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gathering place



2018 annual report

# KEEP THE BALL JAR ROLLING

      
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# 30 years in the can! I mean, jar!

Sometimes the simplest way to deliver a message is also the best way. So ... **Thank You!** Thank you for all you have done over the past 30+ years to make Minnetrista an incredible community asset for all of East Central Indiana. Thank you for building up the quality of life in ECI; for helping us preserve and grow our community; for gathering here for family fun and personal exploration ... and for making those experiences available to everyone!

Thanks to your generous donations of time and treasure, our staff was able to undertake some really big projects in 2018. I believe the one that tugs most at the heartstrings is the development of the two-act play, In My Hands, In My Heart. The research, thoughtfulness, and skill that went into crafting this script – a script that tackles a very difficult subject – were inspiring. The performance itself by our Minnetrista Theatre Preserve actors is very moving. This play is still on the road and is age-appropriate for middle schoolers through adults.

You also know how to help us have fun! Thank you to everyone who came out to experience the inaugural Twilight on the Boulevard last September. A special thank you to the volunteers who helped produce this fabulous evening alongside our stellar staff – committee members, food vendors, and prize donors.

People come to Minnetrista every day to: literally smell the roses; fly a kite; walk a dog; see the latest, greatest exhibition; get in touch with themselves, their families, their friends, and their community. People like you; people who need people like you. Without the tremendous support of our major donors, Minnetrista wouldn't be here. Without the gifts of the hundreds of individuals who recognize the value of the arts, the humanities, and nature to our well-being, we wouldn't have over 100,000 meaningful touches a year.

One more time ... **Thank You!**

*Betty Brewer*  
Betty Brewer  
President & CEO

*Richard Crist*  
Richard Crist  
Chair, Board of Trustees

# 2018 year in review

## 2018 Visits | 104,279

Visitors enjoyed the many exhibits hosted in our gallery spaces:

### 1948 Communities Can

An exhibit traveling back in time to explore the impact that Ball Brothers Company from Muncie, Indiana had on the food preservation movement across the United States. *In partnership with the Indiana Historical Society.*

### Annual Juried Art Show & Sale

Visitors experienced the beautiful and awe-inspiring artwork of professional and avocational artists throughout Indiana.

### Dinosaur Discoveries: Ancient Fossils, New Ideas

Through the use of technology and creative display, visitors examined fossils and discovered how dinosaurs walked, ate, and moved their large frames. *Dinosaur Discoveries: Ancient Fossils, New Ideas is organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York (amnh.org), in collaboration with the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco; The Field Museum, Chicago; the Houston Museum of Natural Science; and the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, Raleigh.*

### Message in a Bottle

Visitors explored the waters of America's rivers in Chad Pregracke's Message in a Bottle Collection. *Owned and Curated by Chad Pregracke, Founder & President, Living Lands & Waters. Organized by Message in a Bottle, LLC.*

### Open Space: Art About the Land

In cooperation with Red-Tail Land Conservancy, this art competition celebrated the significance of Indiana land.

### Imagine in Glass

A celebration of children's creativity and imagination! Inspired by children's artwork, professional glassworkers from the Marilyn K. Glick Center for Glass at Ball State University created whimsical glass sculptures for display.

The over 100,000 counted visits does not even include the countless hours community members spent in outdoor adventure around our campus and through our gardens!

We continued to play a role in the education of young minds as we saw over 100 school tours come through Minnetrista in 2018. And Faeries, Sprites, and Lights continued to enchant the imaginations of children and adults alike, with over 3,000 visitors attending the three-day event.

Others of our signature events, like Enchanted Luminaria Walk and Garden Fair, continued to provide hubs of connection for our community.

We are proud of all we have accomplished together in 2018 and thankful for a community who helped make it possible.



## In My Hands, In My Heart

Indiana Arts Commission

Minnetrista's theater outreach programming was boosted by an Arts Project Support grant from the Indiana Arts Commission. The Arts Commission uses public funding from the National Endowment for the Arts to make art experiences accessible to Hoosiers across the state. The grant supported the creation of In My Hands, In My Heart, an original theatrical production that uses the discovery of a Ball jar embossed with the KKK insignia to explore perspectives on racial tension. The production was a success and wouldn't have been possible without the support of the Indiana Arts Commission, the Community Foundation of Randolph County, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

## Catalyst Restoration

The Edmund F and Virginia B Ball Foundation

For over a decade, Catalyst has served as an icon for Minnetrista and for Muncie. The incorporated glass, zinc, and limestone swirl together to represent Minnetrista's values of curiosity, creativity, and collaboration. Virginia B. Ball commissioned the construction of the sculpture in tribute to her late husband, Edmund F. Ball, Minnetrista's founding chairman. As Mrs. Ball passed away before the sculpture was completed and installed, Catalyst became a memorial to both Ed and Virginia. This is part of what makes it so special that, in 2018, the Edmund F and Virginia B Ball Foundation agreed to support a full restoration of the sculpture. This restoration will improve its weather tolerance, maintain the artist's original vision, and guarantee that it will continue to inspire for years to come.

Chuck Ball, executive director of the Edmund F and Virginia B Ball foundation, remembers Ed, his grandfather, "The name Catalyst certainly cohered with my idea of my grandfather. It seemed to me that he was always the catalyst, trying to get things done. He was deeply involved and cared about what happened in the state of Indiana, Delaware county, and Muncie. I believe Virginia felt this way as well."



## Oakhurst Experience

George and Frances Ball Foundation



New furnishings and interactive exhibit elements are being installed in the George and Frances Ball home to turn it into the dynamic Oakhurst Experience. In 2018, benefactors such as the George and Frances Ball Foundation, The Community Foundation of Muncie and Delaware County, Mutual Bank Charitable Foundation, Winchester Foundation, and private individuals contributed toward this project to make it a destination for family fun and learning. Major funding was also provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

## Twilight on the Boulevard

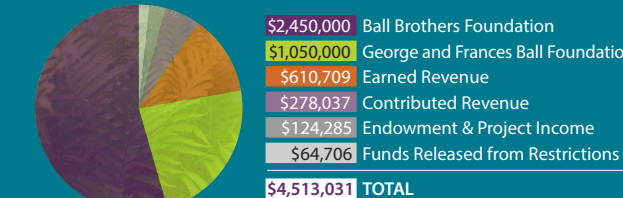
A new signature event was launched in 2018 to raise funds for operations. The first edition of Twilight on the Boulevard gathered 350 guests for a dazzling evening filled with local food, music, drinks, games, and fun set among the historic Ball family homes. The event netted approximately \$10,000 of support for Minnetrista programs and events.

"Unbelievable. Fun. Unique. Fantastic. Fun. Entertaining. Relaxing. Beautiful. Classy. Fun. The most happening 'gathering place' I have ever experienced. Did I mention it was fun? Mark your calendar now for the 2019 installment—Twilight on the Boulevard is an event to be experienced!" –Mark Di Fabio

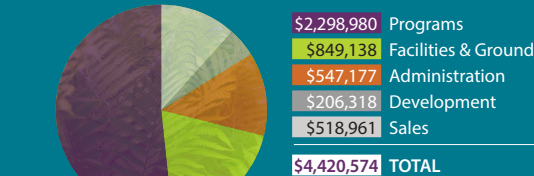


# 2018 Adding It All Up

## Operating Revenue



## Operating Expenses



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