



Why should one serve on the WPT Board of Directors?

To support and promote performing arts within our community

Arts are a vital component of any community, enriching both culture and education. Student involvement in the arts is linked to higher academic performance and significantly lower dropout rates.¹ Education in the arts is key to preparing students as creative workers. Seventy-two percent of employers say that creativity is of primary concern when they're hiring, yet 85 percent of these employers can't find the creative applicants they seek.² The presence of a professional theatre in a community is a strong incentive for maintaining or increasing arts education in its schools. Professional theatre provides exposure to the arts, inspiration, and a potential future place of employment for students.

To create employment for professional artists within our community

Creative industries make up 3.6 percent of total Tennessee businesses and 1.6 percent of Tennessee employees, lower than the national averages of 4.01 percent of total businesses and 2.04 percent of employees. Maury County businesses equal the state average of 3.6 percent, but the number of employees falls lower than the state average with only 0.7 percent. Despite Maury County's average falling below the state and national averages, it is higher than those of the surrounding counties: Marshall, Giles, Lawrence, Lewis, and Hickman.³ Stronger arts initiatives can contribute to positive growth in Maury County as well as in these surrounding counties.

To support an organization that benefits our community economically

Arts and culture organizations are resilient businesses that employ people locally, purchase goods and services from within the community, and market and promote their regions. An average arts attendee in Tennessee spends \$29.77 per event in addition to the cost of admission. Attendees who live outside the county in which the arts event takes place spend three times as much as local attendees.⁴ Additionally, communities with strong arts programs are more attractive to both new industries and residents.

1. "Improved Academic Performance for Students with High Levels of Arts Involvement", Americans for the Arts, March 2014.

2. "Arts Education: Preparing Students for the Workplace", Americans for the Arts, March 2014

3. Creative Industries Reports, Americans for the Arts, April 2017.

4. Arts and Economic Prosperity V: Tennessee, Americans for the Arts, February 2018

What are the responsibilities of a member of the WPT Board of Directors?

Serve as a community ambassador

Board members commit to spreading the word about the organization within the community, promoting goodwill and positive public relations.

Support the success of the organization

The board of directors is responsible for supporting the organization by assisting with business operations, development, and marketing. While the board is not directly responsible for day-to-day business activities, they are expected to advise the staff and to help with special projects as needed.

Provide financial support

Board members are expected to donate to Watershed Public Theatre annually. While generous donations are encouraged, there is no such thing as an amount that is too small. Watershed's goal is to receive financial support from 100% of its board members, which reflects positively on proposals for sponsorships and grants.

Time commitment

The board of directors currently meets quarterly, with additional meetings on an as-needed basis. Those who are appointed to special committees agree to attend other meetings as required. Additionally, board members agree to attend all productions, fundraisers, and special events that their schedules allow.

Adhere to the organizational bylaws

The board is responsible for adopting bylaws for governing the organization. The board agrees to adhere to the bylaws and to update them as needed for the best interest of the organization.



Mission Statement

At Watershed Public Theatre, we believe that theatre is the ultimate collaborative art and work to bring together arts professionals, volunteers, students and patrons to share in the illumination that only live performance can provide. We maintain our focus on nurturing community and practicing social and environmental responsibility while striving for the highest quality of artistic and educational experiences.

Do you want to serve on the WPT Board of Directors?

Email *watershedtheatre@gmail.com*

or call **931-797-6551** for more details!