



being
alive
2019/2020 SEASON



KAHILU THEATRE
2020 ANNUAL REPORT



“My family and I have been residents of and have owned businesses in Waimea for the last three generations. Further, my maternal grandfather was a paniolo for Parker Ranch...I served on the original Kahilu Theatre Board in 1981. It has been my observation throughout ALL these years that the Kahilu Theatre serves a very significant role in our community. Not only does Kahilu bring world class acts, they are also engaged in educating our keiki in Theatre Arts.”

Alvin Wakayama, Owner,
Kamuela Liquor Store

“For many years, Mauna Kea Beach Hotel has maintained an excellent relationship with Kahilu Theatre. We would like to recognize its value and how important it is to our community. In addition to its own presenting and producing Season, Kahilu offers its 20,000 square foot facility for school graduations, hula performances, and other local non-profit events. It is the only full-season arts presenting organization on Hawaii Island that also provides educational programs year round for students ages 4 – adult. I know countless families in our community that have taken advantage of these programs to introduce their children to the arts, including my own.”

Kansas Henderson, Hotel Manager,
Mauna Kea Beach Hotel

I was a student at Parker School, which Richard Smart endowed, and had the chance to meet him a few times. His passion for the Arts was amazing. He established Kahilu Theatre as a stand-alone, and our job is to help support their mission of being a center for our community, visitors and businesses. As a business we LOVE the Theatre and show nights when patrons flock to Merriman’s to enjoy dinner before their show.

Tom Bean, General Manager,
Merriman’s “Big Island” Waimea

Cover photos: © 2020 Steven Roby



Photo: Ric Noyle

Kahilu Theatre Foundation (KTF) first raised its curtain in 1981, offering the town of Waimea extraordinary performances from a world-class Broadway stage. Created by the generosity of Parker Ranch heir Richard Palmer Smart, Kahilu today is a private, non-profit organization. Offering local and international artists, in-house productions, gallery programs, cultural events, and a diverse array of education services, our mission is to make a place where community, creativity, and inspiration thrive.



Aloha Kākou,

Our 39th season was one of beauty, joy, celebration, and unforeseen challenges. From the incredible season opener of international Hawaiian superstar Keali’i Reichel and his ensemble, to the Celtic musings of Goitse, it was shaping up to be a truly memorable season. And then in March we were forced to close our doors by government mandate. COVID-19 had made its way to Hawai’i and all of our lives would be drastically altered for more than a year.

While our doors were closed to the public, and it truly dawned on us that our new reality was setting in for the long term, an evolution of Kahilu, and the way we present art to the public, was set into motion. Our artistic director, Chuck Gessert, started researching other ways we could keep the arts (and Kahilu) alive. Around the same time, after five years of dedicating herself, and her many talents, to the theatre, Deb Goodwin stepped away from her position as executive director. We will be forever grateful to her for the contributions she made to Kahilu, to our community, and to ensuring that the legacy will live on.

When the pandemic first became a reality, I could not help but think back to the “intermission” of 2012–2013. However, thanks to the lessons learned from that time, it ended up being entirely different. Once again, though, we have our our dedicated patrons and community members to wholeheartedly thank. They contributed what they could to help keep our theatre afloat and it made all the difference. Mahalo nui!

We like to say that Kahilu Theatre is the artistic heart of the community, but, in reality, it’s the community—the artists, the keiki, the kupuna, the organizations, the families—that serves as the heart of Kahilu Theatre.

With all of our hearts, we thank you for the love you have shown us and we look forward to the adventures ahead.

A hui hou,

Mimi Kerley
Board President



A HERITAGE IN THE ARTS

The Kahilu Theatre came into being through the generosity of its millionaire benefactor and Parker Ranch owner Richard Kaleioku Smart: like his stewardship of the Ranch, Smart built the theatre with a vision of a place where the performing arts could flourish, a place that would truly serve the community.

