



**SCHOOL OF
THEATRE AND
MUSIC**

2021-2022

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS CHICAGO

ANNUAL REPORT



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2021-2022 was a year of transition, learning, and staying the course, together. School of Theatre and Music (STM) students, faculty, and staff continued to demonstrate creativity, fortitude, and faith while navigating an ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. With a vaccination, booster shots, masking and testing protocols in place, we eventually left Zoom behind to study and perform together in person again. At the same time, we held on to lessons, learned about the potential of Zoom and other technologies to conveniently connect us for coursework, creative work, and service. This year we said fond farewells to esteemed faculty including Louis Bergonzi and Yayoi Everett and to cherished staff including Chris Mathakul, Melissa Reeves, and Victoria Vinson. However, we also enthusiastically welcomed new faculty including Liza Calisesi Maidens as Director of Choral Activities, Monty Cole and Xiomara Cornejo as Bridge to the Faculty Scholars, and, over the summer, Brent Talbot as the new head of music, along with many others. In its second year, the School's Antiracism Advisory Committee, and department committees, continued to work toward diversity, equity, and inclusion goals outlined in the STM Antiracism Commitment and Action Plan. Adjacent to this, faculty took significant steps toward reimagining curricula and creating more opportunities for creative work that centers the voices of STM students. This report offers a small window into the many accomplishments of STM students, faculty, and staff this year.

Best wishes,

Christine Mary Dunford
Director



THEATRE AND MUSIC AT UIC

Personnel

32

Full-Time
Faculty

23

Adjunct
Faculty

20

Music
Private Lesson
Instructors

8

Staff





Student Participation

44

BA Theatre and Performance

44

BFA Acting

30

BA Theatre Design, Production, and Technology

19

BMus Performance

32

BA Music Business

27

BA Music

15

BMus Jazz Studies

211

Total Degree Students

46

Total Graduating Seniors

Ensembles

450 students registered in Ensembles in 2021-2022. Students from across the campus participated in the following ensembles:

Chamber Choir	Mariachi Fuego	Symphonic Band
Chamber Music	Orchestra	Treble Choir
Jazz Combo	Pep Band	University Choir
Jazz Ensemble	Percussion Ensemble	Wind Ensemble
Jazz Workshop	Pop Rock Band	

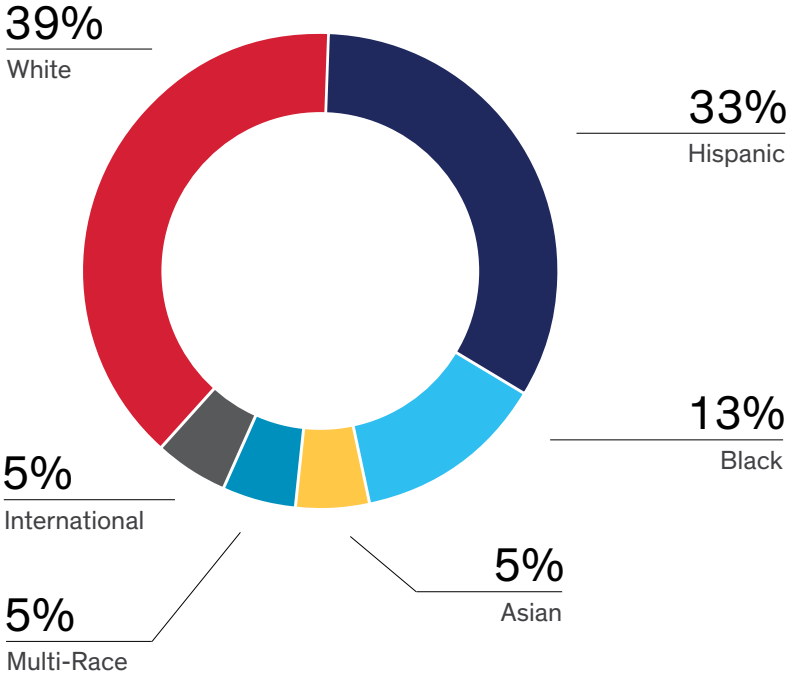
General education

5252 students took a General Education course in 2021-2022.

Below are the top 10 majors and their percentages.

Academic Program Name	Number of Students	Percent
BS: Computer Science	618	11.77
Liberal Arts-Undeclared	425	8.09
BS: Biological Sciences	387	7.37
BS: Psychology	279	5.31
LAS Pre Health/Science	204	3.88
BS: Finance	201	3.83
BA: Criminal, Law and Justice	172	3.27
BS: Mechanical Engineering	159	3.03
BS: Accounting	156	2.97
BS: Marketing	147	2.80

