





**Producing Artistic Director Carolyn Griffin was honored to receive "Helen's Star" from theatreWashington. Named for Helen Hayes, it is presented to "daring visionaries who have shaped and redefined the landscape of Washington theatre".**

Since 1984 when MetroStage was founded to provide professional theatre performances to the Alexandria residents, it has been a passion of mine to serve this community with work of the highest artistic standards. It has been an honor and a privilege to bring remarkable talent to our stage and to share stories celebrating the diversity of our region and our world--all within the confines of an intimate space where all felt welcomed and embraced--both artists and audience alike. All of this has taken place in converted storefronts, a repurposed warehouse, and NOW we have the extraordinary opportunity to enter our next phase by anchoring a newly designated arts district as part of the condo conversion of a former hotel.

We have produced amazing art in our former locations, and this next phase provides us with even greater visibility and opportunities as part of the incredible redefining of Old Town North. This former industrial region of the city is now exploding with residential, dining, and commercial opportunities. Theatre has always been a catalyst for development and for MetroStage to be central, literally and physically, to this movement is particularly rewarding.

Theatres need space to perform, and this new move provides MetroStage with a stage and so much more. Across the street from Montgomery Park where outdoor performances can extend our reach is another exciting possibility. But all this potential and all these possibilities require a commitment by all who believe in the power of theatre and the contribution theatre makes to the community. Developers understand, and we know you also understand. So please enjoy all the information we have compiled and let us know how you can help. We thank you and can't wait to welcome you to our new stage in 2022.



## **OFF-BROADWAY ON THE RIVER'S EDGE**

### **Innovative and Eclectic, World Premiere Musicals, Award-Winning Theatre Productions**

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MetroStage is a professional not-for-profit theatre company located in Alexandria since 1984 and dedicated to producing an eclectic season of contemporary plays and musicals that are chosen to enrich, enlighten and entertain, and that reflect the diverse population of Alexandria and the Washington metropolitan area. A new theatre in the heart of Old Town North in the Arts and Cultural District. MetroStage is the Arts Anchor. Located in the Venue, a condominium conversion of a former hotel by the Carr Companies. A 30-year rent free lease by the developer. Designed by Alexandria architect Skip Maginniss and ready to begin. But we need your help to fit-out the theatre.

It is estimated to require \$1.5M, resulting in a fully equipped state of the art theatre to serve MetroStage and the season of plays and musicals, cabarets and readings, and the community at large for meetings and events. It will remain the intimate space that it has offered theatre patrons for the past 36 years in its previous theatres, with approximately 110 seats, a thrust stage, and steeply raked theatre seating in addition to cabaret seating surrounding the stage. A creative use of the ground and first floor of a thirteen-story building, enclosed in glass on three sides, facing North Fairfax Street, with a well-lit concourse, theatre marquee, and art, visible to all who pass by.



Rayshun Lamarr, Lori Williams, Roz White and Anthony Manough in Shake Loose by Thomas W. Jones II (2016)


MetroStage brings the highest artistic standards to our community and an economic engine for Alexandria, contributing to its designation as an Arts Destination City, serving Alexandria artistically, economically and socially. Over and beyond producing exemplary theatrical productions, MetroStage provides free tickets, nonprofit fundraisers, and professional training for students and recent grads.

The extensive redevelopment taking place in Old Town North necessitated the move from our beloved theatre on North Royal St. after 19 years of producing shows, acclaimed for their originality and diversity. This new theatre will allow MetroStage to continue to grow as a regional theatre and serve the City, Old Town North, the Arts and Cultural District, the entire region and beyond. A significant contribution from businesses and patrons alike will make this a reality. As theatres begin to reopen, following unprecedented closures during the pandemic, MetroStage must reopen as well. The opportunity to serve as the Arts Anchor and continue offering patrons with our exciting, innovative work requires a theatre. This will become a reality with your help. Please contribute and experience live theatre in Old Town North in our exciting new venue. Literally “at the Venue”.