Not long after Richard Smart's birth in 1913, both of his parents passed away, leaving him as the sole heir of the Parker Ranch fortune. Richard developed a love for drama and music, and as a young man, he left Hawai'i Island and headed for the bright lights of New York City. There, he performed for 30 years on Broadway. He eventually returned to Waimea and decided to build a theatre in his hometown, named the Kahilu Theatre in memory of his mother, Thelma Kahiluonapua'api'ilani Parker.

In 1992, Smart passed away and the Kahilu Theatre became completely independent of the Ranch, relying on outside funding for its survival. Community members rallied around their beloved theatre, helping the board to retire the accumulated debt in full within 6 months. The Staff and Board of Directors has worked hard to develop broad-based support for the theatre—through grants, memberships, donations, fundraising events and show sponsorships — to provide more than 60% of the Kahilu's annual operating budget. The health of the theatre is reliant upon the continued generosity and commitment of its community. We are proud to say that Richard Smart's legacy continues to endure and flourish in Waimea, where the theatre serves to strengthen Big Island communities by providing access and opportunity to experience the magic of the arts.

Board of Directors

Mimi Kerley

President

Mahina Duarte

Vice President

Michael Thompson

*Vice President, Internal Affairs/
Treasurer*

Sherman Warner

Vice President, Governance

Ron Meyer

Vice President, External Affairs

Carol Davies

Secretary

Monique Allison

Mike Bennett

Beth Dunnington

Suzanne Hill Luce

Professional Staff

Deborah Goodwin

Executive Director

Chuck Gessert

Artistic Director

Keala Campbell

Operations Manager

Eric Kwan

Box Office Manager

Kristin Lake

Marketing Associate

Marissa Ley

Development Associate

Ashley Jones

Administrative Assistant

Lisa Shattuck

Education Coordinator

Margo Ray

Gallery Coordinator

Kahilu Tech Team

**Paul Buckley & Waimea
Music Center**

Kristin Lake

Gary Morphis

Brian Pate

Sam Peele

Joshlyn Waikoloa



39TH PRESENTING SEASON 2019-2020

Hawaiian Music Series

Keali'i Reichel
Three Maui Divas
2019 Ukulele & Slack Key Guitar Festival
Hawaiian Style Band
HAPA
Kalani Pe'a Love Songs
Makana

Blues, Jazz and World Music Series

Jimmie Vaughan Trio
Tiffany
Christian Sands Trio
Okaidja Afroso Trio
Carmen Staaf Trio
Derek Gripper
Dirty Cello
Goitse

Classical Music Series

Kamuela Philharmonic Orchestra
Sara Davis Buechner
Camerata RCO
Ultimi 3 Tenors
Rachel Cheung

Dance

First Nations Dance – Dancers of Damelahamid
Aspen Santa Fe Ballet
Speak: Tap and Kathak Unite – Michelle Dorrance

Theatre & Family

Mark Nizer
HTY's Korean Cinderella
Activities of Daily Living
Schoolhouse Rock Live!
India Ink Theatre – Mrs. Krisnan's Party
Alphabet Rockers

Film Series

Hitchcock's Best Film Series

Special Concert Event

Lukas Nelson featuring Tato Melgar

Luce Unplugged

Blayne Asing
Ian O'Sullivan
Sonny Lim

Dance Night

Lorenzo's Army
Lucky Tongue
Bottle of Blue

Comedy

JP Sears
Pauly Shore

Gold Series

Angela and Michael Ingersoll
Keola and Moana Beamer

Community

Shakastock
Waimea Community Chorus



Kahilu Theatre's final pre-pandemic performance featured renowned slack-key singer/guitarist Makana in concert.

KAHILU PRESENTS AND PRODUCES:

Kahilu Theatre's 39th season presented voices and visions of diverse creative expression and a universal language of hope. The season sparkled with Hawaiian artists, world music, jazz, classical, Americana, dance, theatre, comedy, community chorus, and exciting solo and group performances. It also included the *Hitchcock's Best Film Series*, and one night each month we transformed our stage and the Mike Luce Studio into the Big Island's hottest nightclub, with some of the best local bands providing music to dance the night away.

