



## 2024-25 IMPACT REPORT

### Our students



### Our programs



### Our finances



### Our community



## FROM the ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

I am so proud of the incredible accomplishments of this past 20th anniversary year. We came together in celebration at the beginning of the season, to reveal **our new brand and new name** at our anniversary party. It was the culmination of a year's worth of work, and the whole community rallied behind the change and we all feel fully settled into this new identity!

It was also another big year of growth for us programatically. We added an additional **tier for more advanced students of our Theater Arts Apprentice Program**; we took over the city-owned **Live Oak Theater** in North Berkeley; we produced our **inaugural middle school production** in the spring; and our crowning achievement at the end of the season, the great success of *Oklahoma!* at Pinole Valley High's beautiful theater featuring a 30-piece, live orchestra and close to 50 students learning and creating both on and off the stage. Wow!

I am so proud of this community— from our students and parents, to our teaching artists and donors, to our devoted audiences who keep showing up at the theater— we are not just surviving, we're thriving! Thank you all for making it so!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jennifer Boesig".

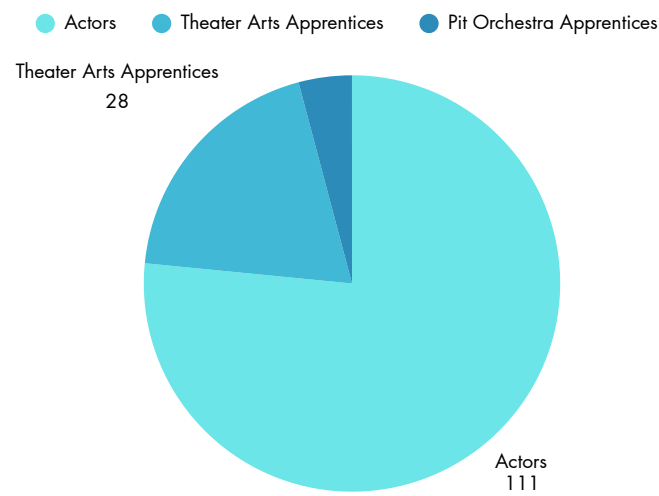
# KORSA by the NUMBERS

- 🎷 51 pit orchestra musicians
- 🎨 44 teaching and technical theater artists employed
- 👕 92 souvenir production sweatshirts purchased
- 👏 96 minutes of standing ovations
- 🎓 145 students trained
- 👩🏫 356 volunteer hands raised
- 🕒 630 tech week meals served
- ⌚ 827 hours of rehearsal
- 📏 1,058 feet of spike and gaff tape
- ⌚ 2,750 minutes of live musical theater
- 😍 4,630 audience members enthralled
- 📱 12,780 Instagram likes





# OUR STUDENTS



**Total student actors and apprentices: 145**

In our 20<sup>th</sup> season, we added our first-ever middle school production and continued to grow our number of apprentices. But even as we increased our number of students by 30% this year, to 112 to 145, we kept our commitment to individualized, hands-on mentorship and maintained an **excellent student-to-teacher ratio**.

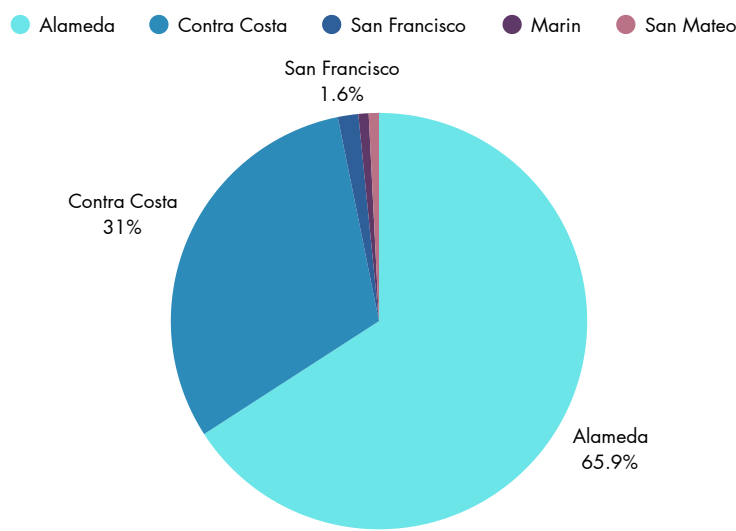
*Legally Blonde*: 1.7 students for every teaching artist

