

Utilization Analysis

Tennis

National Trend: Tennis participation has increased 33% since 2022 (USTA) bringing the estimated number of US players to 23.6M. The sport has benefited from COVID 19. However this growth appears to be mostly in the 19-50 age groups (see Appendix A).

Current Sun City Tennis Club members: 100+

Existing Tennis Courts: Bell 12, Mountainview 2 and, Lakeview 4

Sun City Data Analysis:

Tennis has seen a precipitous decline in participation in the period from 2006 to 2020 in Sun City (Down 23%, Source LRP study). YTD 2023, Tennis utilization is as follows: Bell 20%; Lakeview 9.7% and Mountainview 9% (see Appendix B). The recommendation by the LRP in 2019 was to look at converting tennis courts at Mountainview & Lakeview to pickleball courts over time. As pickleball utilization increases, converting tennis courts provides for long term planning, without over building. Redirecting tennis players to Bell Recreation Center provides for much better utilization, and centralizes maintenance. Utilization should be monitored, and when it reaches 70% of capacity addition facilities should be anticipated and planned for.

Lawn Bowling

International Trend: "The sport may have grown through new countries and territories in recent decades, however, in its heartlands the sport is on the decline. I believe that without urgent and drastic action the sport could no longer be viable at an amateur level in the next 15 years." (JackHighLawnBowl.com)

Current Sun City Lawn bowl Club members: 300+ (tbc)

Sun City Data Analysis:

There are lawn bowling rinks at 5 Rec Centers. The 2023 YTD consolidated average utilization percentage of these rinks is about 11.6% (see Appendix C). The 2023 YTD average percentage utilization from January to April is:

Bell - 36.3%

Fairway - 14.5%

Lakeview - 46.4%

MV - 29.5%

Oakmont - 41.5%

The consolidated average for the same period is 27.6%. This would indicate that we have at least 100% excess capacity. Given that maintenance cost could be relatively high (Approximately \$72,000/yr.), we may want to consider repurposing some of our greens, especially Mountain View , because of the low utilization rate.

PICKLEBALL

International Trend: Fastest growing sport in the U. S.

Current Sun City Pickleball Club - members: 1,100+

Existing Pickleball Courts - Marinette 20 Mountainview 7

Sun City Data Analysis:

Full year 2022 data shows RCSC's existing 27 courts to be close to 75% utilized during prime season Oct-March (see Appendix D). This assumes an average play time of 3 hours per player. This may be an aggressive estimate assuming an average age of 72. If the average play time is dropped to 1.5 hours the utilization drops to 35%. This seems to be the common way of regulating play. Play seems to be concentrated here in Sun City at Marinette between 6:00am to 10:00am and 12:00 pm-6:00pm at Mountainview (see Appendix E). Many places use a reservation system to maximize usage and spread-out play.

2023 YTD data shows an average increase in play over 2022 of 19.5% (Jan-Mar) and 17% YTD (see Appendix F & G). Adding 6 courts at Mountainview drops the utilization percentage to about 25%. These courts could alleviate any capacity crunch especially if coupled with a reservation system. If the Sun City pickleball growth continues at the current pace, additional courts could be added at Mountainview, and eventually Lakeview.

Data Driven Path Forward: Replace 2 Tennis Courts with 6 additional pickleball courts at Mountainview. Track utilization of all courts. When utilization exceeds 60% start planning for additional courts. If the pickleball growth trend continues, replace lawn bowling greens at Mountainview (see analysis above) with pickleball courts in the future. Include future expansion of courts in site plan to establish feasibility.

An air-conditioned space for pickleball, would be very unique among 55+ communities. However, utilizing some of our underutilized flat floor space, with roll out mats and movable nets we could provide a unique amenity within our existing structures.

Mountainview Auditorium

National Trends: Audiences at live theaters have seen a steady decline over the past two decades. (National Endowment for the Arts). The New York Times recently reported that a significant number of long-standing New York theaters have closed due to small audiences. There is no doubt COVID has negatively impacted live theater. Current Sun City Players Club Members 120+ including the Chorale club that was merged into the Players Club (see Appendix H). Sun City Players Club, has been in existence since the beginning of Sun City and produces 3 plays a year. Each play is performed 4 to 5 times. Plays require a **tremendous** amount of personal effort to produce, from conception to performance.

Recent trends indicate that live performances may be headed for live streaming, instead of live performances (see 3 attached articles). This would increase the audience and attract new people. The overall total usage percentage for the Mountain View auditorium is approximately 36% with the players club dominating the use better than 69% of the time (see Appendix I).