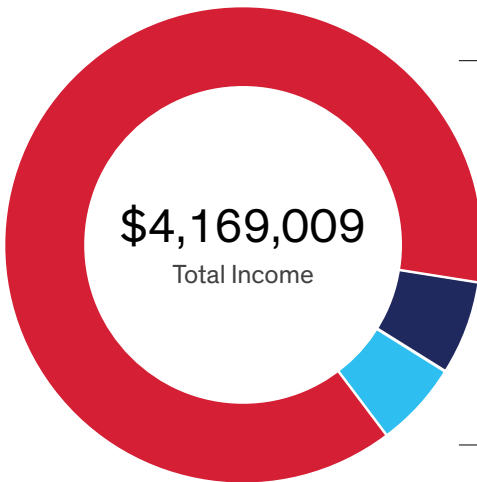
STM Degree Student Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity





INCOME AND EXPENSE

Income



\$3,668,485

State Fund

\$261,100

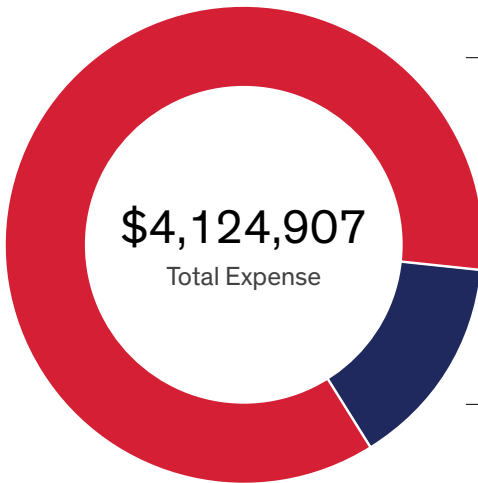
Earned Income

\$239,423

Other



Expense



\$3,534,806

Personnel

\$590,101

Other



RECRUITMENT AND MARKETING

Admissions and recruitment staff met with parents and students via virtual and in-person festivals, youth programs, high school and performing arts fairs. Students scheduled sample lessons with faculty, arranged visits to campus, and received opportunities to see theatre and music performances for free.

Events Attended:

- UIC Honors Band Festival
- UIC Choral Festival
- UIC Jazz Festival
- Midwest International Band & Orchestra Conference
- UIC Open House
- UIC Involvement Fair
- Music Admissions Roundtable College Fairs
- Chicago Performing and Visual Arts College Fair
- STM Open House
- Midwest American Choral Directors Association Conference College Fair
- NACAC College Fair
- UIC Ignite
- STM Admitted Students Week
- Illinois High School Theatre Festival



Marketing

New video advertisements supported our digital marketing efforts with evocative visuals that represent student life at UIC School of Theatre and Music. The video advertisements complimented our ongoing search engine marketing initiatives and yielded a 64% increase of new users to the website compared to 2020-2021 recruitment season.

Watch our video campaign on our website homepage:

<https://theatreandmusic.uic.edu/>

Compared to 2020-2021



Increase Users



Increase
Page Views



Increase
Sessions



THEATRE AND MUSIC SEASON

Theatre

UIC Theatre held outdoor performances for the first time in UIC history, during the fall semester. Audiences enjoyed *The Hunchback of Seville* by Charise Castro Smith, *Passage* by Christopher Chen, *Gloria* by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, *Devotion* by Ashley O'Neil, and *Magnet* by Angelina Davila. The theatre season provided students with leadership and collaborative opportunities.

Music

The Music Department produced over thirty performances on campus and in popular Chicago venues. Students in the Wind Ensemble enjoyed performing at Chicago's Historic Orchestra Hall at Symphony Center and received a masterclass with award-winning conductor and Director of Bands at Northwestern University, Mallory Thompson. In the winter, the UIC Choir performed at several departments and buildings throughout



campus including the Commuter Center, the Food Pantry, the Behavior Science Building, and a final performance at the Quad. The UIC Choir Caroling event was attended by hundreds of students, faculty and staff throughout campus.

Theatre and Music Season Event Attendance **4,296**





OUR DEGREES

BFA Acting

Students gain conservatory-style training in a liberal-arts setting through our BFA in Acting, working closely with world-class faculty from Tony Award-winning theatres. Students take six semesters of voice for the actor and six semesters of movement for the actor. Eight semesters of acting culminate in a semester-long audition class taught by casting directors from the Goodman Theatre and Chicago Shakespeare Theater.

BA Theatre and Performance

Students take advantage of a wide range of courses across the discipline and focus study through three tracks: general, performance, and authorship. The program allows for both flexibility and focus in the study of theatre.



BA Theatre Design, Production, and Technology

Students develop a strong foundation in theatre through core courses then deepen their study in the area of design that interests them.

Courses are offered in acting, scenic design, lighting design, costume design, make-up design, set construction, costume construction, stage management, directing, playwriting, and contemporary performance. All students graduate with a portfolio.

BA Music

Students study music while developing a strong liberal arts foundation. They take core music courses and four terms of private instruction while playing in music ensembles and taking advantage of over 200 other disciplines at UIC. Some BA Music students pursue a double degree.

BA Music Business

Students combine music study with courses from UIC's College of Business Administration in accounting, marketing, and finance. They complete up to two internships in Chicago's music industry and develop essential business and music knowledge and skills necessary to pursue a career in this ever-expanding field.