*Heathers*: 1.2 students for every teaching artist

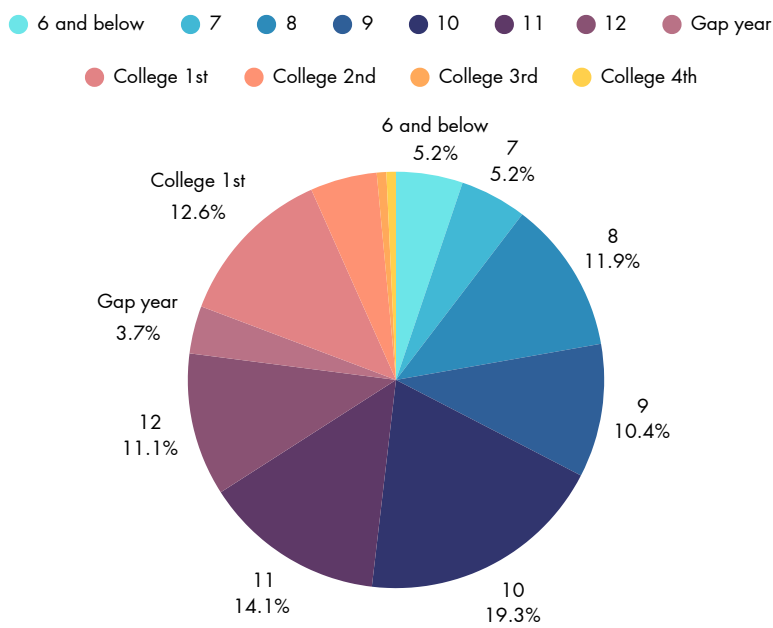
*Into the Woods Act One*: 1.5 students for every teaching artist

*Oklahoma!*: 2.8 students for every teaching artist

## LOCATION BY COUNTY

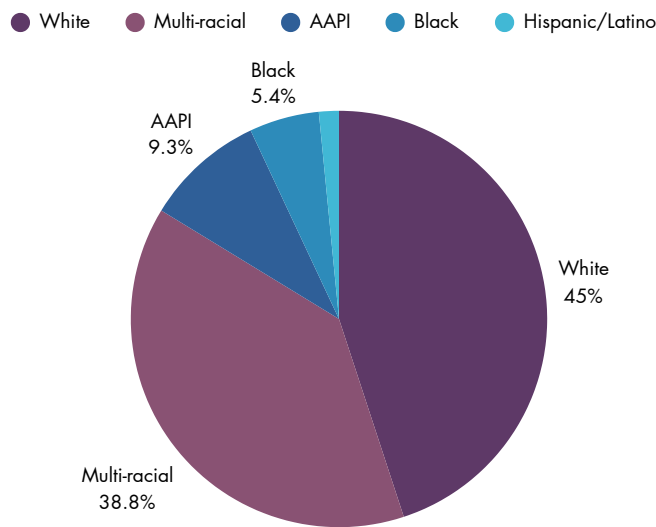


# YEAR IN SCHOOL



This season featured one of our most diverse student age ranges yet, partly because of growing college student interest in our program, and partly because of our first-ever middle school show.

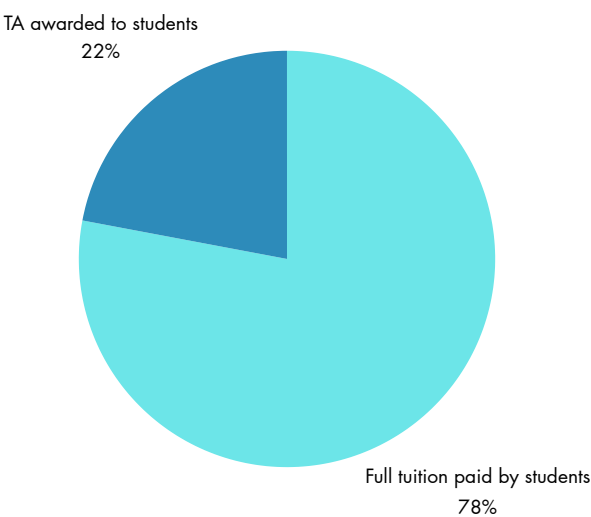
# RACE/ETHNICITY



Once again, the racial diversity of our student body grew from the previous year. The increase in students who identified as multi-racial/ethnic was especially prominent, from 32.9% to 38.8%.



