

# SEATTLE OPERA. THANKFUL



**MARCH  
2017**

Donor Impact Report



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## DEAR FRIENDS,

I'm so glad to connect with you at this exciting time of year, after we've announced the coming 2017/18 season and officially launched the public phase of Seattle Opera at the Center, our campaign to build a new civic home adjacent to Marion Oliver McCaw Hall. I want to thank you for your enduring support as a member of the Seattle Opera donor family. Your generosity keeps our programs confidently thriving and growing for future seasons of amazing opera!

We are in the midst of our second-to-last production of the season, Janáček's romantic tragedy *Katya Kabanova*. In keeping with Seattle Opera's mission to bring communities together through music and drama, this all-new production drives home the visceral emotions of love and oppression, allowing us to absorb Janáček's rich, Slavic music and contemplate our personal relationships with each other. This is the kind of life-enhancing experience your gifts bring to life for so many to enjoy!

Remember, if you are a season ticket holder, be sure to renew your subscription by the March 20 deadline if you haven't already, in order to secure your seats or requested upgrade. It's going to be an amazing season of music and storytelling, and I can't wait to create it with you!

Cheers,

Aidan Lang  
General Director

# DONOR SPOTLIGHT: BETTY CARTER'S LIFELONG LOVE OF OPERA

Music has shaped the life of long-time Seattle Opera family member Betty Carter – from her roots in a log cabin outside of Burien, WA to breaking the glass ceiling of the Pacific Stock Exchange.

Betty's relationship with opera began as a young girl listening to the Met Sunday afternoon radio broadcasts, which was a gateway to a career singing Gilbert and Sullivan, Puccini, and Verdi operas throughout the United States. She credits the energy of an audience and the confidence required for performing for her later success in the finance sector.

Over the last 50 years, Betty has seen the expansion of cultural organizations and arts education in the Pacific Northwest. A former president of the Seattle Opera Guild, Betty is committed to the long-term sustainability of opera in the Puget Sound region. Betty believes that Seattle Opera

at the Center—with its purpose-built education spaces—will provide local youth the opportunity to reach their potential.

Betty is passionate about youth. Through her Charitable Remainder Trust, she hopes to provide Seattle Opera with the resources needed to provide arts education and magical audience experiences for decades to come.

Thank you Betty, for your exceptional support! Remember, you can always find out more about ways to deepen your impact at [seattleopera.org/give](http://seattleopera.org/give).



© Jonathan Vanderweit

Betty Carter attending the 2015 Encore Society Luncheon with her partner Robert Schramke.

# SEATTLE OPERA. AT THE CENTER

## SO MUCH MORE

Unlocking opera  
for all.

January 2017 kicked off the community phase of our capital campaign to build our new civic home on the site of Mercer Arena! More than 100 Seattle Opera supporters attended our Design Debut event on January 24 in the Nesholm Family Lecture Hall at Marion Oliver McCaw Hall.

NBBJ architects Scott Wyatt and Matthew Somerton unveiled building designs to the public during the event. We were also treated to a special performance by youth program participants Sabrina Husseini and Ibdunni Ojikutu, with David McDade on piano.

General Director Aidan Lang and Campaign Steering Committee Chair Maryanne Tagney emphasized that nothing matters more to Seattle Opera's long-term health than the successful completion of the building that will house our education, artistic, and administrative spaces by the end of 2018. This dynamic building on the northeast corner of Seattle Center will do so much more than simply replace our operational home in South Lake Union.

### JOIN US IN PARTNERING WITH THE COMMUNITY TO BUILD:

- Welcoming and accessible community resources
- Expanded education programs to enrich and inspire
- A purpose-built environment for world-class artistry

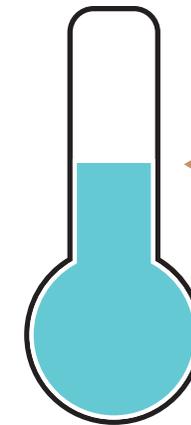
### PROJECT TIMELINE

- 2008** • Design review with Seattle Center  
Project placed on hold due to Great Recession
- 2014** • Seattle Opera Board voted to resume project and kick off fundraising campaign
- 2015-16** • Confirmed building design
- JAN 2017** • Construction begins at Mercer Arena site with the start of demolition
- APR 2017** • Demolition of Mercer Arena is complete
- OCT 2018** • Lease expires at 1020 John Street administrative/rehearsal building; Seattle Opera moves into new facility!

We have made great progress thanks to the generosity of our Board of Directors, individual and foundation contributors, and support from the City of Seattle, King County, and the State of Washington.

Explore renderings, project details and donate at:

[SEATTLEOPERA.ORG/ATTHECENTER](http://SEATTLEOPERA.ORG/ATTHECENTER).



**\$28.5 MILLION PRIVATE  
FUNDRAISING GOAL**

◀ **64% raised as of  
January 30, 2017.**



Sabrina Husseini performs for guests at the Design Debut for Seattle Opera at the Center on January 24.



Exterior rendering of Seattle Opera's new civic home next to McCaw Hall.

# OPERA ENGAGEMENT IS ON THE RISE!

Seattle Opera is buzzing with new developments, especially in our Education and Community Engagement department! Community is at the heart of Seattle Opera, and your generous donations help us connect with our shared communities in more ways than ever before.

Your generous gifts have made it possible to hire two additional Education staff members who will support our growing programs. Nicole Sonbert specializes in youth and family programs, while Evan Bennet focuses on adult programs. Together, they will help expand and develop opera experiences in schools and communities across our region.

Seattle Opera's 3rd annual Frost Fest brought more than 400 children and adults to the Cornish Playhouse on Saturday, February 4. This fun, family-oriented afternoon shined a spotlight on our talented Youth Opera Chorus, and also featured a community performance of *Cinderella en España*—a bilingual opera for young students that takes a modern spin on the classic fairytale. This one-act opera is touring communities throughout Washington State, enriching the curriculum

of more than 60 schools this year—that's almost double the number of visits last season!

When we move into our new home for opera-making adjacent to McCaw Hall, we will have dedicated, purpose-built facilities for our Education and Community Engagement programs for the first time in Seattle Opera's history! You will be most welcome to join us in our new facility as we revitalize our mission to create opera for all.

Thanks to you, Seattle Opera's donor family, the future is bright for a new generation of arts lovers.

Learn more about our Education and Community Engagement programs at [seattleopera.org/education](http://seattleopera.org/education).



# RSVP TODAY!

SEATTLE OPERA  
1020 JOHN STREET | SEATTLE, WA 98109

## SEATTLE OPERA GALA: BEYOND THE STAGE

with Zandra Rhodes

**SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017**  
**FAIRMONT OLYMPIC HOTEL**

Join us for the event of the season! Special discounts apply to patrons under 40.

Please RSVP by April 7.

**[SEATTLEOPERA.ORG/GALA](http://SEATTLEOPERA.ORG/GALA)**

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