BMUS Performance

Students pursue advanced study in piano, voice, guitar, and orchestral instruments. They have access to Chicago's most outstanding artist-teachers and develop their musicianship through regular master classes with acclaimed guest artists, and multiple performance opportunities with the many ensembles.

BMUS Jazz Studies

Students develop the tools for a professional career in jazz and related fields of contemporary music. They receive weekly coaching from top Chicago jazz musicians, jazz-centric coursework in theory, and arranging, and performance opportunities both on and off campus.



EQUITY DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The School of Theatre and Music continued to address structural racism in the arts through the Antiracism Advisory Committee (AAC)

led by James McNally Associate Director for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. Central to the work this year was development of an official process for reporting and responding to bias. This process, “Process for Voicing Concerns” integrates UIC’s Bias Reporting Tool and gives members of the STM community clear guidelines for how to voice concerns if they witness or experience prejudice or discrimination of any form. The AAC also developed the “Equity Hub,” a communication platform where students, faculty, and staff can learn more about EDI initiatives, workshops and resources.





NEW AND EXCITING

Welcome Brent C. Talbot PhD, Head of Music

This year we welcomed Brent Talbot PhD as the head of Music.

Dr. Talbot is excited to bring his expertise in music education to UIC and to realize a vision for growth that builds on the strength of current music degree programs, the commitment of the campus to diversity and the arts, and the City of Chicago: “The UIC School of Theatre and Music holds great potential for supporting a robust music education program that is fit for its urban context. We are uniquely positioned to build upon the strong partnerships that already exist between UIC and the Chicago Public Schools and schools in the surrounding municipalities. As a professor of music education, I want to design the kind of program that will benefit Chicago’s teaching-artists and be responsive to the lives of its citizens.”

New Website is Live

We officially launched our new website. The website has new navigation tools designed to give prospective students the most current information about our degree programs and offerings. Search and filter functions



provide users with the ability to find resources, faculty, and news quickly. A new calendar feature allows users to explore upcoming and past events at a glance. Interactive images and videos give students a sample of student life, ensembles, productions and our collaborative student-faculty culture. Visit our new website at theatreandmusic.uic.edu.

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APPLY GIVE VISIT

THEATRE DEGREES MUSIC DEGREES



SPOTLIGHTS

Project Spotlight

Luis Alfaro Residency Project: The Luis Alfaro Residency Project (LARP) funded by a Presidential Initiative: Expanding the Impact of the Arts and the Humanities grant, brought renowned playwright, MacArthur fellow, and USC associate professor of dramatic writing, Luis Alfaro to the UIC campus during the spring '22 semester.

Luis Alfaro led storytelling workshops that address individual and community mental health challenges through the arts in collaboration with UI Health, Pilsen Food Pantry, and the Gage Park Latinx Community Council. Other LARP projects included classroom visits for UIC's Department of Theatre and Department of Classics and Mediterranean Studies, master classes and public events at the sister campuses of UIUC and UIS, a multimedia ethnography project, and a panel discussion with writer Luis Alberto Urrea co-organized with UIC's Institute for the Humanities.



Student Spotlight

Emily Fine and Chassion Rice both BA Music Business students, received the Gilman Scholarship to study abroad. The Gilman Scholarship enables American students to gain proficiency in diverse languages and cultures, skills that are critically important to their academic and career development. Chassion will study in Japan in Fall 2022 and Emily will study in Austria in Spring 2023. Both students were also finalists in the Maurice Prize research competition. In their research, they discovered new disparities for historically marginalized artists and offered a platform of resources for these artists.

Faculty Spotlight

Monty Cole, a Bridge to the Faculty Research Scholar, won Best African American Directed Short at the Phoenix Film Festival for his film *Sons of Toledo*. The Phoenix film festival is a one-day celebration of film with over three hundred films, filmmaking seminars, and student workshops for over 27,000 attendees.

Xiomara Cornejo, a Bridge to the Faculty Research Scholar, received the Outstanding Play award and became a semi-national finalist at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival for her play *Voice of the Voiceless: The Oscar Romero Play*.



ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Stephen Burns

Founder and Artistic Director,
Fulcrum Point New Music Project

Sheila J. Chapman

Arts Volunteer, Steppenwolf
for Young Adults; Alumni Board
Member, Silk Road Rising

Paula E. D'Angelo

Consultant

Meredith Dincolo

Dancer/Master Teacher &
Coach/Artistic Consultant

Betsy Ingram

Producer; Director of Finance &
Operations, KoboTech Inc.

Nancy Plax

Director of Community Outreach,
Connecting4Communities

Nick Rabkin

Arts Research and Consulting

Scott Silberstein

Co-founder and Executive
Producer, HMW Media, Inc

Janet Carl Smith

Former Deputy Commissioner,
Chicago Department of
Cultural Affairs

Willa Taylor


Director of Education and
Community Engagement,
Goodman Theatre



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