The season was suddenly cut short in March by the pandemic, preempting such popular artists as Joan Osborne, Buffy St. Marie, and Robert Cazimero. But even though abbreviated, the 39th season nonetheless delivered both a full measure of artistic excellence and a joyous celebration of the arts.



'80s and '90s pop icon Tiffany brought her latest album, Pieces of Me, to the Kahilu stage in September.

Photos: © 2020 Steven Roby



Our success is measured quantitatively by surveys and qualitatively by our artists and audiences.

FINANCIALS:

Board and Leadership

Kahilu's 10 Board members are community residents and serve without compensation for Board service. Directors are responsible for carrying out the mission of the organization and fiscal oversight. During this past year, our Board has been meeting monthly, rather than bi-monthly, with nearly 100% attendance to proactively meet the demands of the changing pandemic environment. Many Board members share their expertise and labor to augment the efforts of our small, hardworking staff of eight.

Budget and Other Sources of Funding

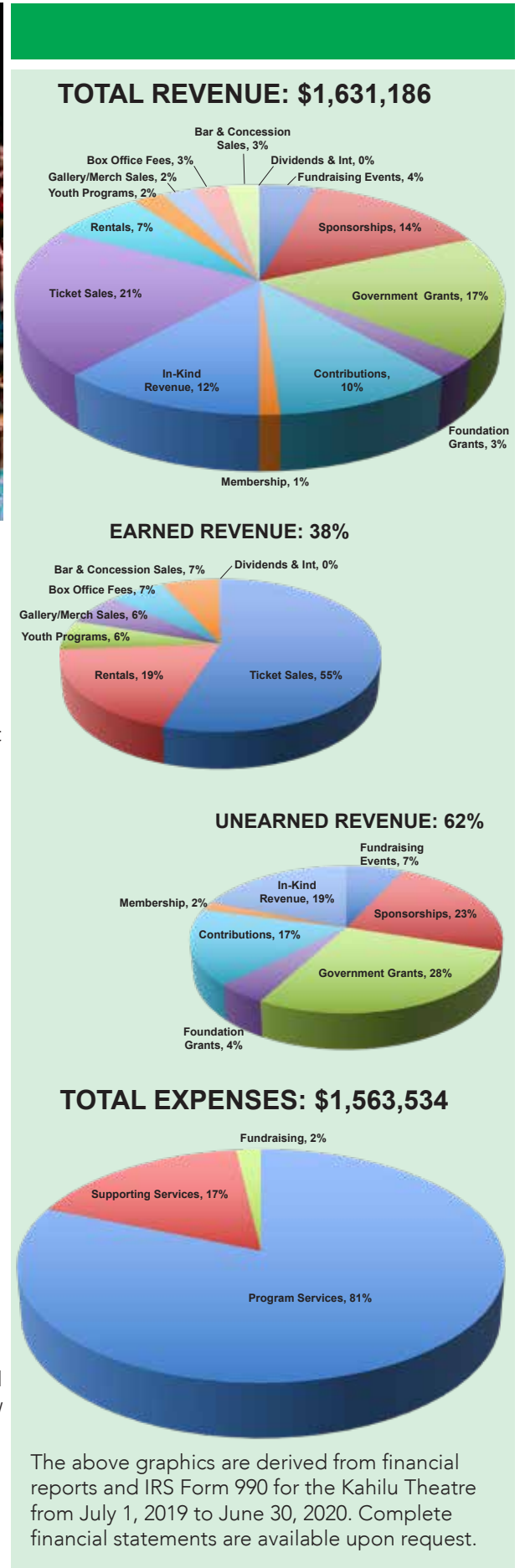
Kahilu supports its activities and operations with earned and contributed revenue. Earned revenue includes rentals, tickets, subscriptions, merchandise, gallery commission fees and youth program fees. Contributed sources include individual donations, public and private grants, corporate support, sponsorships, bequests and gifts-in-kind.

