

**Excellence in the Arts : Entry # 280**

**Is your organization a 501(c)3 nonprofit?**

Yes

**According to your 501(c)3 letter, in what town is your official office located?**

Hartford

**Where will your project be performed or exhibited?**

Hartford

**Will this activity occur after August 1, 2023?**

Yes

**Are you a recent grantee?**

Yes

**Enter your Report Code**

Roberts2022

**Organization Name**

Horace Bushnell Memorial Hall Corporation

**Organization's IRS Tax ID #**

060662112

**Principal Contact Name**

Joseph Zibell

**Title**

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[Map It](#)

**Website**

<https://www.bushnell.org>

**Amount requested this application**

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\$7,500.00

### What is the organization's mission/vision statement?

Our mission: **“provide a center for the benefit of the public in educational and cultural activities... to encourage public appreciation of music, art, science and all benevolent, religious and other public activities.”** In 1997, the Board adopted a Vision Statement:

- to present, create, inspire, and share the best in the performing arts;
- in partnership, deploy the arts as a catalyst to advance education; and
- to promote economic development and build a sense of community in central CT.

### Provide a brief history of your organization and its activities.

For more than 90 years, The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts has entertained and inspired audiences of all ages, serving as a beacon of cultural and artistic life in Connecticut. Founded in 1919, The Horace Bushnell Memorial Hall officially opened its doors on January 13, 1930. Since then, The Bushnell has brought Connecticut audiences face-to-face with the world's finest actors, entertainers, musicians, orchestras, dance companies, and theater ensembles, and has provided a public podium for world dignitaries, authors, politicians, civil rights leaders, and educators.

In 2001, spearheading Hartford's economic revitalization efforts, The Bushnell opened the Belding Wing. The 92,000 square-foot expansion transformed a single-stage presenting house into a multi-venue center for the performing arts and cemented The Bushnell's reputation as a world-class facility with a proud heritage, building towards an exciting and dynamic future in the 21st Century.

### Describe the demographics of your audience/people served by your activities.

The Bushnell's programs and services are available to all residents and visitors to the Capital Region. Our audience pool reflects the diverse communities of Central Connecticut, as well as the Pioneer Valley of Western Massachusetts.

Education programming serves approximately 35 school districts, with a specific focus on Hartford's urban schools. The students served by the Jazzicians program at the Noah Webster MicroSociety Magnet School are representative of Hartford's diverse population.

### Describe your organization's governance.

The Bushnell's Bylaws require a Board comprised of no less than 21 nor more than 40 Trusteeships. The current Board has 33 members and meets a minimum of four times during the season with special meetings called as needed. Average meeting attendance is approximately 60%.

### Describe the diversity of your board.

As a community gathering space whose mission is to be “a center of benefit for the public,” The Bushnell's commitment to the principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility is embedded firmly within our very identity. Currently, our Board of Trustees is 24% diverse (race/ethnicity) and 27% female. We are very intentional about continuing to build both our staff and our board in a way that represents the community we serve.

### What percentage of your board makes personal financial contributions to your organization?

In FY22 94% of our board members made personal contributions to the organization. 50% of the board gave well beyond the minimum expected annual gift and the 6% (two Trustees) who did not contribute experienced personal circumstances, so we

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chose not to pursue their gift, but rather focused on their time and talent.

**Project Name**

Jazzicians, a unit of PARTNERS®, The Bushnell's Education Program

**Is this project related to the Visual Arts?**

No

**Project Description**

Jazzicians, The Bushnell's free music instruction program for motivated instrumentalists attending Noah Webster MicroSociety Magnet School, affords students the opportunity to acquire proficiency in a variety of instruments, all of which can be found in a jazz ensemble. The program was founded in 2007 as the result of a generous donation from a Hartford resident. Today, there are 22 students enrolled in the afterschool program. Students are selected by Noah Webster music teacher Kathy Peet, based on their musical ability, proven responsibility, and diligence in the classroom, and their enthusiasm for their continued growth in the instrument they study.

Jazzicians augments school curriculum, offering a high level of instrumental instruction to students who may not otherwise have access to such opportunities. Students perform regularly at their school, including two concerts for the entire school community. In the past, students have performed at special events at The Bushnell.