The attendance for the 2022 season averaged between 143 to 205. Thus, the need for a 400 seat theater seems to very optimistic at best given that most recent data indicates considerably smaller audiences. In addition, it appears that live performances are getting smaller because the next generations have gone to live streaming instead.

Consideration of an expensive single use performing arts center needs to be very carefully looked at from a fiduciary stand point, and certainly given the trends in theatre performance, 400 seats seem potentially way over built.

I have looked into the possibility of installing retractable seating for both Sundial and Mountain View. Sundial could accommodate 598 seats at an approximate cost of \$625,000 installed. Mountainview could accommodate 388 seats, at an approximate cost of \$400,000 - \$500,000. In addition, a wall would need to be constructed at Mountain View to attach and support the seating. This would then provide for an enhanced lobby and bathrooms. Existing uses of the space could then be accommodated at their existing use levels.

(Note – An improved performance space could be used by other performing arts groups that don't presently use the space including Hand Bell Ringers * Piano Club * Rhythm Ramblers * Sun City Orchestra * Sun City Choraliers * Sun City Poms * Tip Top Dancers * Ukulele Club. It can also be used for a variety of other uses including lectures, large club meetings, movies and more)

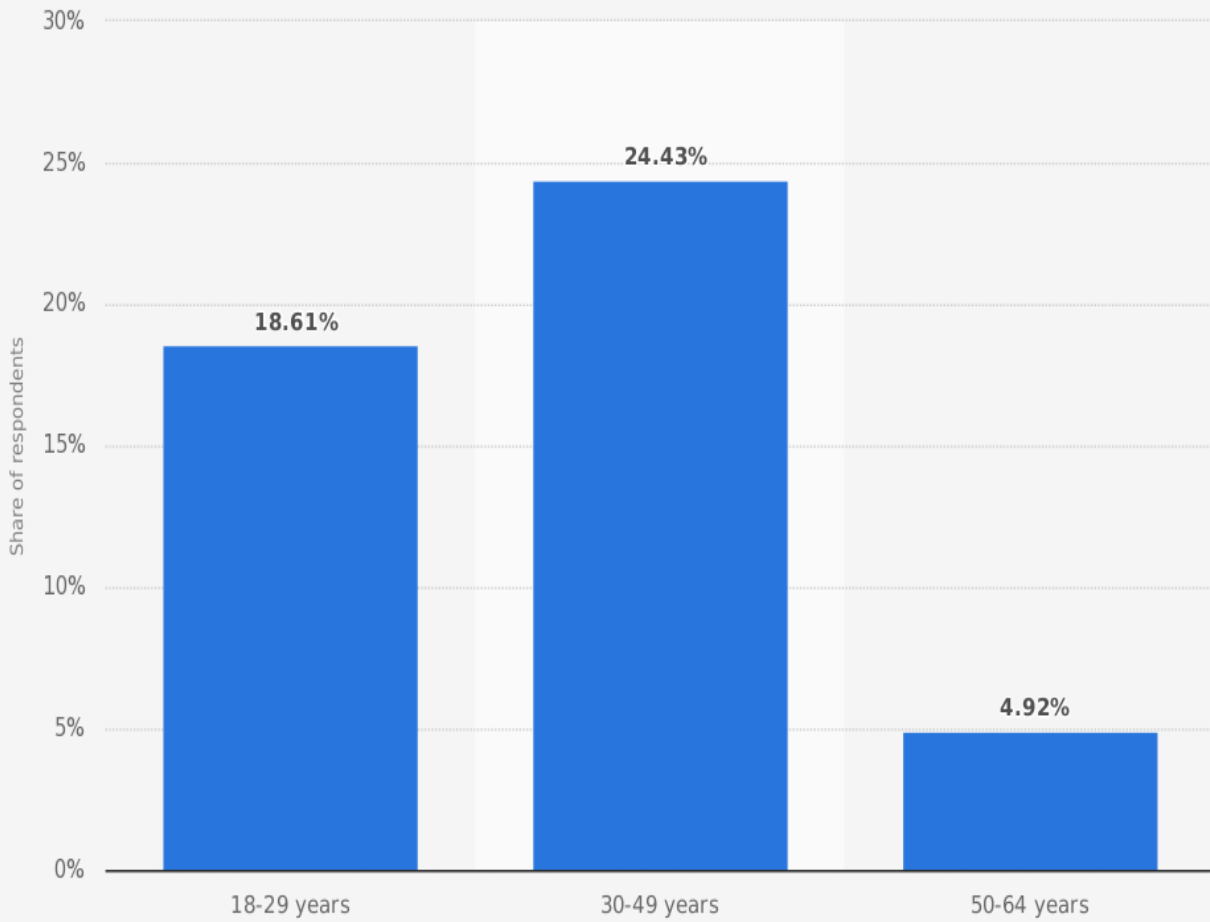
Miscellaneous Activities

Horseshoes - There were 182 uses for the year in 2022 (see Appendix B). Marinette had approximately 600 for the same year. The use at Mountainview could easily be absorbed at Marinette, without impacting existing users. Because the use is so small, I would recommend that the space be reallocated to some future use, that may be needed.

