

rbtl FROM THE WINGS

SENATOR SCHUMER SECURES \$1M FOR RBTL'S PROJECT RESTOURATION

RBTL is giving a standing ovation to New York State Senator Charles Schumer, who has secured \$1 million in federal funding to support the continued restoration and renovation of the West Herr Performing Arts Center. The funds are part of the FY26 Senate Transportation-HUD Appropriations bill. These dollars will be applied to the next stage(s) of PROJECT RESTOURATION, following the recent completion of Phase One.

"It is gratifying that Senator Schumer has shown us his generous support," said RBTL CEO and Board Chairman, Arnie Rothschild. "We are working hard to restore a nearly 100-year-old complex, an incredible part of Rochester's history, so we can create a multistage Performing Arts Center that will benefit the entire community. His assistance validates this ambitious goal."

Plans are currently underway for Phase Two, which will include the expansion of the Rothschild Lounge back to its original footprint, a redesign of backstage artist and crew spaces within the Auditorium Theatre, and parking lot resurfacing. Future phases include the restoration of several historic spaces within the building, which will be repurposed to accommodate a variety of performance opportunities and audience sizes, offering office and event space leasing for area arts organizations.

RBTL STAFF MEMBERS TAKE PART IN RED CROSS SAFETY TRAINING



Earlier this month, members of the RBTL team took part in a Red Cross safety training, brushing up on AED, CPR and First Aid skills. It's to ensure we can offer the best possible assistance to our venue patrons in the event of an emergency. The necessary medical equipment is placed in various locations throughout the building for easy access.

While we hope the need never arises, we want to be prepared for all potential situations.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

WICKED

February 18 - March 1

JO KOY: JUST BEING KOY TOUR

March 7

112

March 14

BAT OUT OF HELL THE MUSICAL

March 21

BRIT FLOYD

March 22



WEST HERR
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
875 EAST MAIN STREET
ROCHESTER, NY 14605

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2026-2027 M&T Bank BROADWAY SEASON ANNOUNCEMENT

COMING SOON

WEST HERR AUDITORIUM THEATRE
NEW YORK

ROCHESTER DAZZLES AS THE EMERALD CITY IN HONOR OF WICKED'S RUN AT THE WEST HERR AUDITORIUM THEATRE

In celebration of the return of "Wicked," the City of Rochester has turned into the Emerald City! Downtown buildings with the ability to change lighting color, displayed green on Wednesday, February 18 to mark the Opening Night of the production. The buildings, including the Auditorium Theatre, are slated to be "greenified" throughout the engagement. RBTL worked with the City of Rochester, the Rochester Downtown Development Corporation and Visit Rochester to bring this bit of whimsy and entertainment to city residents and visitors.

"We have never done prolonged city lights, it's usually one night. So, this is a new initiative and it's exciting," said Gallina Development Corporation President, Andrew Gallina. "We love to support the run of 'Wicked' in any way we can and celebrate what's going on in the city. Events like this and these collaborations help to break down barriers and make people more comfortable to come downtown. And that's really what the point is."