# TUITION ASSISTANCE and SCHOLARSHIPS



**Total tuition budget:** \$253,700  
**Total TA awarded:** \$71,715

This past season, **Korsa covered between 30-100% of tuition per applicant** for all 4 productions. TA is awarded on a sliding scale. Founders Scholarships and College Mentorships fully cover the cost of tuition. This season, we offered 5 Founders Scholarships and 7 College Mentorships.

## OUTREACH

This season, we continued our **free student ticket program**, where we reach out to students who may not otherwise get the chance to see one of our productions. Of over 30 schools reached, 13 participated, and **we gave away between 30 -100 tickets for each of our shows** this season. Many schools who attended last season came back again this year, including Albany High School, College Preparatory School, Contra Costa School of the Performing Arts, Oakland School for the Arts, Saint Mary’s College High School, and Skyline High School – and because we performed in Hayward for the first time ever this year, we also welcomed students from Castro Valley High, San Lorenzo High, and Hayward High, and Moreau Catholic High.

### IMPACT STORY: performer & apprentice

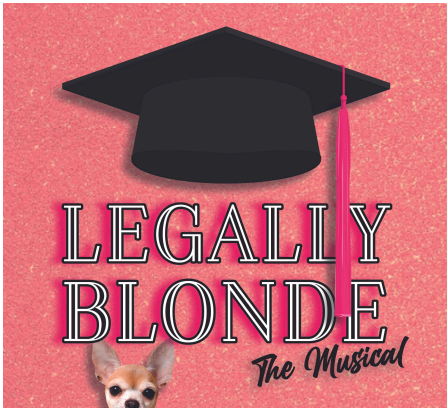
#### NINNA OKAFOR



I had the pleasure of training with Korsa last season as an apprentice and performer. I received consistent guidance and support as a directing and stage management apprentice on *Legally Blonde* and *Into the Woods*, and most recently as a performer in *Oklahoma!* Korsa has helped sharpen my artistic instincts and taught me the essentials of collaboration, leadership, and professionalism. As I pursue a career in this industry, Korsa continues to provide me with the confidence and skills to advance as a professional performer and creative.

# OUR PROGRAMS

## PRODUCTIONS



October 25–November 4, 2024

The Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts

Hilarious and huge-hearted, *Legally Blonde* opened our season with a smash, officially introducing the world to our new name, Korsa. Audiences and students alike were delighted and exhilarated by this non-stop roller-coaster ride of high-octane dance numbers, killer vocals, and whip-smart, feminist joy. It was also our final production at the Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts, and we bid a fond farewell to this historic space.

29 Actors

5 Theater Arts Apprentices

1 Pit Orchestra Apprentice

17 Teaching Artists



March 21 – 30, 2025

Douglas Morrisson Theatre

After years of our students *begging* us to produce *Heathers*, this production didn't disappoint. The dark, biting satire, based on the cult-classic '80s film, was injected with heart and passion by our young performers. Three professional adult actors rounded out the cast, heightening the show's themes of adolescent angst. A new performance space to us, Douglas Morrisson Theatre in Hayward opened up a whole new audience pool as well.

22 Actors

6 Theater Arts Apprentices

22 Teaching Artists



July 18 – 27, 2025

Pinole Valley High School

Bay Area director and long-time friend of the company, Susannah Martin, directed this production of the Rodgers & Hammerstein classic, *Oklahoma!* The production was an artistic triumph: epic, richly-orchestrated, and superbly-performed, with a show-stopping dream ballet. We performed for the first time ever at Pinole Valley High School, which offered the same level of comfort and top-tier production possibilities that our audiences are used to in El Cerrito.

33 Actors

13 Theater Arts Apprentices

5 Pit Orchestra Apprentices

18 Teaching Artists

## MIDDLE SCHOOL SHOW

For years, we at Korsa have been trying to crack the code of how to get younger students interested in our programs. Korsa shows are an intense after-school time commitment, one that middle schoolers often do not have the time to participate in. Plus, as Korsa auditions get more competitive and the talent gets fiercer, it becomes harder for our youngest students to compete with older, more experienced student actors for spots. For these reasons, we decided to add a special show open only to middle schoolers, offering the same excellent level of acting-based musical theater training, developed specifically for younger students, and on a scale that would fit the Live Oak Theater.