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**We have committed to producing exciting theater in Alexandria for over 35 years. Please support us so we can continue to enrich the lives of Alexandrians and our neighbors beyond the beltway.**





The staff and residents of House of Ruth Women's homeless shelter in Washington DC give thanks to MetroStage, Carolyn Griffin and her staff for being such a terrific resource to the residents at the shelter. You've helped us in responding to our needs to enrich the lives of our ladies with sharing the gift of your stage plays and entertainment which offer exposure and life skills that they have never experienced. MetroStage has consistently supported our efforts in participating with activities that can reduce the homeless count and has made a genuine difference in our organization's efforts to empower our ladies and eliminate homelessness. Carolyn's energy, passion, drive, and enthusiasm is second to none. MetroStage is always willing to help when the shelter calls for support and has been a true inspiration to the ladies. Keep up the amazing work you are doing!

**Denise Hammond**  
(House of Ruth)

For over 20 years I have had the good fortune to know and work with the passionate and indomitable Carolyn Griffin, both on stage in several Helen Hayes Award winning productions and also as a writer and director. MetroStage has provided Alexandria and indeed the whole of the metropolitan area with first class theatrical performances in a wonderfully intimate and cherished space. It is vitally necessary that Carolyn's work and her vision for the future continues. Once this heartbreaking pandemic is over, people even more than before will need the wonderful escapism that MetroStage provides for audiences of all ages. Carolyn has my wholehearted support in the creation of a new and much needed theatre space, and I wish her well for the success of this worthwhile endeavor.

**Catherine Flye**  
(artistic director, director, writer, actor)

I am writing in support of MetroStage's new theatre and its deep connection to the Alexandria Community. My connection to MetroStage dates back to the early 2000's as an audience member, director and colleague. Beyond the terrific art that Carolyn and MetroStage produced, MetroStage was far ahead of the anti-racism and diversity movement. Almost always, productions were filled with audiences and artists who were people of color. Alexandria attracted numerous consumers of MetroStage's productions (many of them people of color), who put money back into Alexandria's economy by eating at restaurants, using public transportation, and spending money outside of their tickets. This company is a jewel and an example of the diversity that all arts organizations should emulate. An investment in MetroStage is an investment in the community.

**Michael J. Bobbitt**  
(arts leader, director, choreographer)

It is with a full heart and a great deal of pride that I endorse and support the outstanding plans and vision for the new MetroStage performing space in Alexandria. MetroStage has always been of the highest quality, with an extraordinary commitment to culture, to the DC metro theatre scene, the community, the arts and to audiences and artists alike. The theatre is run with passion and conviction and an extraordinary commitment to quality and professionalism. I have performed there twice, in both cases, audiences came from far and wide to see the work and enjoy the theatre. Audience comments post-show were extremely positive not only about the vibe, but also the vision, the commitment, and the dedication of MetroStage. I could not be happier to endorse what will be a cultural hub that will bring participation, laughter, joy, conversation, and a deep appreciation for the arts to the heart of the community.

**Deb Filler**  
(Canadian actor, playwright, musician)

MetroStage has been a glorious artistic journey not merely a destination...And on that journey I have been filled...Experiencing and staging some of the most thrilling artistic events...MetroStage has become my theatrical home where daring and compelling work has been encouraged and supported; so much more than a place to view theatre...MetroStage is where you take the adventurous ride...I invite you to come Home...Be thrilled! Take the Ride!

**Thomas W. Jones II**  
(actor, director, choreographer, playwright)

The new MetroStage facility has the opportunity to firmly establish itself as an arts and cultural beacon, not just for the City of Alexandria, but for all of Northern Virginia and the DC metropolitan area. My decision to make a substantial investment in our Alexandria properties, especially the TransPotomac Plaza redevelopment, is based, in no small part, on the City's efforts to encourage mixed-use development embodied in the Old Town North Small Area Plan and the establishment of the Arts and Cultural District. I firmly believe that arts and cultural institutions, such as MetroStage, are absolutely critical to the improvement of the quality of life for local residents, businesses and other community stakeholders. Simply put, cultural institutions like MetroStage are place-makers which are interwoven into the local community and establish them as desirable places to live, work and relax.