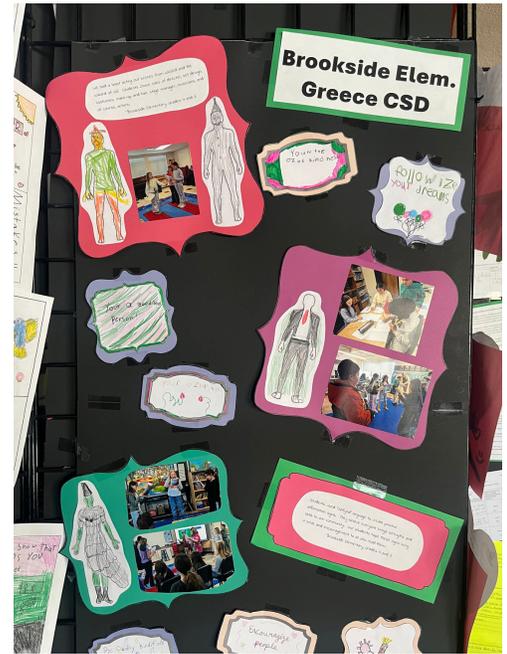
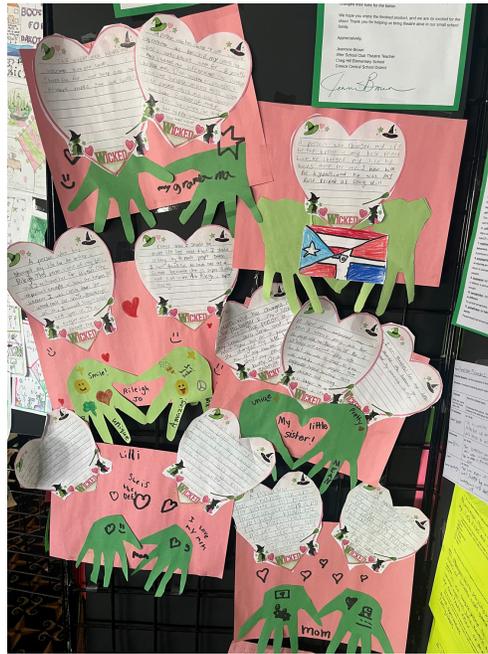
"Wicked," Rochester's most popular musical, runs until March 1 at the West Herr Auditorium Theatre. With 16 performances, RBTL expects to welcome more than 35,000 patrons to the venue, many of whom will visit city restaurants and other businesses before and after performances.

"This is the fifth time 'Wicked' is performing on the Auditorium stage, and the first time in nearly 10 years," said RBTL Chief Revenue Officer, Linda Glosser. "We are proud to bring it back to Rochester for long-time fans and also introduce audiences of new generations to this production that has taken Broadway by storm for over two decades."

Check out video of the Flower City becoming the Emerald City on the West Herr Performing Arts Center Facebook page, [here](#) and [here](#). Limited tickets are still available for "Wicked" and may be purchased at [Ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com) or the Auditorium Box Office.

A.R.T.S. PARTNERS: WICKED

RBTL believes in the importance of integrating the arts into the classroom, and helps to do exactly that with our arts education program, A.R.T.S. Partners. Prior to the engagement of "Wicked" at the West Herr Auditorium Theatre, local students examined some of the themes in the production. That included social justice, acceptance, knowledge/truth, good/evil, belonging, friendship and identity. Some of this curriculum called for art projects centering around these themes, some of which were on display in the Theatre lobby for patrons to admire during the run of "Wicked." You can see some of the work below:



MEET THE CHARACTERS OF *KIMBERLY AKIMBO*

"*Kimberly Akimbo*," the fifth show in RBTL's 2025-2026 M&T Bank Broadway Season, is a new musical about growing up and growing old (in no particular order). Kimberly is about to turn 16 and recently moved with her family to a new town in suburban New Jersey. Here, she is forced to navigate family dysfunction, a rare genetic condition, her first crush... and possible felony charges. Ever the optimist, she is determined to find happiness against all odds and embark on a great adventure.

Ahead of the show's Rochester debut March 24-29, we're introducing you to the characters you'll meet in this 2023 Tony Award®-winning Best Musical.



Ann Morrison as Kimberly.

Kimberly Levaco

A sixteen-year-old girl who suffers from a rare genetic condition that causes her to age rapidly. Despite her challenges, she is sharp-witted and resilient, navigating adolescence with humor and insight.



Marcus Phillips as Seth.

Seth Weetis

A teenage boy who befriends Kimberly at school. He is socially awkward but kind-hearted. He sees beyond Kimberly's physical appearance to appreciate her intelligence and humor.



Jim Hogan as Buddy.

Buddy Levaco

Kimberly's loving but flawed father who is often unreliable and irresponsible. Buddy cares deeply for his daughter and wants to provide for her, even though he often falls short.



