



BE PART OF THEATRE THAT MATTERS HELP MATRIX THEATRE SUSTAIN OUR STAGE

MATRIX THEATRE CO. IS UPLIFTING VOICES, STORIES, AND COMMUNITY IN THE HEART OF DETROIT

November 18, 2024

Dear Friend and Patron of Matrix Theatre Company,

I hope this letter finds you thriving and as passionate as we are about the potential of theatre to heal, connect, and express! At Matrix Theatre Company, our mission to use theatre as a tool for social change, creativity, and connection has only grown stronger over the last 33 years. But as arts-focused nonprofits like ours face the rising cost of living, tighter budgets and less operational funding opportunities, we need your help more than ever to continue this vital work.

At Matrix Theatre Company, we believe that theatre is more than entertainment; it's a catalyst for meaningful dialogue, deeper empathy, and action toward equity. Every performance, workshop, event, and class we offer has the potential to change lives. Our commitment to Southwest Detroit remains steadfast: offering outstanding, affordable, and inclusive theatre that resonates deeply with our community's unique voice and concerns.

The Urgency of Now: "Sustain the Stage"

As we build, we need your help to **Sustain the Stage** and ensure that Southwest Detroit continues to have a thriving home for collaborative and non-traditional theater. We need your support now more than ever! During periods of high inflation – like the last few years – each dollar in an organization's budget has significantly less buying power than it did the year before. Countless theatres across the country have had to close their doors. Regardless of how lean we run financially; Matrix is still feeling the burn.

We at Matrix Theatre have been vigilant about keeping our doors open for the creative community across Detroit. We love what we do, and we believe in our mission wholeheartedly, but we need your help. **Give Now**, so we can continue educating the next generation of creatives and crafting original, community-led artistic expressions. **Give Now**, so we can continue paying professional local artists and change-makers. **Give Now**, so we can **give you** - our donors, supporters, and audiences - what you deserve: the best!

Your Support in Action

In 2024, we welcomed over 850 audience members to our performances and programming, while employing 63 artists, teachers, and theatre makers, strengthening the local arts economy. Our School of Theatre expanded offering our first 18+ class and welcoming over 60 young campers to our theater this summer. Our Playback Theatre Troupe continued to weave audience stories into dynamic, improvised performances.

We spent the year developing stage productions. With the help of Geshur Human Services we produced *The Open Door*, a staged reading of poetry and plays by Gregory Kiewiet.



YOUR GIFT FUELS CREATIVITY AND DRIVES SOCIAL CHANGE THROUGH THEATRE

MATRIX THEATRE COMPANY
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matrixtheatre.org



“IT WAS A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE, WITH A GROUP OF WONDERFUL INDIVIDUALS, THAT PRODUCED A GREAT PROGRAM I AM ETERNALLY GRATEFUL TO HAVE BEEN A PART OF IT.”
- DANIEL MARTINEZ

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Productions of *Material Advantage* by Sean Paraventi and *I’m the Joke* by Craig Draheim offered heartening, thought-provoking, and vulnerable new works by local artists to Detroit audiences. Most of our year was spent co-creating *Art Speaks*, a devised show inspired by murals in Corktown, North Corktown, and Hubbard Richard neighborhoods, with 14 talented creators and performers, and hundreds of community member’s input. In addition to our programming, we hosted and collaborated with Spinning Dot Theatre, Limelight, Chocolate Box Theatre, Black and Brown Theatre, Opera MODO, and U of M’s Dropped Keys Theatre. **Each donation funds the literal stage on which transformative performances take shape—giving our community a space to call their creative home.**

Together, We Can Keep Creativity Alive

Matrix Theatre is not just a stage—it’s a lifeline, a beacon for expression, and a catalyst for social change in Southwest Detroit. We invite you to make a tax-deductible donation today to help us **Sustain the Stage** for another year. Every contribution, no matter the amount, directly impacts our community’s access to the arts and empowers the next generation of socially conscious artists and creative changemakers.

Thank you for being part of the Matrix Theatre Company family. Your support ensures that the power of theatre continues to thrive in our city, illuminating voices, stories, and experiences that might otherwise go unheard.

Please feel free to use the enclosed remittance envelope to update your contact information or visit our website at matrixtheatre.org to keep us up to date. We look forward to staying connected with you for years to come!

With heartfelt gratitude,

Amy Johnson
Executive Director

Jessica Pappas
Board President

Marisa Dluge
Deputy Director



P.S. If you’re considering making more of an investment in Matrix with a sizable donation or an estate gift, we’d love to connect and discuss how your legacy can be part of our future.