EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Wharton Center is about connecting people to engaging, creative opportunities that expand their hearts, minds, and world view.

Our educational programs offer unique, valuable experiences for community youth to more deeply engage with the arts and grow critical life skills. We offer many paths to engage youths’ minds and inspire their spirits.

Wharton Center Institute for Arts and Creativity

The creative activity of Wharton Center is defined by how we collaborate with many of the world-renowned artists who grace our stages. They come to us as performers and as teaching artists in classrooms. They are advocates for the creative process and innovative partners in the co-creation of new work. They provide us with new ways of expressing ourselves and viewing the world in which we live.

The Wharton Center Institute for Arts and Creativity offers many ways to inspire the mind and move the soul through arts engagement and arts education. We’re committed to shaping our world into something remarkable through performing arts and arts education.
PROGRAMS

Young Playwrights Festival
Wharton Center’s Young Playwrights Festival has given Michigan high school students the opportunity to see their one-act plays brought to life on the Pasant Theatre stage.

Sutter Foster Ovation Awards
The National High School Musical Theater Awards honor outstanding student achievement in high school musical theater. Wharton Center sponsors Michigan’s state-wide contest, sending two winners to compete on a Broadway stage in New York City.

Disney Musicals in Schools
Many kids will never have the chance to perform in a Disney musical. But thanks to Wharton Center and Disney Theatrical Group, elementary schools across the state of Michigan are able to join in on the magic. The Disney Musicals in Schools program is designed to build sustainable theater programs in under-resourced schools. Schools receive free performance rights, scripts, and music for a 30-minute version of a Disney musical, written for elementary school performers.

Act One Family Series
Act One Family Series weekend matinee performances provide the perfect opportunity to introduce children to the performing arts. These fun and engaging shows are specially designed for young audiences and their families and feature national and international touring youth theater production companies.

Act One School Series
The Act One School Series provides curriculum-linked, performing arts enrichment activities for students in grades K-12. Shows produced by nationally touring youth theater companies bring characters from history and literature to life in one-hour, school-day matinees.