The result was **our first-ever middle school production**, the first act of *Into the Woods*. Fully-produced, with costumes, props, a set, and a piano, this program was wildly successful, artistically and educationally – so much so, that we have decided to add it into our yearly programming going forward.



### INTO THE WOODS

May 9–11, 2025, Live Oak Theater

For our first show with middle schoolers, we naturally picked easy material: Sondheim (just kidding)! Our cast of 5th–8th graders rose to the challenge of this one-act performance and performed this complicated show with heart and passion. Our teaching artists had a meaningful learning experience, as well, as they worked on tailoring their educational techniques to a younger crop of students.

19 Actors

4 Theater Arts Apprentices

12 Teaching Artists



# APPRENTICESHIPS



## Theater Arts Apprenticeship Program

TAAP continues to provide students with **hands-on, professional-level training** in the behind the scenes technical and creative disciplines that bring theater to life. Through participation in our productions, apprentices gain **real-world experience** in every aspect of stagecraft—from design and direction to backstage execution. Many return year after year, deepening their expertise or exploring new areas of interest. We offer apprenticeships in Directing, Music Directing, Stage Management, Choreography, Technical Direction, Props, Costumes, Hair & Make-Up, Sound, and Lighting.

This season we introduced a new **level-based structure**, enabling apprentices to progress through **clearly defined tiers of mastery**. As students move from entry-level through advanced stages, they build competence, responsibility, and independence.

## Pit Orchestra Apprenticeship Program

Korsa invites **qualified student instrumentalists** to play in our Pit Orchestra Apprenticeship Program alongside local professionals. POAP is **tuition-free** and students receive **exceptional musical training** and gain valuable experience.

The program again saw an increase in students this season, including several returning students, demonstrating a continued loyalty to the program. We also had a number of new student instrumentalists who had never played in a pit orchestra before. Additionally, this year's orchestras included three professional musicians who were POAP alumni. These graduates paired with current POAP students, which was especially meaningful and exciting.





# LIVE OAK THEATER



*Live Oak was also the venue for our first-ever middle school show!*

This year, Korsa took over management of the historic Live Oak Theater from the City of Berkeley, further deepening our longstanding partnership with the City. Since assuming management, we've hosted 11 rental groups, including schools, local theater groups, musicians, and comedy troupes. These partnerships have revitalized Live Oak Theater as a hub for creativity and connection, bringing audiences together and supporting a wide range of community arts organizations. By stepping into this role, we've been able to ensure that Live Oak remains a vibrant, accessible space for the performing arts in our community, and we're proud to help sustain a thriving local arts ecosystem.

## **IMPACT STORY: parent & Volunteer Coordinator**

### WHITNEY MOSS

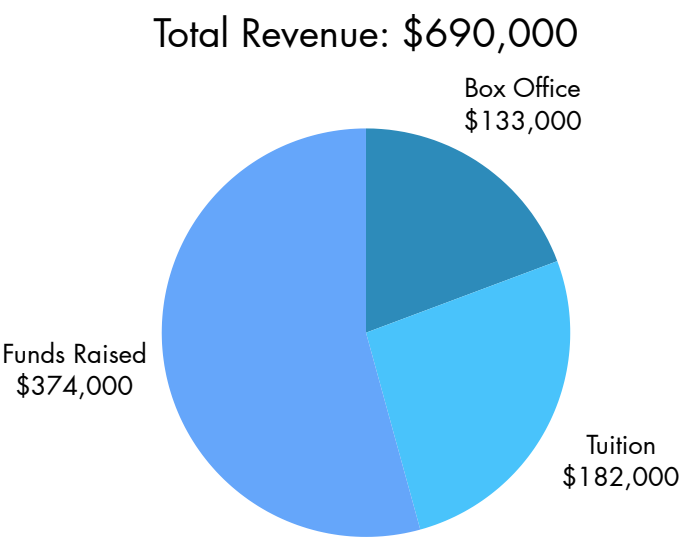


Serving as Korsa's Volunteer Manager for the past two seasons gave me the chance to build community among the families of our students. As we divided up responsibilities—delivering meals to the cast, decorating the lobby, and running concessions for each show—we grew closer through our shared commitment to ensuring students have access to this training. What begins as a massive task list always becomes a bond, as we all want to support Korsa in delivering an audience experience in the front of house on par with the excellence they see on the stage.

