DELAWARE SHAKESPEARE



2025 IMPACT REPORT

FROM OUR PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

An incredibly thrilling musical, a comedic touring romp, haunted stories at historic sites, beer-and-scene pairings—last year, Del Shakes truly had it all. As Producing Artistic Director, I've had the joy of watching our programming continue to evolve and surprise audiences throughout 2025. Just as meaningful, though, were the connections we fostered along the way: with our diverse audiences, our partnering locations, and the many communities who welcomed us into their spaces.

Impact reports are often filled with numbers and statistics, and while those metrics are important, they only tell one version of the story. What excites me most are the moments that live beyond the data—the human experiences that reveal the deeper impact of our work. After one Summer Festival performance, an audience member approached me and quietly handed me a drawing book. Inside was a stunning water color rendering of our stage at Rockwood: the trees, the lights, the signs. The level of detail was astonishing. She had captured not just the physical space, but the feeling of the evening.

For me, that moment encapsulated what I love most about Del Shakes. Our work is designed to spark imagination, to invite people to see the world—and themselves—through a new lens. To witness our production transformed into another artist's vision was a powerful reminder of how creativity moves between people, how it inspires, and how it builds community.

As we look ahead to 2026, I hope you'll continue on this journey with us and discover your own connection to the art we create. The statistics in this report offer one perspective, but I invite you to look beyond the numbers and imagine the fuller picture—the stories, the relationships, and the moments of inspiration that truly define our work.



WHO WE ARE

MISSION

Inspired by Shakespeare's creative vision and the broad societal mix of audiences of his era, Delaware Shakespeare brings our community together for vibrant theatre and learning experiences.

VISION

We envision a Delaware where people from all walks of life celebrate and explore their shared humanity through the lens of Shakespearean works.

VALUES

Our core values include Artistic Excellence, Fiscal Responsibility, Diversity, Community, Openness, Respect, and Joy.



AT A GLANCE



41 performances + events

2905 audience members + attendees

478 youth served

22 performance sites

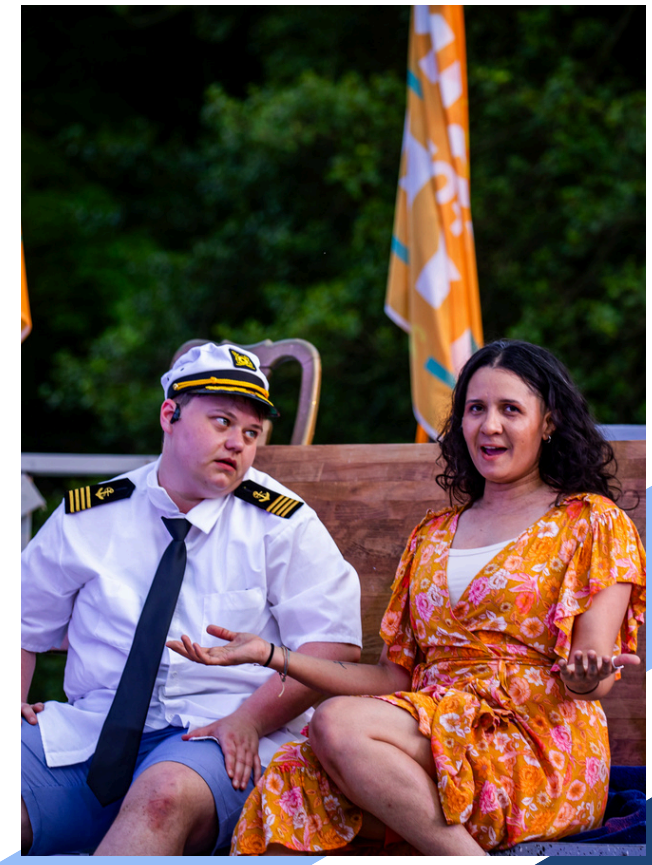
92 artists employed

389 total donors + sponsors

SUMMER FESTIVAL

For the first time on our Summer Festival stage, Del Shakes presented an original bilingual musical, *Twelfth Night, O Lo Que Quieras*. Audiences may remember the 2021 Community Tour production, which debuted the concept created by Tanaquil Marquez and Liz Filios. This summer at Rockwood, the piece evolved with new orchestrations by Michael Meketa and fresh direction by Andrew Watring. Building on the foundation of the earlier production while welcoming new artistic collaborators, the show captivated audiences with its exploration of immigration, belonging, and the power of finding community across differences.

