded steel sculptures later in his career. He exhibited nationally and garnered awards in regional and national art competitions. Professor Jansky was granted emeritus status upon his retirement in 1997. His impact on UW-Parkside students continues through the Rollin G. Jansky Endowed Scholarship in Visual Arts, established through his generous support in his lifetime and through his estate upon his death in 2021.

If the generosity of these gifts moves you to consider one of your own, connect with us at uwp.edu/RitaSupport

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

American Players Theatre
Art for Uptown
Casa Capri
Choral Arts Society of
Southeastern Wisconsin
Esperanza Coffee
Collective
Fifth House Ensemble
Fireside Theatre
Garrin Piano Studio, LLC
Paulette Garin
Hospice Alliance
Kennedy Center American
College Theater Festival
(KCACTF) Region 3
Kenosha Area Business
Alliance

Kenosha Area Convention
and Visitors Bureau
Kenosha Creative Space
Kenosha Community
Foundation's Arts Fund
Kenosha County Division
of Health
Kenosha Music Teachers
Association
Kenosha Pops Concert
Band
Kenosha Unified School
District
Lincoln Park Live!
Mahogany Gallery
Milwaukee Chamber
Theatre

Phil Reinhardt/
Barry Tait Media
Prevent Blindness
Wisconsin
Racine Arts Council
Racine Arts Guild
Racine Concert Band
Racine Symphony
Orchestra
Racine Unified School
District
Reagan IB High School
Riverdale High School
Southeast Wisconsin
Scholastic Writing Region
Studio of Classical Dance
Arts (Nutcracker)

Union Park Arts District
Uptown Brass Village
Neighborhood
Association
Westosha Central High
School
Wilmot Union High School
Wisconsin Choral
Directors Association
Wisconsin Federation of
Music Clubs
Wisconsin Public Radio
Wisconsin Music Teachers
Association
Wisconsin Schools Music
Association

COLLEGE ADVISORY BOARD

Tim Goodman
Debra Karp
Frances Kavenik
Marie Kohler
Lisa Kornetsky
Francisco Loyola
Ardis Mosely Mahone
Trish Petretti
Britton Sliwinski
Michelle Serpe



MBACC
MAHOGAN Y BLACK ARTS & CULTURAL CENTER, INC.

and

MAHOGAN Y GALLERY

We salute UW-Parkside as a beacon of light and your
commitment to ensuring voices are heard,
seen and supporting the arts! Salute!

www.mahoganygallery.com



Congratulations on the Rita's 10th Anniversary!

Join us for a fabulous evening of dining, shopping, and theatre with such great upcoming shows as *The Sound of Music*, *A Mighty Fortress is our Basement*, *What Happens in Vegas*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Grease*, and *White Christmas*. Visit our web site to learn more!



The Fire Side

Superb Musicals | Memorable Dining | Family Hospitality | Spectacular Shops
1131 Janesville Ave, Fort Atkinson, WI | 800-477-9505 | www.firesidetheatre.com



OS Projects
congratulates
the Rita
on 10 years of
excellence in the arts!

Congrats To 
The Rita

For 10 Art Filled Years!



Art - Classes - Events
Public Clay Studio

262-605-4745

4601 Sheridan Rd. Kenosha | Lemonstreetgallery.org



601 6th Street, Racine

<https://osprojects.art>



RACINE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

SPRING 2022

Musical Flights

Friday, February 11
6:30 pm
Uncorkt

Young Artists Competition

Sunday, February 13
1:00pm
UW-Parkside, The Rita, Frances Bedford
Concert Hall

Musical Flights

Friday, March 11
6:30 pm
Uncorkt

Education Concerts

Tuesday, March 15
9:15 am and 10:45 am
Grace Church

**Masterworks – Fauré Requiem with
UW-Parkside Choirs**

Sunday, April 10
3:00 pm
Siena Center

**Masterworks – 90th Anniversary Celebration
with David Fung**

Saturday, May 14
7:30 pm
Memorial Hall

TICKETS

Tickets are available by calling 262.636.9285 or online at www.racinesymphony.org. Please let us know if you have any questions or comments. Email heather@racinesymphony.org to receive our monthly email newsletter.

Racine Symphony Orchestra ~ P.O. Box 1874, Racine, WI 53401

RACINE THEATRE GUILD'S 2021 - 2022 84TH SEASON

2519 Northwestern Ave.
Racine, WI 53404



262.633.4218
RacineTheatre.org



DEC 3 - 19, 2021



JAN 7 - 23, 2022



FEB 11 - 27, 2022



MAR 18 - APR 3, 2022



APR 22 - 24, 2022



MAY 20 - JUN 12, 2022



Discover The Past



Discover The Fun



Discover Your Curiosity

Discover The Museums



www.KenoshaPublicMuseum.org



CELEBRATING THE
POSITIVE POWER OF
PERFORMANCE ART AT THE RITA

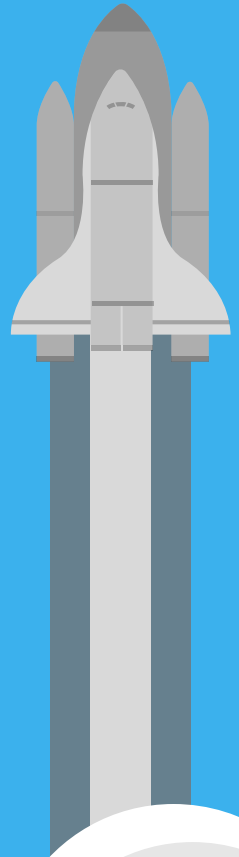
Thank
you for a
decade of
theatre
that has
changed
countless
lives
forever!

716 College Ave. Racine, WI 53403 | RacineArtsCouncil.org

**Kenosha Creative Space
celebrates its partnership
with the Rita!**

**Boost your
creativity.**

624 57th Street
Downtown Kenosha
kenoshacreativespace.com




KENOSHA
CREATIVE
SPACE

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN **PARKSIDE**

900 Wood Road | Kenosha, WI 53144

THE RITA NEWSLETTER

Sign up to receive monthly email updates about art, music, theatre, film, and special events at The Rita.

Join online at uwp.edu/therita or text **THERITA** to **42828**

CONNECT ON SOCIAL

Go behind-the-scenes of the Rita through the College of Arts and Humanities social channels.

 /UWPCAH

 /uwparkside_CAH



uwp.edu/therita