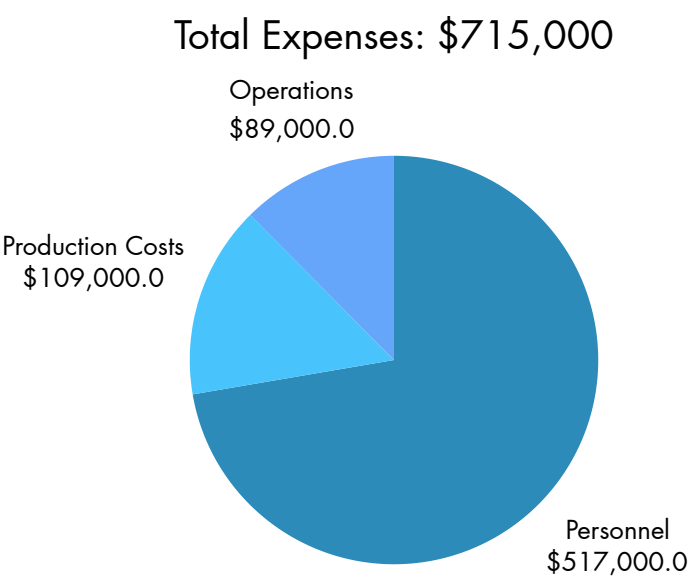


# OUR FINANCES

## REVENUE



## EXPENSES



It was another year of growth for Korsa. We continued to build our deep bench of teaching artists and other professional theater makers, and worked diligently to pay them living wages. We also gave out another record amount of Tuition Assistance and brought in more diversity of represented schools in both our student body and our audiences than ever before. Our Board of Directors have remained deeply committed to these goals—investing in the people that make this organization what it is, and never turning away a student for lack of an ability to pay for the program—even if it means facing a deficit at the end of the year. Thanks to our amazingly generous community of donors and our saved up reserves, we’re still heading into a new season strong and ready to continue to serve our students and community.

# OUR COMMUNITY

## STAFF & RESIDENT ARTISTS

|                                                            |                                                                    |                                                                |                                                                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>JENNIFER BOESING</b><br>Producing Artistic Director     | <b>DAVID MÖSCHLER</b><br>Resident Music Director                   | <b>MOLLY BELL</b><br>Programs Director &<br>Production Manager | <b>CELESTE KAMIYA</b><br>Communications & Casting<br>Director                   |
| <b>LAURA CORNWALL</b><br>Resident Stage Manager            | <b>JASON COALE</b><br>Technical Director                           | <b>BILL BREWER</b><br>Facilities Manager (Aquatic<br>Park)     | <b>RACHAEL HEIMAN</b><br>Resident Costume Designer                              |
| <b>DAWN NAKASHIMA</b><br>Props Designer & Scenic<br>Artist | <b>THOMAS SOTO</b><br>Sound Designer/Mixer                         | <b>BERT BLANK</b><br>Sound Engineer                            | <b>GLEN EPPERSON</b><br>Scenic Consultant &<br>Facilities Manager (Live<br>Oak) |
| <b>WHITNEY MOSS</b><br>Volunteer Coordinator               | <b>ROSA LUEVANO &amp; JESSICA<br/>WILAN</b><br>Box Office Managers | <b>STEPHANIE WADE</b><br>Graphics Designer                     | <b>PAM CRANE</b><br>Registrar                                                   |
| <b>MIKE CRANE</b><br>Bookkeeper/ Controller                | <b>ILJA SARRO</b><br>Videographer                                  | <b>SCARLETT CURRIER</b><br>Social Media Assistant              | <b>JONAH PAGENHART</b><br>Promotional Videographer<br>& Photographer            |

