

MARCH 2026

THE BALTIMORE BULLETIN



VICTORIA PLAYERS CHILDREN'S THEATER UPDATES

Auditions for Disney's Frozen Jr. are scheduled for late March. This VPCT production will feature younger actors, and will be presented at the Victoria Opera House June 4 - 7. Best wishes to the entire cast, crew, and gang of supporting adults for all the work they'll be putting into this show between now and then!



It seems the VPCT never rests - their next show is already in the works. Don't miss the musical extravaganza Chicago: Teen Edition later this summer. This show will feature older actors and will be produced on the larger stage at Liberty Union High School, July 23 - 26. Auditions will be April 16 - 18. Follow VPCT on Facebook (Victoria Players Children's Theater) or Instagram (vpctheater) to keep up. Tickets will be available through our website as shows draw closer.



The Victoria Players Children's Theater is a program of the BDRC. Special thanks to the tireless volunteers who make our spectacular VPCT productions possible!

The VPCT Committee is:

- Ryan Westoven, Chair
- Jill Henwood, Artistic Director
- Danielle Bartos
- Max DeBaltzo
- Trish Hendershot
- Megan Hysell
- Brooke Schrader
- Melissa Sponseller
- Codi Williamson

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NEED A VENUE? RENT THE OPERA HOUSE FOR YOUR EVENT

No need to wait two years for your venue to be available! Make magical memories in this historic space. Contact the BDRC for wedding package options and rates. The VOH is also available for assorted parties, meetings, and rental events, offering flexible theater and ballroom spaces.



THANK YOU TO OUR OPERA HOUSE SPONSORS

The restoration of Fairfield County's only historic Opera House is ongoing, and would not be happening without local support. The BDRC would like to thank the Village of Baltimore, and last year's banner sponsors:

- Park National Bank
- Sherry Looney and the Loon Crew/Howard Hanna Realty
- Schaffner's Drive In
- Baum Law Office
- Landis Hometown Team/Key Realty
- VFW Post 3761

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THE GROOVE CITY BIG BAND IS COMING

The Groove City Big Band is a 21-piece jazz orchestra established in 2023 in Grove City, Ohio, comprised of music educators, composers, arrangers, professional musicians, and Marching 110 alumni.

While the GCBB loves to play the standards that have stood the test of time, they cover songs across the entire jazz spectrum. From Latin to rock to jazz fusion—and, of course, swing—the GCBB is devoted to exploring different styles with their old-school charm, ensuring there's something for everyone at their shows.

Don't miss their premiere performance in Baltimore on April 11, at 7 pm. Admission is free, with donations accepted for the band and opera house restoration.

A vibrant jazz-themed poster for a performance by the Groove City Big Band. The word 'JAZZ' is written in large, stylized letters, with a piano keyboard at the top and a double bass on the left. Below the word 'JAZZ' are various musical instruments including a trumpet, saxophone, and microphone. The text 'GROOVE CITY BIG BAND' is on a purple banner. The performance date and time are 'SATURDAY APRIL 11th 7PM'. At the bottom left is the 'VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE' logo and 'www.BALTIMORE DOWNTOWN RESTORATION.COM'. At the bottom right, it says '- Free Admission - DONATIONS ACCEPTED -' and '101 S Main St Baltimore, Ohio 43105'.

KROGER REWARDS SUPPORT THE BDRC



Do you shop at Kroger? It's super easy to support the BDRC, VPCT, and Opera House by signing up for Kroger Community Rewards. Just go to [Krogercommunityrewards.com](https://www.krogercommunityrewards.com), sign in with your Kroger Plus card, click enroll, and designate the BDRC (#KU440) as the organization you wish to support. Then Kroger sends us a quarterly check as a reward for your purchases. Thanks to everyone who has listed us so far!

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COMMUNITY YARD SALE IS COMING SOON

Start thinking now and turn your treasures into hard cold cash during the 209th annual community yard sale! (We're making up the number 209 so please - no fact checking.) Join your friends and neighbors by selling your surplus, and/or scoring some amazing bargains during yard sale weekend.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE BDRC

As a volunteer run 501 (c)(3) non-profit, the BDRC depends on revenue from donations, memberships, sponsorships, and events to operate. This is what makes all our programming and the ongoing restoration of the Victoria Opera House possible!

