

annual programs report: 2019-2020 season

Since 1987, the South Carolina Children's Theatre (SCCT) has impacted the lives of children and their families with professional-quality theatre, year-round educational classes and workshops, and innovative outreach initiatives. This past season was one like no other, as the COVID-19 pandemic came online in March, significantly limiting SCCT's ability to produce. Despite these challenges, SCCT's theatre arts and education programs still reached more than **48,700 youth and their families** across the Upstate and beyond.

At SCCT, we believe that *every* child, regardless of his or her circumstances, deserves a chance to shine by experiencing the transformational power of the arts that nourish creativity, develop empathy, and inspire confidence. Through generous funding from corporate partners, individuals, and foundations, our Theatre Outreach Partnerships (TOPs) programs offered free or deeply discounted theatre arts education to more than **22,000 children** who are under-resourced, hospitalized, or have special needs.

performances, productions and events

SCCT's MainStage shows bring wonder and excitement to the stage through high-quality, family-oriented productions. During the 2019-20 season, we presented three MainStage shows at The Peace Center's Gunter Theatre to an audience of **13,700 children and adults**. Productions included

Ella Enchanted, *The Musical*; *A Charlie Brown Christmas* and *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Through an ongoing partnership with the Greenville County School District, **4,620 students**



attended one of these performances at a discounted rate as part of a field trip with their school. An additional **295 tickets** were donated to low-income families through TOPs.

2nd Stage productions provide even more hands-on theatre experiences at family-friendly prices. In 2019-20, we presented two productions at the Salvation Army Kroc Center—*Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Musical* and *Amazing Grace*. Through a third-year partnership with the Salvation Army Boys

& Girls Club, **351 tickets** to these shows were given at no charge to children participating in their after school program. As part of 2nd Stage, SCCT also presented *Twinkle Twinkle, Little Star* and *Milk & Cookies* for SCCT's very youngest audiences. In all,

2,932 individuals participated in one of SCCT's 2nd Stage experiences.

831
TICKETS

PROVIDED
FREE OF
CHARGE

Our Tell-Me-A-Story Theatre takes place at our headquarters and features a costumed character offering a dramatic reading of a beloved children's book for very young audiences. Tell-Me-A-Story Theatre also offers a "To Go" version that brings the performance

directly to children at schools and daycares. In 2019-20, **1,363 individuals** participated in a Tell-Me-A-Story Theatre program.

For the past 25 years, SCCT's Character Breakfast at the Poinsett Club has become a beloved tradition for parents and children across the Upstate. **751** individuals attended the 2020 Character Breakfast, including **185** children and adults who were offered tickets through child-centered agencies at no cost.

scct theatre conservatory

Since 1992, SCCT has offered year-round drama classes for students ages 3-18. Theatre classes develop skills that help students academically and socially while also providing students with a positive place to belong, develop friendships and discover their potential and abilities. Although SCCT was forced to cancel our Spring Semester, due to COVID-19, we were able to safely host Summer Camps in 2020, resulting in the second most successful session in the organization's history. In 2019-20, SCCT offered 210 classes and camps through the Conservatory for **1,605 young people**. An additional 2,994 parents, family members, and friends visited SCCT to participate in end-of-class "sharings" that offer students the opportunity to showcase their new drama skills. Through TOPs, SCCT distributed **19 need-based scholarships** this past season to students who would not otherwise have been able to participate in the Conservatory due to financial means.



In April 2020 SCCT moved into their forever home at 153 Augusta Street, officially opening the brand-new building and the stage to summer camp students, and conducting the second most successful summer session in the organization's history.

school tours

Since 2010, SCCT has taken a production "on the road" as a school touring program through an ongoing partnership with the Greenville County School District. These tours bring full-scale productions directly to elementary students during their school day, and are intended to introduce children of all backgrounds to drama. For most of these children, SCCT's tour is their very first experience with live theatre. In the months leading up to the COVID-19 pandemic, SCCT completed a **23-school** tour of *Elephant and Piggie's "We Are In A Play!"* to **7,966 students** in Greenville County.



Elephant & Piggie went on the road in 2019, successfully wrapping the tour prior to any COVID-19 school cancellations and touring limitations.

bullying prevention program, presented by TD Charitable Foundation

Now in its 15th year, SCCT's Bullying Prevention Program addresses the serious issue of bullying in Greenville County elementary and middle schools. SCCT offers an in-school touring program that presents a theatrical performance and in-class workshops to provide education and awareness about the harmful effects of bullying. In October 2019, SCCT presented its touring program, *The Boy Who Cried Bully*, at **25 elementary schools** for **3,873 students**. The middle school workshop was held at **16 middle schools**, offering a total of **138 workshops** for **4,362 students**. Grant funding allows this program to be offered at discounted rates across Greenville County.

8,235
STUDENTS at
41 SCHOOLS

Bullying prevention programming was facilitated at 41 schools, serving a total of 8,235 students.



music and drama programs

As part of a multi-year collaboration with the [Greenville Symphony Orchestra](#), SCCT staff, accompanied by one of the GSO's musical ensembles, provides programming for children and their families. These programs, held free of charge, are primarily geared toward a preschool audience. During 2019-20, [997 individuals](#) attended a "Lollipops" performance at an Upstate library or school.



residencies and master classes

SCCT partners with Greenville County Schools and local child-centered agencies to provide drama residency programs that introduce the theatre arts to elementary age students while helping them develop important life skills such as public speaking, self-confidence, team-building, and more. During 2019-20, SCCT served [6 organizations](#) with residencies and master classes including Stone Academy's after-school Encore Program, Greenville County Child Development Center's Story Drama enrichment, Christ Church Episcopal Preschool Busy Bees and several area elementary schools.

Through an ongoing partnership with [Prisma Health](#), SCCT connects healthcare with the benefits of the arts through annual theatre residency programs. This season, residencies were held at Marshall I. Pickens Hospital for children with psychiatric and behavior disorders; the Washington Center for students with severe/profound intellectual disabilities; and Camp Courage, a summer program for children with cancer and blood disorders. In all, [7,778 students](#) were served through SCCT's residencies and master classes this past season.



special thanks to the many generous individuals, corporate sponsors and foundations who make all of SCCT's annual programs possible.