But there are even more immediate and tangible benefits to an investment in community infrastructure through the completion of MetroStage's new facilities. MetroStage is an employer and job creator. Arts institutions, including MetroStage, are leaders in racial and social equity. Lastly, an investment in MetroStage is an economic multiplier, which encourages growth in retail and restaurants and, in turn, spurs larger redevelopment projects (including mine) to create even more housing and jobs and, ultimately, tax revenue for the City.

**Ryan Whitaker**

President, Whitaker Investment Corporation

“a theatrical experience that will linger in the consciousness long after the lights go down... theatre at its finest”

“Rarely do you see so magical a collaboration”

“Supporting development of intoxicating new and existing work for an ever expanding rich vibrant and diverse audience”

“a master class of theatrical artistry”

“a fitting tribute to a timeless classic, a reflection of the abundant artistry at MetroStage”



“Old Town North promises to be Alexandria’s newest, most exciting neighborhood. A major factor to the area’s transformation is found in the Old Town North Small Area Plan where it is designated an Arts District and MetroStage the Arts Anchor. This will require an investment of time, energy, and money to make it a reality, and the first tangible project is the new home for MetroStage. We will achieve our vision for the vibrant transformation of this neighborhood by supporting this extraordinary opportunity for MetroStage, Old Town North and the City. We are pleased to endorse this vision of an Arts District and stand firmly with MetroStage and its new theatre at 915 North Fairfax Street as a central feature in the ongoing redevelopment.”

**The Honorable James P. Moran Jr**

former member of the U.S. House of Representatives (8th District), and former Mayor of Alexandria

**The Honorable Justin Wilson**

Mayor of Alexandria

**The Honorable Kerry Donley**

former Mayor of Alexandria

**The Honorable William D. Euille**

former Mayor of Alexandria

**The Honorable Allison Silberberg**

former Mayor of Alexandria

**The Honorable Elizabeth Bennett-Parker**

Vice Mayor, Alexandria City Council

**The Honorable Canek Aguirre**

member of Alexandria City Council

**The Honorable Lonnie C. Rich**

former member of Alexandria City Council

**The Honorable David Speck**

former member of the Virginia House of Delegates (45th District), former member of Alexandria City Council, **Marcia Speck** former member of the Virginia Commission for the Arts

**The Honorable John Taylor Chapman**

member of Alexandria City Council

**The Honorable Amy B. Jackson**

member of Alexandria City Council

**The Honorable Redella ‘Del’ Pepper**

member of Alexandria City Council

**The Honorable Willie Bailey**

former member of Alexandria City Council

**The Honorable Frank Fannon**

former member of Alexandria City Council

**The Honorable Mark Levine**

member of the Virginia House of Delegates (45th District)



Jeremiah Hasty and Doug Brown in *The Painted Rocks* at Revolver Creek by Athol Fugard (2018)

“MetroStage has been an important component of Alexandria’s cultural scene for over 35 years. It’s new home in Old Town North will benefit all citizens, both residents and visitors, by offering a professional entertainment venue. The community has embraced this theatre over the years, and the City has benefited from its award-winning productions and reputation. By attracting patrons from the metropolitan area and beyond, it is serving as not only a cultural but also an economic engine for the City, with patrons also supporting our restaurants, retail, and hospitality industries. MetroStage is a vibrant member of our small business community, and we enthusiastically support this important addition to Old Town North as it is transformed into an Arts District that will serve all residents and businesses alike.”

**Mango Mike Anderson**

CEO HomeGrown Restaurant Group–Pork Barrel BBQ, Sushi Bar, Holy Cow (Del Ray), Sweet Fire Donna’s, Whiskey & Oyster (Carlyle)

**Agnes Artemel**

Co-founder and President, Old Town North Alliance; Board member, North Old Town Independent Citizens Association (NOTICE)

**Audrey Davis**

Director, Black History Museum; President elect, Alexandria Rotary; Member, Alexandria Human Rights Commission and Alexandria Commission for Women

**Maria Elizabeth**

Vice President, Old Town Boutique District, founder and owner, Salon deZen

**Charlotte A. Hall**

President, Old Town Business Association; former Vice President, Potomac Riverboat Company

**Val Hawkins**

former President and CEO, Alexandria Economic Development Partnership (AEDP); former Chair/current Treasurer, Agenda Alexandria; Vice Chair, Carpenter’s Shelter; Treasurer, Art League; and