In a typical year, our annual operating budget is about \$1.4 million. Ticket revenue averages 32% of our total revenue, with theatre rentals at 20%, and the balance derived from philanthropy.

In 2020, when ticket revenue shifted to only 5%, contributed sources and CARES ACT funds provided some relief. The COVID-19 reality has impacted our plans and we adjust our budget quarterly. We closely monitor sales revenue for more accurate forecasts.

Looking Ahead

Kahilu Theatre is planning an exciting new season of inclusive and original programming and ways to generate revenue and sustainability, with a new digital platform in development.



The above graphics are derived from financial reports and IRS Form 990 for the Kahilu Theatre from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. Complete financial statements are available upon request.



KAHILU EXHIBITS

Kahilu Exhibits presents solo and thematic group shows and features local and global works of art from both emerging and established visual artists.



Poliahu
Mayumi Oda

Mayumi Oda

Expression of the Female Deity
Aug 29–Oct 13, 2019

A retrospective exhibit spanning 40 years of work by the artist known as the Matisse of Japan, Mayumi Oda. “Through my creative process, I have been creating myself. Goddesses are a projection of myself and who I want to be. Each picture represents a stage of my development, the influences I was feeling, and events that were going on around me.”

Mariah Reading

In The Wake of Our Waste
Oct 17–Dec 8, 2019

There is no shortage of marine debris. Reading’s work depicts environmental changes humans have caused and what steps must be taken to preserve this one Earth.

Leah Schretenthaler

The Invasive Species of the Built Environment
Oct 17–Dec 8, 2019

The Invasive Species of the Built Environment explores the controversial builds and infrastructure projects in the state of Hawai’i.

Voyager 2020

Dec 12–Jan 26, 2020

This year’s exhibit focused on the voyaging canoe Makali’i’s Hanauna Ola project, in which the canoe sailed for 30 days to the Northwest Hawaiian Islands provisioned with food entirely sourced on Hawai’i Island. The Voyager Exhibit is curated in partnership with Na Kālai Wa’a and the Waimea Ocean Film Festival.

Michelle Schwengal-Regala

Kalae and Beyond
Jan 30–Mar 8, 2020

Fire and ice: opposing forces which seem worlds apart. Hawai’i and Antarctica have both been defined by these conditions. This mixed-media installation compares and contrasts these interconnected regions, their inhabitants, and the forces that shape them.

Craig Schwanfelder

Half Court–Full Court
Jan 30–Mar 8, 2020

Basketball hoops are everywhere, and accessible to people from all walks of life. *Half Court–Full Court* uses in-camera multiple exposure photography to explore the sport’s surrounding environment by providing an otherwise impossible view of both basketball hoops simultaneously.

5th Annual Juried Exhibition

Mar 12, 2020

As part of our visual arts program, Kahilu Exhibits annually presents a juried exhibition of Hawai’i state artists.

Remainder of season exhibits were canceled due to the pandemic.

Carving of an outrigger canoe was live-streamed on social media in place of the planned exhibit **Heart of the Wa’a, Voices of Hawaiian Outrigger Canoe Racing**.



Lava Bombs
Michelle Schwengal-Regala

ARTS ED @ KAHILU

At Kahilu Theatre, learning is truly the heart of the matter. We understand the value arts bring to the well-being of individuals and our community. Each year, we promote arts education and leverage our work through strong partnerships and collaborations with artists, schools, and other community organizations.

Performances for Young Audiences

This series presents the magical experience of live professional music, dance, theatre, and storytelling from Kahilu Theatre's stage to island students ages three to thirteen. Season artists also travel out into the community with school performances and workshops across the island.