Laura Woyasz as Pattie.

Pattie Levaco

Kimberly's overbearing and self-absorbed mother. Pregnant with her second child, she is well-meaning but often neglects Kimberly's needs due to her own preoccupations.



Emily Koch as Aunt Debra.

Aunt Debra

Kimberly's eccentric and scheming aunt always seems to find trouble, dragging others along with her. Despite her flaws, she has a soft spot for her niece and wants to help in her own unconventional ways.



Skye Alyssa Friedman as Teresa, Max Santopietro as Aaron, Darron Hayes as Martin and Gabby Beredo as Delia.

Teresa Benton

She is bubbly, energetic, and often preoccupied with the typical concerns of a teenager. Despite her superficial demeanor, Teresa has moments of genuine kindness.

Aaron Puckett

He is friendly and enjoys being part of the group, sometimes letting his thoughts get the better of him. Aaron is not always the brightest individual but means well.

Martin Doaty

He is a bit shy, yet quite confident in his singing ability, eager to add some dynamics to his personality while not standing out too much.

Delia McDaniels

Often acting as the voice of reason among her friends, Delia is the leader of the show choir and dedicated to putting all of the important pieces together.

Tickets for "*Kimberly Akimbo*" are available at [Ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com) or the Auditorium Box Office.

RBTL THANKS LOCAL LEGISLATORS FOR CONTINUED SUPPORT WITH ALIVE DOWNTOWNS!

Joining forces during the pandemic, 13 historic Upstate New York theatres, with 1,000 seats or more, and located in downtowns from Jamestown to Poughkeepsie, created the "Alive Downtowns!" coalition. The Rochester Broadway Theatre League is proud to have its West Herr Auditorium Theatre included. Together, they work to request a recurring allocation from New York State. This coalition has had a goal to encourage New York State lawmakers to think of the Upstate historic theatres as they do zoos, aquariums and public television – organizations that have a great public benefit to the citizens of the state. For the last three years, the 13 theatres have received \$5 million every year to be distributed between them.

Combined, these theatres have an average age of nearly 100 years and have been keystones to their respective downtowns. They serve over 5 million people annually, including thousands of students, with aggregate budgets exceeding \$100 million, and economic impacts for Upstate's major downtowns conservatively exceeding \$350 million. Upstate New York's historic theaters are essential to the cities in which they operate, continuing attractiveness, urban education opportunities, and economic viability. The "Alive Downtowns!" value statement is simple and vital: our downtowns need us not just to survive, but to thrive. The more we operate, the greater economic impact there is on our communities.

In the Greater Rochester region, the "Alive Downtowns!" effort became a top priority for Senator Jeremy Cooney and Assemblymember Harry Bronson. Both have been champions for arts in our communities. Collectively, they have successfully secured operating capital support from the state for each of these historic Upstate venues! They are joined by nearly all Upstate legislators in supporting this coalition. So, if you see them, say thank you for all they do, and continue to do, to ensure our downtowns continue to grow.

For more information on "Alive Downtowns!," visit afairgame.net/alive-downtowns.



Alive Downtowns! Members:

- Bardavon 1896 Opera House (Poughkeepsie)
- Clemens Center (Elmira)
- Palace Performing Arts Center (Albany)
- Proctors Collaborative (Schenectady, Albany, Saratoga)
- The Reg Lenna Center for the Arts (Jamestown)
- West Herr Auditorium Theatre (Rochester)
- Shea's Performing Arts Center (Buffalo)
- The Smith Center for the Arts (Geneva)
- Stanley Theatre (Utica)
- State Theatre of Ithaca
- Syracuse Area Landmark Theatre
- Troy Savings Bank Music Hall
- Ulster Performing Arts Center (Kingston)

Save the Date!

RBTL'S ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday, August 3rd

Registration opens soon. For more information, including sponsorship opportunities, visit RBTL.org.