**Total estimated project budget**

\$13,475.00

**Project start/opening**

09/01/2023

**Project end/closing**

06/30/2024

**Project venue**

Noah Webster MicroSociety Magnet School

**Project town**

Hartford

**Admission fees, attendance, and activity details**

N/A

**How do you intend to promote/market this project?**

N/A

**How is your organization going to use Roberts funding?**

Funding will support program costs related to Jazzicians, The Bushnell's free music instruction program for motivated instrumentalists attending Noah Webster MicroSociety Magnet School. These program costs include the work of The

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Bushnell's Master Teaching & Presenting Artists, professional musicians in their own right, who serve as instructors.

### **How will Roberts support be recognized?**

The Roberts Foundation will be fully recognized as the sponsor of the program in all Bushnell Donor Listings, including on the website (Supporters page; Education Funders, in the Playbill, the Annual Message, and at any public performances by the Jazzicians.)

### **What is your organization's definition of artistic excellence?**

The Bushnell is dedicated to excellence in artistic and educational programming, and collaboration with local and national arts organizations. Determining artistic quality is as personal as the hundreds of thousands of patrons we serve annually. Out of respect for the broad mosaic of our community, The Bushnell does not rely solely on the personal tastes of employees, but rather incorporates national and international reputation, scholarly, and critic reviews, and patron enthusiasm.

Our Vision Statement guides Executive, Programming, and Education staff's artistic decisions. As a presenter, we seek to curate an artistic experience for audiences by providing a compelling season of theater, dance, music, and other performance events. As curator, The Bushnell is in a unique position; while other performing arts organizations create art, we serve as a bridge, connecting audiences with arts and artists who have no other appropriate venue to reach the Greater Hartford community.

### **How does this project align with that definition, and how does it advance your mission?**

As an educator, The Bushnell has developed and delivered award-winning educational programming, both in the classroom and on our stages. The Jazzicians program contributes to artistic excellence at The Bushnell by delivering a comprehensive introduction and instrumental instruction in the quintessential American musical genre to talented young musicians who otherwise would not receive the training they need to further their creative musical pursuits in jazz.

### **How will your audience and the community benefit from this project?**

In the early 1990s, The Bushnell commissioned a study that identified two primary learning deficiencies in Greater Hartford's urban schools: literacy and intercultural competencies. To narrow these learning gaps, PARTNERS® (Partners in Arts & Education Revitalizing Schools) was established to deliver arts-integrated units that weave together arts with core academic subjects, including reading, writing and language comprehension.

PARTNERS provides hands-on, in-classroom programming to improve literacy and increase intercultural competencies of students by using the arts to deepen and enrich core language arts curriculum. In addition, PARTNERS continues to foster the burgeoning talents of young musicians, vocalists and dancers through programs such as Jazzicians and The Ensign-Darling Vocal Fellowship presents New Voices.

Through the current Digital Learning pilot program, we're continuing to find new ways to offer students innovative and creative educational programming.

### **How will this project be evaluated?**

The Bushnell continually evaluates all of its educational programming to ensure that it remains adaptable and nimble as the needs of schools, students and communities change. Complementary to our ongoing internal evaluations, three independent, three-year-long assessments have been conducted in the past by educators/ researchers from Teachers College-Columbia University and the University of Connecticut's NEAG School of Education, all with expertise in arts education and literacy.

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On the micro-level, evaluation of the Jazzicians program is based on student, teacher, teaching artist and parent feedback surveys

### **Cover letter**

- [The-Bushnell-Cover-Letter.pdf](#)

### **Board list**

- [The-Bushnell-Board-of-Trustees.pdf](#)

### **IRS 501(c)3 determination letter**

- [The-Bushnell-IRS-Determination-Letter.pdf](#)

### **Financial statement**

- [The-Bushnell-Financial-Statements.pdf](#)

### **Last year operational budget**

- [The-Bushnell-FY22-Income-Statement.pdf](#)

### **Current year operational budget**

- [The-Bushnell-Organizational-Budget.pdf](#)

### **Balance sheet**

- [The-Bushnell-Balance-Sheet.pdf](#)

### **Project budget**

- [The-Bushnell-Project-Budget.pdf](#)

### **Does your organization produce an annual report?**

Yes

### **Annual report**

- [The-Bushnell-Annual-Report.pdf](#)

### **Has your organization adopted a strategic plan?**

Yes

### **Strategic plan**

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- [The-Bushnell-Strategic-Plan.pdf](#)

**Grant Report**

- [Horace-Bushnell-Memorial-Hall-Corporation-Grantee-Reporting-Form1.pdf](#)

**Other materials?**

- [White-Oak-5-trunk002.pdf](#)

**Have you contacted the Executive Director by email or phone to discuss this proposal?**

Yes

**Is your cover letter signed by your senior executive? on your letterhead? with your official office address?**

Yes