Performances for Young Audiences Calendar

- Mark Nizer Science—Oct 2, 2019
- Okaidja Afroso—Oct 23, 2019
- HTY Korean Cinderella—Nov 14 & 15, 2019
- Rachel Cheung—Feb 12, 2020
- Schoolhouse Rock Live—Feb 19, 2020
- India Ink Theatre—Mar 2, 2020
- Alphabet Rockers—Mar 11, 2020

Kahilu Arts (K-Arts)

Kahilu Arts is a long-standing partnership with Waimea Middle School that provides professional instruction in a variety of arts disciplines. These classes often include dance, 'ukulele, theatre tech, and more. At the end of the semester, K-Arts culminates with an original show produced and performed by these students for their peers and the public.

Kahilu Performing Arts Classes and Camps

In collaboration with Prince Dance Institute and other educators, Kahilu Theatre offers students of all ages enrichment through year-round classes and camps in acting, singing, dance, hula, aerial silks and more.



Photo: Ric Noyle



Photo: Steven Roby



Photo: Ric Noyle



VOLUNTEERS:

Another metric of success is reflected in our organization's 85-member volunteer corps; collectively providing more than 3,100 hours of service in the past year. Our volunteers LOVE working at the Theatre and we LOVE them, too!



Georjean Adams	Virginia Fortner	Sheila Okin
Susan Akeo	Daniel Gomez	Anne Olson
Tilton Akeo	Mark Gordon	Karen Osborne
Desiree Ashley	Raynette Guzman	Janet Pelmulder
Diane Ashley	Dorothy Hafner	John Pelmulder
Cecelia CeCe	Tasman Hafner Bulau	Pua'ena Perry
Ashton	Judy Halford	Laurie Rosa
Hermine Baker	Carol Douglas-	Shannon Sidell
Kelly Barrick	Hammer	Odile Stephan
Jean Bassen	Betty Hannah	Tina Stuart
Ford Beebe	Mike Hannah	Diana Sugunuma
Dave Brinton	Eileen Hartwings	Phyllis Tarail
Kathy Brinton	Patty Herrera	Lisen Twigg-Smith
Alice Brooks	January Herron	Sweetheart Uchima
Bobbi Bryant	Cindy Hish	Darlene Walencewicz
Jim Budde	Lois Inman	Pamela Walencewicz
Madeleine Budde	Cathleen Jardine	Elaine Warner
Sydney Budde	Jo Jeter	Ann Werstler
Nanci Cabral	Chris Kelly	Michael Whelan
Gary Cassel	Everett Knowles	Lindsay White
Patricia Cassel	Lynn Krieger	Ray White
Jeanie Cluff	Margy Ledward	Sandy White
Steve Cotton	Elodia Le May	Eric Witt
Peggy Cox	Rona Lee	Jeanne Calo-Witt
Ti deL'Arbre	Leslie Matsuda	Camelia Calo-Witt
d'Estaing	Cara McCann	Henry Wong
Simon Donley	Rebecca McKim	Donna Worden
Janice Eluthesen	John McLean	John Wray
Kannan Eluthesen	Joan Moynahan	Margo Wray
Trish Flanagan	Susan Nakahara	

Mahalo nui loa for their support.



KAHILU THEATRE

arts • entertainment • education

MISSION STATEMENT

Making a place where community, creativity and inspiration thrive.

VISION STATEMENT

Kahilu Theatre is a flourishing multidisciplinary arts center on Hawai'i Island where the community comes together and the arts come alive.

67-1186 Lindsey Road
Kamuela, Hawai'i 96743
kahilutheatre.org
808.885.6868

OUR LOGO

The Kahilu Theatre "Voices" logo reflects the relationship between the Theatre and our community, how audience and artists, keiki and kupuna, connect and create a greater expression of themselves and each other both on and off our stage.

STAY CONNECTED

Please sign up on our website to stay connected to us, and receive emails to keep you in the loop with Kahilu arts, entertainment and education.