

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on 2024, we celebrate a year of growth, impact, and transformation at the Illinois Conservatory for the Arts (ICA). This year, our scholarship fund expanded access to high-level arts education for over 50% of students enrolled in our programming. With the incredible support of our community partners, donors, and faculty, ICA provided ongoing training, professional mentorship, and once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to students across the Chicagoland area.

We were also thrilled to expand our leadership team this year with the hiring of a Director of Development and Artistic Director on a part-time basis. These new roles have allowed ICA to broaden access to programming, strengthen fundraising efforts, and deepen engagement with our students and community.

Additionally, ICA partnered with North Central College in Naperville to bring on three marketing interns who have played an instrumental role in expanding our outreach and engagement. We are honored that all three interns have requested to extend their positions into Spring 2025, citing their deep connection to ICA's mission and their desire to continue supporting the arts and education.

We are especially grateful to The Alesia Alpert Family Foundation, MolinaCares, Diverse Facility Solutions, The Rotary Club of Naperville, The Naperville Jaycees, and the City of Naperville Special Events and Community Arts (SECA) Commission for their generous contributions. These organizations, along with individual donors and supporters, have been instrumental in shaping the success of ICA this year.

We look forward to expanding our impact in 2025 with new program initiatives, growing our scholarship reach, and launching our capital campaign to build a facility for ICA's full-time day school. Thank you for being part of this incredible journey.

With gratitude,



Dylan Ladd
Executive Director
Illinois Conservatory for the Arts





OUR MISSION & VISION

Mission Statement:

ICA is committed to providing a **high-level arts curriculum** while engaging students in rigorous academic education. We believe that creativity and innovation foster individuality—allowing for the holistic development of each student.

Our Vision:

To build a **dynamic community of artists** through **pre-professional training** in the performing arts, empowering students to pursue excellence in both their artistic and academic journeys.

BY THE NUMBERS: OUR 2024 IMPACT

- ✓ 600+ students served through ICA programs since 2020
- ✓ 115 students enrolled in ICA programs this year
- ✓ Over 50% of students received scholarships to all ICA programming in 2024
- ✓ Broadway professionals mentored students, providing real-world industry insights
- ✓ More scholarship applications than ever before, demonstrating increased accessibility
- ✓ Over 75% of students reported an increase in confidence, technique, and motivation
- ✓ 3 marketing interns from North Central College joined ICA, all of whom have extended into Spring 2025



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

IMPACT: Musical Theatre Program

ICA's IMPACT intensive programs provided unparalleled training for young performers in singing, dancing, acting, and audition techniques. Students worked with Broadway professionals and engaged in mock auditions, masterclasses, and a final showcase to refine their craft.

This year's IMPACT faculty included:

- Tyler McKenzie (Hamilton, Mamma Mia!)
- Melissa Foster (Renowned Vocal Coach, Northwestern University)
- Kara Lindsay (Newsies, Beautiful)
- Brittainy Barattia (Talent Agent, Gray Talent Group)
- James T. Lane (A Wonderful World, Chicago)
- Syndee Winters (Hamilton, Motown: The Musical)
- Caitlin Kinnunen (The Prom, Spring Awakening)
- Siobhan Reddy-Best (Talent Agent, Stewart Talent)
- Taylor Iman Jones (SIX, Hamilton)
- Patrick Maravilla (Casting Director, Chicago, A Wonderful World)



"Being at IMPACT changed my perspective on what I can achieve. Coming from a community with limited arts resources, I never imagined I'd have the chance to work with Broadway professionals."



– **Leon Simmons,**
Scholarship Recipient

"For the first time, I saw myself on that stage, and now I believe I belong there."



– **Nicolas Garcia,**
ICA Student



THE STUDIO: AFTER-SCHOOL TRAINING

To provide ongoing training opportunities for students aged 10-18, ICA introduced new after-school programs this year.

Students enrolled in:

- **Ballet**
- **Jazz**
- **Improv 1**
- **Musical Theatre Foundations**
- **Dance Mechanics**

This 8-week program was designed to help students strengthen technique throughout the year, supplementing the intensive experiences of IMPACT.

SPECIAL EVENT HIGHLIGHT: A NIGHT OF BROADWAY

ICA's 2024 A Night of Broadway gala was an unforgettable evening, featuring performances from Broadway stars and a 20-piece orchestra before an audience of 250 guests.

Featured Performers:

- 🎤 Meechah (Hamilton)
- 🎤 Samantha Pauly (Katherine Howard in SIX: The Musical)
- 🎤 Erika Henningsen (Cady Heron in Mean Girls)
- 🎤 Kayla Davion (Tina Turner in TINA: The Tina Turner Musical)

One of the evening's most magical moments came when ICA student Alexandria Danley was invited to sing a duet with Erika Henningsen, her idol. This experience exemplified ICA's mission—to connect students with world-class artists and create life-changing opportunities.



LOOKING AHEAD: 2025 GOALS

- ✅ **Expand IMPACT: Musical Theatre** with new training components including a pre-professional track for older students as well as daily dance mechanics classes and acting classes on scene study.
- ✅ **Launch IMPACT: Dance** in Summer 2025, offering training in jazz, ballet, contemporary, modern, and hip-hop as well as mock auditions with company artistic directors and dance industry casting directors.
- ✅ **Establish a Capital Campaign** to raise \$500,000 for ICA's future full-time day school facility.
- ✅ **Expand ICA's leadership team** by transitioning the Director of Development and Artistic Director roles from part-time to full-time, strengthening ICA's fundraising and artistic efforts.
- ✅ **Increase scholarship reach** by forming new partnerships with local organizations that provide resources for students from underserved communities.



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

We extend our deepest appreciation to:

- ★ The Alesia Alpert Family Foundation
- ★ MolinaCares
- ★ Diverse Facility Solutions
- ★ The Rotary Club of Naperville
- ★ The Naperville Jaycees
- ★ City of Naperville Special Events and Community Arts (SECA) Commission
- ★ Individual donors and supporters who fuel our mission

With your generosity, we are shaping the next generation of artists, leaders, and changemakers.