Our member/supporter drive is under way for 2026. Memberships are available at different levels. In addition, anyone who contributes \$500 or more per year has an annual recognition plaque hung in the Victoria Opera House.

Finally, annual sponsorships for the following programs and more are available.

- Victoria Players Children's Theater (multiple shows)
- Victoria Opera House Restoration
- Flag Fund (flags on Main & Market St.)
- Holiday Decorations

To join, sponsor, or donate, please visit us at baltimoreddowntownrestoration.com!

New this year for members, supporters, and sponsors - our first Gratitude Gathering. Look for your invite in your inbox in March. This event will be held at the Opera House on April 11 at 5:30 pm. We hope all of our supporters will be able to attend this fun social event so we can say thank you in person. Refreshments will be served! If you are able, plan to stay for the Groove City concert at 7 pm!



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COMING SOON: CONSTRUCTION AHEAD

The Opera House will soon be buzzing with construction noise as new custom cabinetry is installed. The audio booth area in the theater has been cobbled together with assorted structures. All that will be replaced with a proper audio booth area.

In addition, the makeshift concession stand will be replaced with coordinating concession stand cabinets. We are so looking forward to these improvements!



Special thanks to the Fairfield County Foundation's Ann Chess Fund, and to the Edward N. Sands Fund for Baltimore. Grants from these two amazing charitable funds will make this work possible.

BDRC BOARD MEETINGS

The BDRC is a 501 c 3 nonprofit corporation. The group has a board of directors from the community, and elects officers annually. Without the countless hours and dedicated efforts of these people, the BDRC and Opera House would cease to function.

The Board meets at the Victoria Opera House on the third Thursday, 7 PM, Jan. – Nov. of each year. Visitors are always welcome, and we have volunteer opportunities year round. The Board recently held a retreat to review its focus and goals. They will be revising the organization's strategic plan as a result.

If your group is interested in learning more, Board members are available to speak at your next meeting or event, or discuss potential collaboration. You can reach us at baltimoreddowntownrestoration@gmail.com.

Board and Officers for 2026

- Steve Cothrel, Director
- Brandy McCreery, Assistant Director
- Andrew Todd, Secretary
- Michele Morrone, Treasurer
- Beth Volpe, Board Member
- Angi Miller, Board Member
- Kathy Roshon, Board Member
- Ryan Westhoven, Board Member & VPCT Chair
- Joe Machado, Board Member
- Jill Henwood, Board Member & VPCT Artistic Director
- Melissa Pickens, Board Member



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THANK YOU CHARLES

The Nostalgics have performed at the Victoria many times, and it's always been a swinging afternoon. The band will be undergoing some evolution in 2026 as long time band director Charles Hildreth retires. We did not know it at the time, but our December holiday concert at the Opera House was his last performance as the band's leader. We thank him for his support over the years, and for all the joy he and the band brought to Baltimore. Best wishes in your retirement Charles! (He's standing with sax to right.)

We look forward to The Nostalgic's next show at the Victoria under the direction of Baltimore's own Tom Young. The band's lively shows are always a treat. Watch our website and social media for further details.

KEEP UP WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

The BDRC and its many programs are on Facebook at:

- Baltimore Downtown Restoration
- Victoria Opera House
- Victoria Players Children's Theater - VPCT
- Instagram: vpctheater



And of course, our website is up to speed with current events and programs. Questions? Email us at:

- baltimoredowntownrestoration@gmail.com
- vpctheater@gmail.com

FLOURISH IN BOOKS RETURNS IN OCTOBER

Our free book exchange and shop will be open for business again Oct. 17 as part of Wands & Wizards weekend in Fairfield County. Start sorting your books now, and we'll post collection dates as the event draws closer. Plan to stop by for books and baked goods at the Opera House so your library is well stocked for those long winter nights.



The Baltimore Bulletin is a periodic publication of the Baltimore Downtown Restoration Committee, a volunteer run 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization.

Newsletter layout courtesy of Courtney Stellar-Patterson

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