**Dottie Hawkins**, committee chair, Hunting Creek Garden Club

**Pat Miller**

Executive Director, Agenda Alexandria; Chair, Alexandria Celebrates Women; Board member, Alexandria Arts Alliance, Living Legends of Alexandria, and Del Ray Business Association; former Chair, Alexandria Commission for the Arts

**Dermot Mulroney**

Actor/Musician, proud graduate of Alexandria’s T. C. Williams High School

**P. J. Palmer-Johnson**

Member, Alexandria Human Rights Commission and Alexandria Commission for Women; President elect, Alexandria Rotary

**Tom Paxton**

American folk singer-songwriter, Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award (2009), ASCAP Lifetime Achievement Award in Folk Music (2002), Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame (2014), Alexandria resident

**John Porter**

former President /CEO of ACT for Alexandria; former Principal, T. C. Williams High School; Board member, The Campagna Center and Northern Virginia Community College

**Charles Esten Puskar**

Actor/Musician/Comedian (starring roles in Nashville, Outer Banks, Whose Line Is It Anyway?), also known as Chip Esten, graduated from Alexandria’s T. C. Williams High School

**Nina Tisara**

Artist/Photographer; Founder, Living Legends of Alexandria; Co-founder, King Street Metro Enterprise Team (KSMEET)

**Marian Van Landingham**

Artist; Founder, Torpedo Factory Art Center; former Member of the Virginia House of Delegates (45th District)

**Casey Wilson**

Actress/Writer (SNL, Happy Endings); VP Kathy Wilson Foundation; graduated from Alexandria’s T. C. Williams High School

**Patricia Washington**

President and CEO, Visit Alexandria; Board member, Alexandria Arts Alliance

**Maria Wasowski**

former Member, Planning Commission; Chair, Old Town North Small Area Plan Advisory Group; Co-founder and Board member (ex officio) Old Town North Alliance

