“IT IS NOT IN THE STARS TO HOLD OUR DESTINY, BUT IN OURSELVES.”

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
Chicago is again leading the way in architectural design and innovation. With the expansion to its artistic home, Chicago Shakespeare will draw audiences from near and far—amplifying our city as a global destination for culture.

MAYOR RAHM EMANUEL

Our City, Our Shakespeare

Over the past three decades, Chicago Shakespeare Theater has created a company as audacious and bold as our eponymous playwright. The performances on our stages at Navy Pier, in schools, on tour across Chicago parks, and around the globe breathe new life into timeless works and give voice to the generative artists of our time.

What began as a fledgling company has today evolved into a Tony Award-winning theater that annually welcomes 225,000 audience members to as many as 20 productions; serves 40,000 students and teachers through dynamic arts-in-education programs; and fosters cultural exchange by bringing the best international theater from 23 countries (and counting...) to Chicago.

The home we had built for Shakespeare on Navy Pier in 1999 was straining to house all of this work and you—a vital part of our community of generous donors—answered our call for help.

With your partnership, Our City, Our Shakespeare: The Campaign for Chicago Shakespeare Theater has expanded our campus with a third theater: The Yard at Chicago Shakespeare. This first-of-its-kind venue complements the Theater’s existing two venues and amplifies our role as a leading cultural institution. Additionally, the initiative has provided artistic venture and endowment funds to support every play and every education program for generations to come.

Our vision for the future is bold. With you by our side, we have continued our city’s tradition of making no small plans.

As Shakespeare said, “thanks, and thanks, and ever thanks,”

Barbara Gaines
Artistic Director
Carl and Marilynn Thoma Chair

Criss Henderson
Executive Director

E. Brooke Flanagan
Managing Director for Advancement and External Affairs

“Chicago is again leading the way in architectural design and innovation. With the expansion to its artistic home, Chicago Shakespeare will draw audiences from near and far—amplifying our city as a global destination for culture.”
Together,

we have made it possible for artists to dream bigger; for students to discover the canon, and through it, a pathway to literacy; and for the world’s leading artists to make Chicago their stage.

Our City, Our Shakespeare

$61,725,500 RAISED!

$55,000,000 GOAL

Funds Raised by Designation

$38,287,600
INVESTMENTS FOR THE YARD AT CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE

$23,437,900
ARTISTIC VENTURE AND ENDOWMENT FUNDS
Investing in a Theater
Like No Other
The Yard is now Chicago Shakespeare’s third stage and, together with our Jentes Family Courtyard Theater and Carl and Marilynn Thoma Theater Upstairs, will amplify our tradition of bold theatricality. Its radical design features nine mobile seating towers that create a wide array of configurations ranging from 150–850 seats. During its inaugural season, The Yard served record-breaking audiences and more students than ever as it transformed into five unique configurations—and in years to come, the possibilities are nearly endless.
“The Greatest New Theater in the World”

“An Elegant Industrial-Style Beauty”

“Innovative, Ambitious, Robust... The Yard Embodies the City’s Architectural Spirit”

Honorable Mention, Innovation Award: Stellar Design
Three-Theater Campus

- THE YARD
- CARL AND MARILYNN THOMA THEATER UPSTAIRS
- JENTES FAMILY COURT YARD THEATER
The Our City, Our Shakespeare Campaign raised critical artistic and endowment funds to support the work we produce inside all three of our theaters.

- Shakespeare’s canon
- New classics and musicals
- World-class artists and production elements
Beyond our work at home, Chicago Shakespeare now has the artistic funds to forge even more groundbreaking international partnerships through our WorldStage series.
An Investment in the Future
The **Our City, Our Shakespeare** Campaign ensures that students and families have access to our work through subsidized productions and nationally acclaimed programs for educators.

In the years to come, endowment funds from the Campaign will allow us to double our current service to students and families, allowing the Theater to impact more than 100,000 young learners annually.
Fueled by the endowment, our free programs like Chicago Shakespeare in the Parks create opportunities that are accessible to all.
Together, we have created an expanded campus dedicated to bold theatricality and unparalleled service to students and families. Thank you for helping us to solidify Chicago Shakespeare's place among the world's great theaters!

Thank you!
We are humbled by the civic and corporate leaders of Chicago and their belief in what an investment in Chicago Shakespeare can do for the future of this city.
Campaign Leadership Team

Raymond F. McCaskey
Board Chair (2010–2013)

Barbara Gaines
Artistic Director
Carl and Marilynn Thoma Chair

Dottie Bris-Bois
Associate Director of Development

Shelli Z. Rosenberg
Board Chair (2013–2016)
Campaign Steering Committee Chair

Criss Henderson
Executive Director

Edith Falk
Campbell & Company
Fundraising Consultant

Steven J. Solomon
Board Chair (2016–2019)

E. Brooke Flanagan
Managing Director for Advancement and External Affairs

Melissa Berliner,
Campbell & Company
Fundraising Consultant

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* Campaign Steering Committee Member  + In Memoriam
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