



ANCASTER MEMORIAL
ARTS CENTRE

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



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A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Built by the community, for the community. These words are prominently displayed over our donor wall, and we stand by them. When presented with a challenge, our team asks, "what path forward is best for the community?" and often the answer presents itself. We could not be prouder of what this community has built.



JANN ARDEN

THE YEAR OF STABILITY

2025 was the year we hit our stride. After a decade of planning & building, then putting both to the test, the Ancaster Memorial Arts Centre has finally entered its sustainability phase. It's quite a challenge to plan such a unique venture on paper — we got a lot of things right, some not so much. We're proud to say that many of the big steps we took panned out. We now own our concessions stand. We brought in new artistic categories, leaning into dance through a busy summer. Our name started to travel: Peller Hall is being talked about by audiences and musicians province-wide. The box office has gotten busier, and more confident. And one landmark night proved what we'd been building toward: Ancaster can host big-name touring artists — proof that our community venue still has lots of room to grow.

THANK YOU.

The dream doesn't run on its own. To our tenants, our renters, our staff, our volunteers, our donors, our board, and every community member who bought a ticket in 2025 or even just told someone about us: thank you. You built these doors, and now it's you that keeps them open.

With appreciation,

Colin Lapsley
Executive Director



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Operating revenue grew 30.8% to \$913,746. Operating expenses grew proportionally to \$1,036,999. The resulting operating deficit of \$123,253 was closed by \$72,600 in donations and \$58,257 in other revenue, allowing a net surplus of \$7,604. To summarize: we excelled for such a unique four-year-old business, but only because of community generosity.

LOOKING TO 2026

Now that we've begun to stabilize, we can focus on what counts: impact, and growth to a truly self-sustaining business, independent of community generosity. A few incredibly exciting moves are beginning in 2026 give a glimpse of what's to come:

Big touring events — leveraging our Jann-Arden success story to bring more large-name artists to Ancaster.

Upgrading the Voortman Studio — a major capital project has begun to turn our historically underutilized second space into a premium small-stage venue for all of Hamilton. First shows pilot in fall 2026.

Supporting our tenants and renters as they grow — every resident company is expanding programming in 2026. We're going to keep pace by providing the services & support they rely on to keep advancing quality of life in our community.

Internal efficiencies, systems, and operational streamlining — with a few years' experience we have a better idea of what works, and what doesn't. We're looking to grow staffing behind new funding sources to help us keep improving the high quality of our services.

OUR STAKEHOLDERS

The artistic pulse of the Ancaster Memorial Arts Centre belongs to the twelve resident companies who call it home and the 20 renter groups who joined them in 2025. We provide the stage, they bring the magic.



02

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

	FY2025	FY2024	YoY
Ticketed events	121	106	+14.1%
Performances	197	178	+10.7%
Tickets sold	39,119	36,253	+7.9%
Gross box office revenue*	\$1,176,504	\$1,065,679	+10.4%
Venue total bookings (Peller + Voortman)	309	290	+6.6%
Peller Hall total bookings	225	201	+11.9%
Voortman Studio total bookings	84	89	-5.6%
Concessions revenue	\$109,226	\$45,856	+138.2%
Long-term tenant organizations	12	12	–
Renting organizations	20	17	+17.6%

*Ticket revenue is not AMAC revenue. Most ticket revenue — minus box office fees — returns to renters and artists.

THE COMPANIES IN THE BUILDING

TENANT ORGANIZATIONS

Ancaster Society for the Performing Arts Corporation · Theatre Ancaster · Ancaster Film Fest · Hamilton Film Festival · Sinfonia Ancaster · Ancaster Art Academy · AMAC Studio Arts · Escarpment Blues Society · Avalon Music Academy · Ancaster Music Society · Hamilton All-Star Jazz Band · Ancaster Farmers Market

RENTING ORGANIZATIONS

Not Just Another Dance Studio · CM DANCING · Academy of Arts and Education Dance · Pure Rhythm · Shantero Productions · Hamilton Jewish Film Festival · Our Haven Dance · Arcade Dance · Epic Eagles · Thrive Dance Academy · Alive Dance Company · Ontario Unprofessional Theatre · City of Hamilton · Hamilton Concert Band · Hamilton School of Dance · Haven Heels · Just 4 Kicks Dance · Simply Queen · Steel City Dance Co · Steve Strongman · The Bowie Lives



03

FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

	Actual FY2025	Actual FY2024
REVENUE		
Rental income	\$347,010	\$309,098
Box office income	\$453,365	\$343,456
Concession income	\$109,226	\$45,856
Interest income	\$4,145	\$256
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	\$913,746	\$698,666
EXPENSES		
Advertising and promotion	\$58,499	\$36,958
Bank charges, interest and merchant fees	\$99,993	\$88,247
Inventory	\$54,976	\$29,919
Insurance	\$20,485	\$7,730
Office and general	\$28,182	\$26,119
Performers and technicians	\$116,325	\$50,295
Professional fees	\$17,873	\$23,086
City of Hamilton lease	\$31,182	\$31,206
Repairs and maintenance	\$107,289	\$99,187
Salaries and wages	\$355,338	\$287,288
Telephone and internet	\$2,950	\$3,322
Utilities	\$143,907	\$110,139
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$1,036,999	\$793,496
BELOW THE LINE		
Operating deficit before donations & other revenue	(\$123,253)	(\$94,830)
Donation income	\$72,600	\$84,060
Other revenue	\$58,257	\$0
ANNUAL SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$7,604	(\$10,770)

Excludes capital fund items.