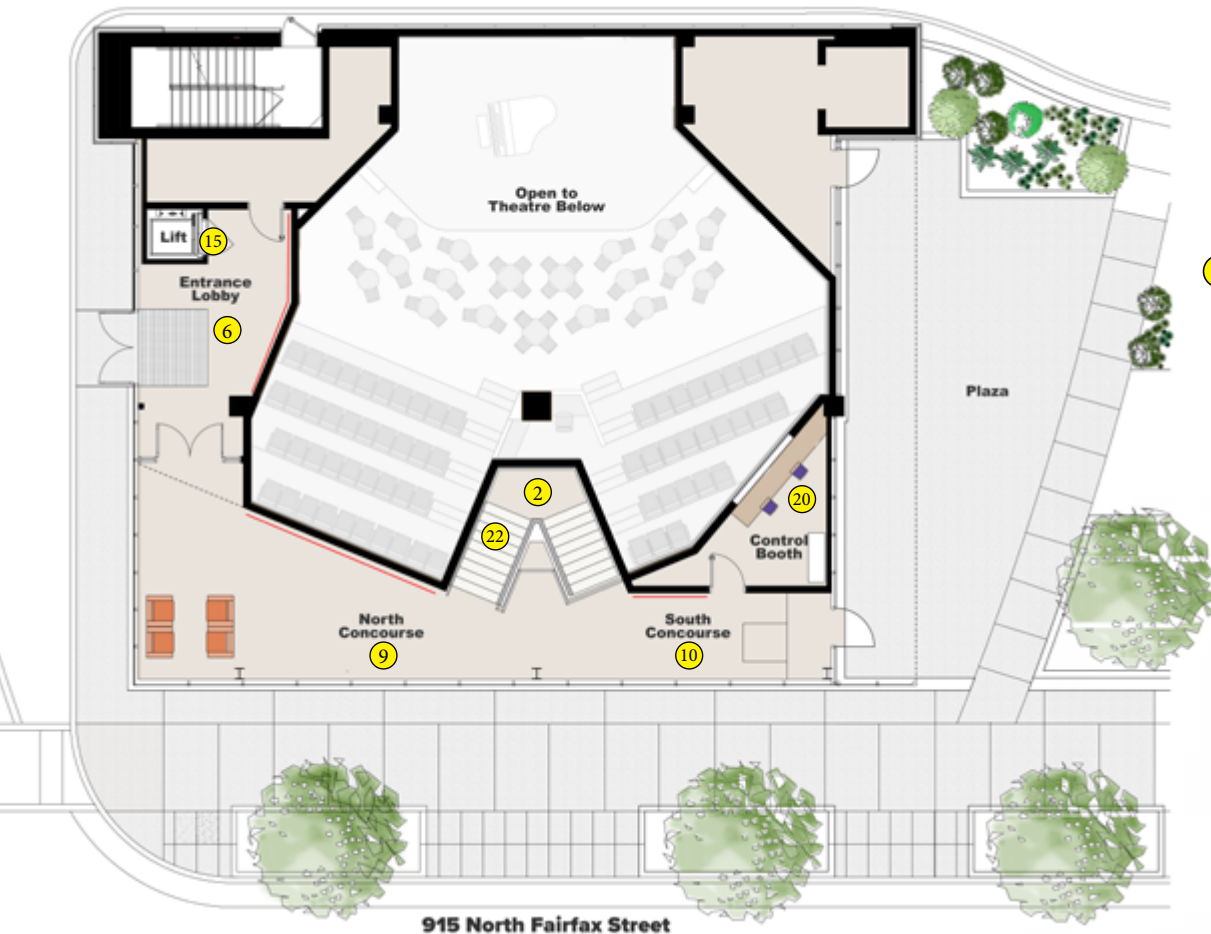
**Jason Yates**

President and CEO Yates Service Inc, redeveloped ‘Yates Corner’ which includes Lena’s Pizza, Yates family has served Alexandria for over 50 years



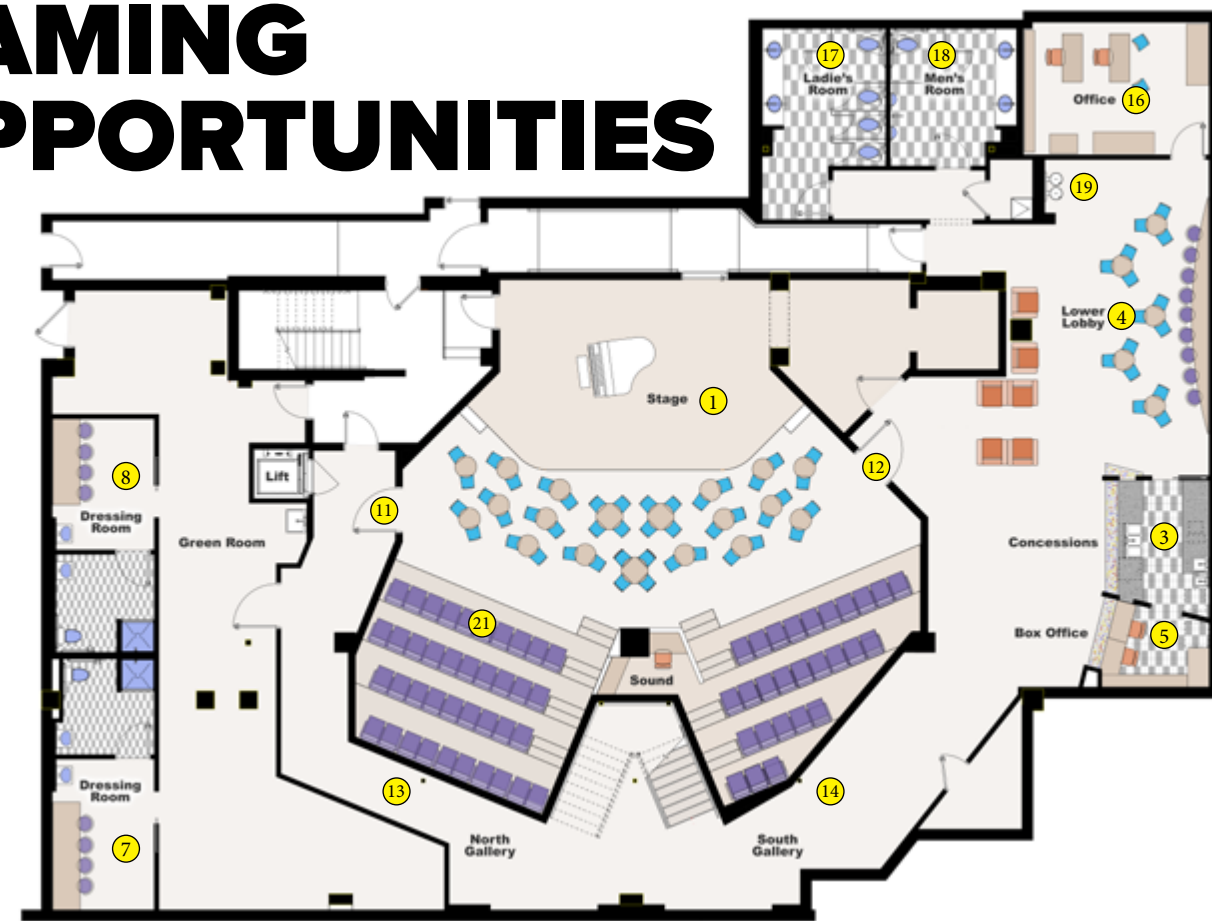
TC Carson, Lori Williams, Stephawn Stephens, Bernardine Mitchell, Roz White, Djob Lyons, Nia Harris, and LC Harden in Bessies Blues by Thomas W. Jones II (2015)