1316 attendees





SUMMER FESTIVAL

During the three-week run at Rockwood Park, Del Shakes was thrilled to introduce several new community-centered outreach events. We partnered with local poet and organizer Anthem to host a pre-show poetry gathering featuring three poets who wrote original pieces around the theme “Discovering Home.” We also collaborated with the Gender and Sexuality Collective to present a Queer Affinity Night, creating space for celebration, connection, and visibility within our festival audience.

“This production is an excellent example of how regional theater can inform and entertain...it has the biggest heart.”
- An Nichols
Broad Street Review



COMMUNITY TOUR



785 attendees

In October, Delaware Shakespeare presented a vibrant production of *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, one of Shakespeare's earliest and most playful comedies. Directed by Hannah Levine, this production marked the eighth season of the signature Community Tour initiative. Featuring a dynamic cast of six actors, a live violinist, and an expressive dog puppet, the tour brought laughter, joy, and high-quality performance to audiences across the state—continuing our commitment to making Shakespeare accessible to all communities.

"This show is directed with speed and dispatch by Hannah Levine."
-Gail Obenreder
Broad Street Review

COMMUNITY TOUR

Compared to typical theatre going audiences, as reported by the National Endowment for the Arts, the **2025 Community Tour** served:

Del Shakes		NEA Data	
17%	VS.	5%	BLACK ATTENDEES
7%	VS.	9%	LATINX ATTENDEES
68%	VS.	82%	WHITE ATTENDEES

Programs like the Community Tour **remove barriers** which make accessing Shakespeare a challenge: price, location, and relatability. Performances are presented through **free and highly subsidized tickets**. The tour visits non-traditional performance spaces such as community centers, libraries, and prisons.

BONUS PROGRAMMING

Del Shakes continued the lively ShakesBeer partnership with Wilmington Brew Works, offering two performances of the popular program in March and November. This year, the event also expanded to work with Bellefonte Brewing Company and presented an outdoor ShakesBeer at Fort DuPont, reaching new audiences in a relaxed, community-oriented setting.