The Ancaster Memorial Arts Centre is the “operating as” name of the Ancaster Society for the Performing Arts Corporation, a registered Canadian charity. Its charitable registration number is 845412550 RR0001. Audited financial statements are available upon request to info@memorialarts.ca.



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THANK YOU

2025 MAJOR DONORS AND PLEDGORS (GIFTS EXCEEDING \$5,000 IN 2025):

- Norman Haac
- Carol and Michael Desnoyers
- Joany Verschuuren and Mark Tamminga
- Victoria Weekes / Weekes Wealth
- Club Laser Robot
- Paul Lloyd
- Thomas Marshall
- Allan and Lynne Cole
- Gord & Margie Davidson
- Brandon Campbell
- Ivan and Bernice Cairns
- Brandon Campbell / Starward Homes
- John Hill & Catherine Carter
- Ancaster Community Theatre in memory of June French and Jerry Dell
- Andrew, Cindy, Ethan, and Calvin Hawryluk
- Kris Galashan in memory of John and Marion Galashan
- Robert & Karen Wilkins

GIFTS UNDER \$5,000:

- Roger Sandstone

The Ancaster Memorial Arts Centre is grateful for the support of the 380 donors who contributed prior to 2025, who are not recognized here.

GRANTS:

- 2026 Canada Summer Jobs Grant
Recipient – Office of MP Danko
- Ward 12 Community Foundation – Office of Craig Cassar

2025 ANNUAL REPORT – THANK YOU & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The following community members, volunteers, and staff were instrumental in our 2025 operations. We're endlessly grateful for their service.

INCOMING BOARD OF DIRECTORS (JANUARY 2026)

Mark Tamminga – *Board Chair*
Cindy Hawryluk – *Secretary*
Michael Guyatt – *Treasurer*
Aaron Gerrard – *Board Member*
Lynne Morris – *Board Member*
Bill Walker – *Board Member*
Kelly Campbell – *Board Member*
Bob Wilkins – *Fundraising Chair*

FULL TIME STAFF MEMBERS

Colin Lapsley – *Executive Director*
Bethany Bysma – *General Manager*
Livia Jones – *Box Office Manager*
Olivia Stankovich – *Marketing & Communications Manager (August – December 2025)*
Chase Norton – *Facilities Manager (June 2022 – August 2025)*

2025 PART-TIME STAFF AND CONSULTANTS

Owen Lapsley – *Marketing Manager (June 2022–August 2025)*
Brownlow Partners – *Accountants*
Helen Welsh – *Bookkeeping Consultant*
Julia Molina – *Website Designer*

VOLUNTEER ART COMMITTEE

Randy Osatchuk
Bert Dorpmans
Anton Plas

PART-TIME TECHNICAL STAFF AND CONTRACTORS

Tristan Bernardi, James Craig & Omni-Technical Solutions
Josh Coulter & J-Co Solutions
Norm Thornton
Brad Kosid
Sam Frisk
Zain Lapsley
Bobbie Bryant
Ben Renzella
Beau Morrish
Emma Borsellino
Lindsay Jones

BAR & HOSPITALITY PART-TIME STAFF AND CONTRACTORS

Nicole McLean
Jaida Lapsley
Aleks Radovic
Charlotte Annuda
Elenie Miller
Erica Howard
Erica Pelegrin Cordova
Krista Cranston
Madison McMahon
Taylor Howard
Bob Carle

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Blooming Solutions Inc.
Gustin's Landscaping
Grace Centritto
Jim Hemrica

VOLUNTEER USHERS

Sharon Borbill
Gary Courtemanche
Gail Anderson
Leslie Johnstone
Maralyn MacPherson
Michael Bayne
Heather Kane
Simonette Pagliuso
Judi Thompson
Kim Nixon
John Weylie
Libby Knapp
Colleen Pedersen
Rick Van Exan
Wendi Van Exan
Judy Conrod
Dianne Collinson
Sandra Gibel

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Councillor Craig Cassar
MP John-Paul Danko
Antioco Puudu
Ancaster BIA
City of Hamilton
Delfina Duarte – *Manager, Facilities Planning & Business Solutions at the City of Hamilton*
Kody Freeborn – *Facility Servicer at the City of Hamilton*
City of Hamilton Facilities Staff
Nathan Fleet
Avery Fleet
Ivey Business School Consultants



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**THANK
YOU**

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