- 1 Stage ..... \$100,000
- 2 Grand Staircase ..... \$50,000
- 3 Concessions/bar ..... \$50,000
- 4 Lower Lobby ..... \$50,000
- 5 Box Office ..... \$30,000
- 6 Entrance Lobby ..... \$30,000
- 7 Women's Dressing Rooms ..... \$25,000
- 8 Men's Dressing Rooms ..... \$25,000
- 9 North Concourse ..... \$25,000
- 10 South Concourse ..... \$25,000
- 11 North Portal ..... \$15,000
- 12 South Portal ..... \$15,000
- 13 North Gallery ..... \$15,000
- 14 South Gallery ..... \$15,000
- 15 Elevator ..... \$15,000
- 16 Office ..... \$15,000
- 17 Women's Restroom ..... \$15,000
- 18 Men's Restroom ..... \$15,000
- 19 Water Fountain ..... \$15,000
- 20 Control Booth ..... \$15,000
- 21 Seats (66) ..... \$2500
- 22 Steps (16) ..... \$2500

# NAMING OPPORTUNITIES



## Very Special Thank Yous

The Oliver Carr Company and now Carr Companies who have supported MetroStage since 1984, especially Founder Oliver T. Carr Jr. and Austin Flajser, President and CEO, Carr Companies Skip Maginniss, MetroStage's architect who has designed 4 theatres for us, beginning in 1987. He shares our vision and our commitment to the intimate theatre spaces that have served us so well for the past 30+ years.

The Share Fund, the first Foundation to support our new theatre with a gift of \$50,000

Chris Banks, graphic designer and photographer extraordinaire who is a true friend of MetroStage Old Town North Alliance, NOTICE, and The Old Town North Community Partnership, all of whom enthusiastically support our move and plans for the new theatre.

Barbara Januszkiewicz for her art and inspiration.

And Jill Kamp Melton whose vision for a professional theatre in Alexandria in 1984 lives on today and beyond.

**TO DONATE: Mail a check to METROSTAGE, P O Box 1152 Alexandria, VA 22313 or Click [DONATE](#) to securely make your contribution online. All donations go directly to our Capital Campaign.**

There are many opportunities for individuals and businesses to be named as supporters of MetroStage and the next 30 years. Donate in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone special. Donate now in 2021 and pledge another donation for the first quarter 2022. Donate and attend our opening Gala in 2022. MetroStage needs your help, and we promise to return the favor once we have our new stage. Many exciting projects are planned, and all they require is your support and a roof over our heads. Please call if you have any questions, 703-548-9044 or 703-309-0580.

- Carolyn Griffin, Producing Artistic Director, MetroStage, August 2021



Paul Morella and Susan Lynskey in Ghost-Writer by Michael Hollinger (2013)