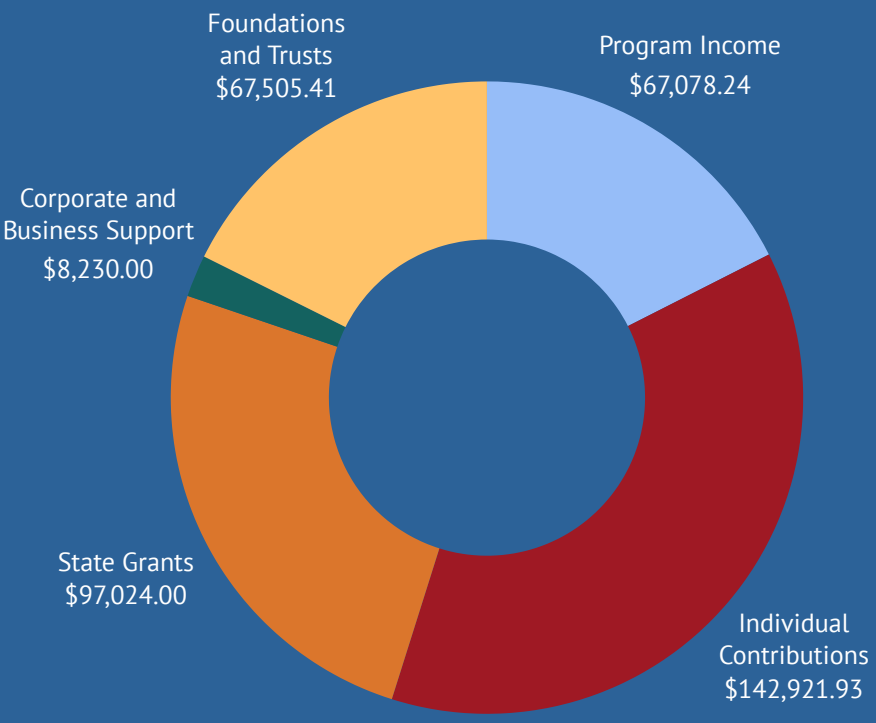
145 attendees

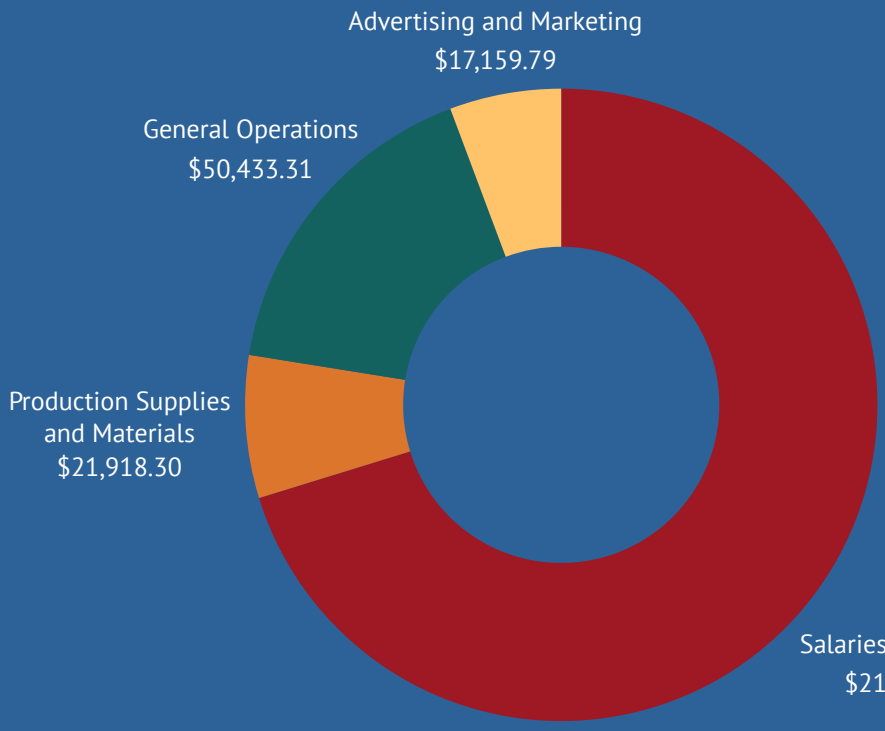
We were also delighted to partner with City Fest Wilmington at the Tina Betz Urban Artists Exchange Stage to present Shakespeare in Jazz, a unique collaboration with pianist and composer Daniel Kelly. Three Del Shakes artists performed selected scenes paired with Kelly's jazz adaptations inspired by Shakespeare's text, creating an inventive fusion of music and theatre.

37 attendees

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Income:
$356,760.65





Expenses:
$300,790.40

***$207,718.49 made up of Artists Pay and Fees**

FOUNDATIONS & CORPORATE DONORS

We are grateful to the following foundations, grantmakers, and corporations for their support of Delaware Shakespeare!

$30,000-90,000

Delaware Division of the Arts
Maurice Amado Foundation

$5,000-$15,000

Delaware Criminal Justice Council
Laffey McHugh Foundation
National Endowment for the Arts: Shakespeare in American Communities
Crestlea Foundation
Theatre League of Kansas City

$1,000-4,000

Fund for Women
Kent County Fund for the Arts
Janssen's Market
Delaware Community Foundation
Labware
M&T Bank

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Del Shakes received gifts from **400+ donors** last year! We couldn't be more grateful for their generosity.

470 TOTAL GIFTS

460 TOTAL DONORS

169 NEW DONORS

291 DONORS WHO GAVE MORE THAN ONCE

TOTAL GIFTS: **$176,614**

AVERAGE GIFT PER INDIVIDUAL: **$384**

To see the full list of donor names, please visit delshakes.org

DELAWARE SHAKESPEARE

ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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ON WEB

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SUPPORT OUR WORK

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