ARCADIA PROJECT

BRING WHO YOU ARE

Multi-Media Arts Education for All!

We believe creative expression can be a transformative experience. In our mission to connect people through culture and creativity, providing a space for multi-media arts education has been a central aspect of our programming plan!

Large multi-media classroom, taken mid-October. Mustard wall faces the back of the building!

Small multi-media classroom space, taken mid-October. Hallway to right leads to wheelchair lift and storage spaces.

We're thrilled to announce that The Arcadia Project has been awarded $33,000 from the Helen S. and Charles G. Patterson, Jr. Charitable Foundation to **complete our two multimedia classrooms**! These spaces allow us to bring our mission to life, giving learners of all ages room to explore storytelling, music production, film, and digital arts.

By partnering with local schools, nonprofits, and community stakeholders, we'll build lasting relationships that strengthen education, outreach, and community development across our region. Extra thanks to Jennifer Kirkland for her help in writing the grant narrative.

Lights! Camera! Build that Theater!

Our movie theater is coming to life, folks! Thanks to an **additional $350,000 grant** from Virginia's Industrial Revitalization Fund (IRF) and the swift work of our contractor to complete the project on a tight timeline, we have now officially begun renovations inside the movie theater of our historic building!

View from the back of the theater, towards the movie screen wall and performance stage.

The bespoke and intimate interior will be the backdrop for a refreshed theater-going experience, where movies truly come alive! Patrons will be treated to curated film tributes, themed film festivals, seasonal and cult classics throughout the year. Anticipated programming will include speakers and creators sharing behind-the-scenes stories, offering deeper insights into the subject matter, and an up-close look at story-telling through film.

View from area behind the movie screen, looking towards the back of the theater.

A Massive Magical Weekend!

Elphaba, played by Abena Foreman-Trice, greeting a visiting witch!

The 2026 Queen City Mischief and Magic Festival was one for the record books! With the incredible weather, this year's festival was brimming with magic and mischief as downtown Staunton welcomed record crowds. At the Witch's Hideaway Experience, Arcadia Project welcomed more than a thousand witches, wizards, and magical folk of all ages, all proceeds going towards our renovation and operations funds.
A huge thank-you to the volunteers who helped dream up the Witch's Hideaway and brought it to life. We couldn't have done it without you!

Volunteers helping construct the pathway in front of the building on East Beverley St.

L-R: Board Member Chance Crawford and Volunteer Karen Olivares bringing the Pathway to life!

Wizard volunteers abounded inside the Pathway to the Hideaway: L-R Cow Boy Hay, Thom Wagner & Bryant Clements.

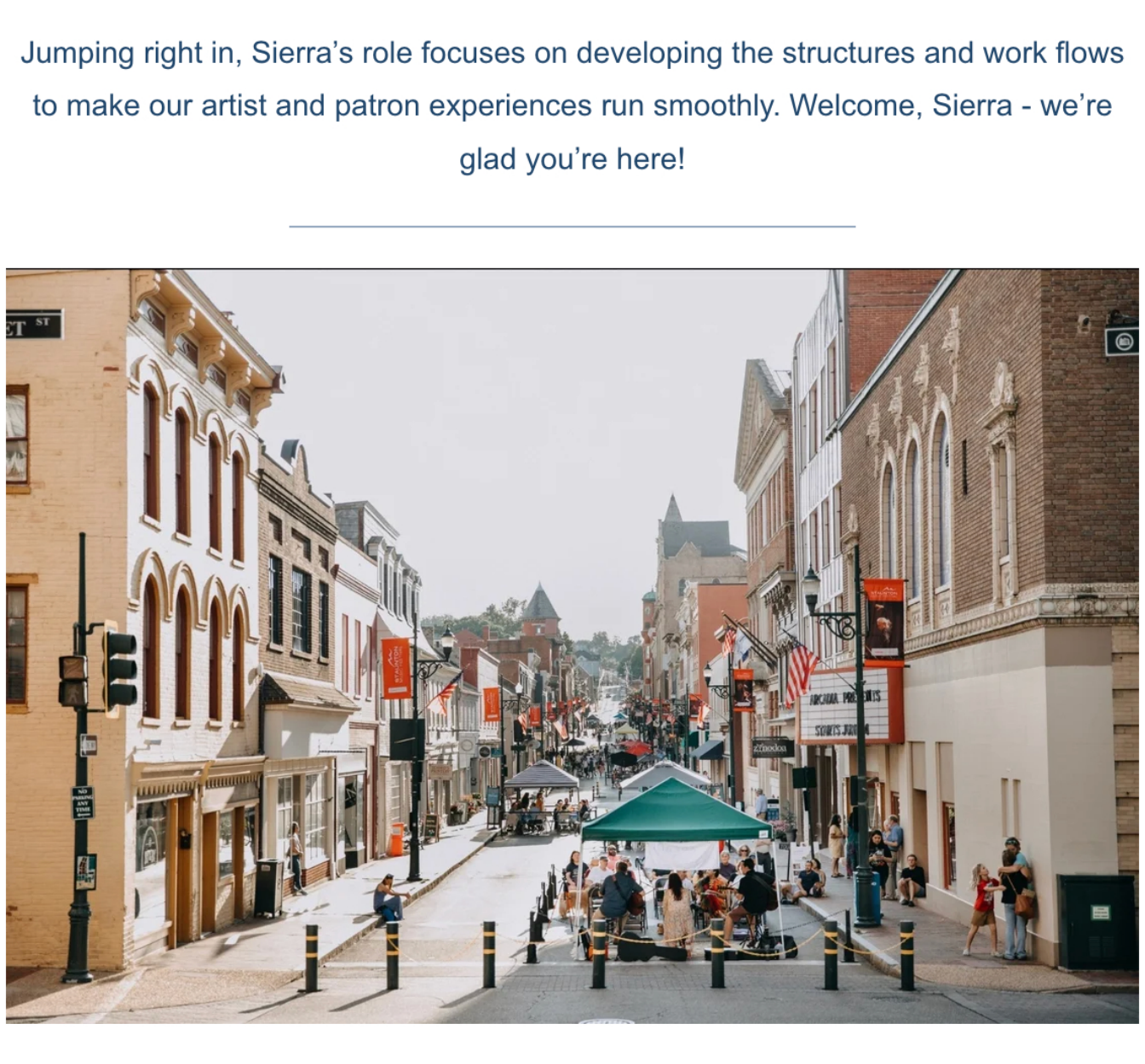
Young wizards find the "wicked" witch of the west under the scale replica of our historic theater!

Introducing Our New Team Member: Sierra Priest!

As our focus shifts from construction to event and educational programming, we are delighted to welcome our **Programming Associate, Sierra Priest** to the team.

Sierra Priest (she/her) is an arts professional with a passion for creativity, community, and bringing people together. With a background in gallery management, event planning, and arts administration, she enjoys helping creative spaces thrive. Sierra is especially passionate about making the arts accessible and engaging for her community. She brings creativity, organization, and enthusiasm to everything she does. She's excited to be part of the Arcadia Project and help bring even more art, entertainment, and unforgettable experiences to Staunton!

Jumping right in, Sierra's role focuses on developing the structures and work flows to make our artist and patron experiences run smoothly. Welcome, Sierra - we're glad you're here!



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