## TEACHING ARTISTS, DESIGNERS, & TECHNICIANS

|                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                   |                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>JENNIFER BOESING</b><br>Director ( <i>Heathers</i> )                                                              | <b>WYTHE BOWART</b><br>Scenic Painter ( <i>Heathers</i> ,<br><i>Oklahoma!</i> )                                   | <b>JANET COLLARD</b><br>Choreographer ( <i>Heathers</i> ,<br><i>Oklahoma!</i> )        | <b>PAM CRANE</b><br>Choreographer ( <i>Into the<br/>Woods Act One</i> )                                                                  |
| <b>STEVE DECKER</b><br>Scenic Designer<br>( <i>Oklahoma!</i> )                                                       | <b>TIMOTHY FLETCHER</b><br>Music Director ( <i>Legally<br/>Blonde</i> )                                           | <b>STEPHANIE FOISY, KAREN<br/>SPENCER, &amp; KELLY<br/>WILMETH</b><br>ASL Interpreters | <b>RICHARD FONG</b><br>Lighting & Projections<br>Designer ( <i>Legally Blonde</i> )                                                      |
| <b>LUCRETIA FROKE</b><br>Hair & Makeup Designer<br>( <i>Legally Blonde</i> , <i>Heathers</i> ,<br><i>Oklahoma!</i> ) | <b>AMANDA GODDARD</b><br>Wardrobe Assistant ( <i>Legally<br/>Blonde</i> , <i>Heathers</i> ,<br><i>Oklahoma!</i> ) | <b>EILEEN HIGARASHI</b><br>Scenic Painter ( <i>Oklahoma!</i> )                         | <b>CHESHIRE ISAACS</b><br>Production Photographer<br>( <i>Legally Blonde</i> , <i>Into the<br/>Woods Act One</i> ,<br><i>Oklahoma!</i> ) |

|                                                                                               |                                                                                                           |                                                                                   |                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>CELESTE KAMIYA</b><br>Director ( <i>Legally Blonde</i> ,<br><i>Into the Woods</i> Act One) | <b>SUSANNAH MARTIN</b><br>Director ( <i>Oklahoma!</i> )                                                   | <b>DAVID MÖSCHLER</b><br>Music Director ( <i>Heathers</i> ,<br><i>Oklahoma!</i> ) | <b>HEATHER ONDERSMA</b><br>Intimacy Director ( <i>Heathers</i> )                                               |
| <b>DANI RODRIGUEZ-CHAVEZ</b><br>Music Director ( <i>Into the Woods</i> Act One)               | <b>KATHY ROGERS</b><br>Scenic Designer ( <i>Legally Blonde</i> , <i>Heathers</i> )                        | <b>SAYLOR</b><br>Lighting Designer ( <i>Into the Woods</i> )                      | <b>ADRI SCHURMANN</b><br>Wardrobe Manager<br>( <i>Legally Blonde</i> , <i>Heathers</i> ,<br><i>Oklahoma!</i> ) |
| <b>MOLLY STEWART-COHN</b><br>Lighting Designer ( <i>Heathers</i> )                            | <b>ZOË SWENSON-GRAHAM</b><br>Intimacy & Fight Director<br>( <i>Legally Blonde</i> ,<br><i>Oklahoma!</i> ) | <b>CORI AOKI-TRASCHEL</b><br>Lighting Designer<br>( <i>Oklahoma!</i> )            | <b>DAVE WEILAND</b><br>Production Photographer<br>( <i>Heathers</i> )                                          |
| <b>RUSSELL WRIGHT</b><br>Choreographer ( <i>Legally Blonde</i> )                              | <b>BESSIE ZOLNO</b><br>Fight Director ( <i>Heathers</i> )                                                 |                                                                                   |                                                                                                                |

## IMPACT STORY: teaching artist & co-founder

### PAM CRANE



22 years ago, my husband Mike and I sat in our dining room with Jennifer, talking about starting a musical theater program for young people in Berkeley. At the time, we thought we might produce a show or two a year. If we'd known how much this little adventure would grow, we would have been terrified! We gradually added more shows and workshops to each season, grew our orchestras and production values, and welcomed students from all over the Bay Area. Korsa has helped launch numerous professional theater careers, but the real magic for me is watching young people rise to the challenge year after year. It takes courage and a willingness to let go of being cool. It takes empathy, imagination, passion, and resilience. Humans have been telling stories through song and dance for generations. Korsa gives young people the space and tools to become incredible storytellers themselves, whether or not they aspire to professional careers in the theater. The adventure has been truly magical.



# THANK YOU

Every year, we are thrilled and humbled by the incredible support of our community: parents, volunteers, donors, teachers, and all the countless other people who make the Korsa family what it is. This community's incredible generosity can be seen in the fact that individual giving continues to grow, year after year. The 2024-2025 season was no exception to this trend, and these generous gifts enabled us to maintain and strengthen our exceptional training and exceptional productions.

To those of you who made financial gifts this past season, we cannot thank you enough. And to those of you who gave in other ways, whether by bringing tech week meals, logging hundreds of miles driving your students all across the East Bay, or even just coming to see the performances, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. **You are the reason we are able to take our young people on these adventures, and it means the world to us – and to our students.**