Cornhole - Cornhole is certainly a sport that is increasing in popularity, and is even televised. In any case this seems like a good fit for Sun city, because it is easy to play, and is enjoyed by all ages. The other thing is that it can be played almost anywhere, so it does not need a specific set aside space to play. All that is needed, is people and the 2 boards and bags, therefore I would not recommend setting aside space to play. This is a sport that could be played outdoors year-round anywhere and indoors during summer thus using some of our open indoor space more efficiently. Certainly, if a cornhole club were established that would give some emphasis to the sport.

Shuffleboard - Presently, we only have monitored activity at Bell. Given that at the present time, Bell is using approximately a maximum of 6.7% of the capacity, for their 8 lanes, it seems unlikely additional space for this activity is needed. Since the Bell facility is indoors and air conditioned it is generally a safe bet that it would tend to receive the most use. So to be on the safe side of speculation let's double Bell's use and say that Lakeview has 13% of its capacity, and we are still way below when in need of additional lanes to meet demand. I would say that we should not add additional capacity, until we reach 60% capacity at both Bell and Lakeview (See APPENDIX J). In fact, we may need to consider repurposing the Lakeview lanes in our future planning.

Share of people who played tennis regularly in the United States in 2018, by age



Source

Statista Survey (Global Consumer Survey)
© Statista 2018

Additional Information:

United States; Cint; Statista Survey (Global Consumer Survey);
November 22 to December 27, 2017 and April 11 to May 28, 2018;
20,409 respondents; 18 years and older

APPENDIX B

2013-2022 MONITORED ACTIVITY REPORT

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
BELL										
BILLIARDS	6,397	12,753	14,196	14,198	16,325	17,301	18,370	6,550	12,187	16,264
Billiards - General									12,030	14,948
Billiards Club									157	1,316
DARTS	-	-	3,591	4,325	3,958	3,629	4,685	1,851	4,135	8,109
Darts - General									3,695	5,935
Darts Club									440	2,174
FITNESS TOTAL	143,290	148,440	140,517	141,152	139,960	138,863	138,442	65,242	89,571	110,382
Fitness - General	142,909	148,203	140,152	140,806	139,533	138,249	137,851	64,973	89,077	109,677
Fitness - Get Fit for Life with Dick & Jane	381	237	365	346	427	614	591	269	494	705
HAND/RACQUETBALL	3,027	3,075	2,866	2,864	3,066	3,238	3,036	818	1,629	2,623
MINI GOLF	10,908	12,362	13,447	17,116	14,739	15,994	14,918	7,144	12,138	17,048
Mini Golf - General									12,015	16,801
Mini Golf Club									123	247
SHUFFLEBOARD (open)	2,950	4,411	4,451	4,196	3,968	3,994	4,381	2,140	3,506	7,765
Shuffleboard - General									2,928	4,952
Shuffleboard Club									578	2,813
LARGE POOL TOTAL	35,903	32,764	35,835	39,053	36,562	32,483	24,463	22,658	31,082	37,343
Large Pool - General	32,974	31,185	33,822	36,457	34,596				30,568	34,535
Large Pool - Swim Club	2,929	1,579	2,013	2,596	1,966				514	2,808
WALKING POOL	72,737	62,298	74,909	75,304	72,514	76,642	51,502	37,730	63,102	73,152
INDOOR SPA	4,949	4,074	4,077	4,456	4,062	4,174	4,490	3,119	3,838	4,248
OUTDOOR SPA	19,546	20,736	22,727	26,113	24,985	35,392	20,553	14,048	19,110	22,596
TABLE TENNIS	7,554	8,683	8,579	9,244	8,566	6,945	6,986	3,391	5,910	10,015
Table Tennis - General									5,670	6,701
Table Tennis Club									240	3,314
TENNIS COURTS	6,345	4,289	3,164	6,225	8,302	7,917	7,489	5,247	9,104	10,087
Tennis - General									8,759	7,807
Tennis Club									345	2,280
BELL TOTAL	343,112	313,885	328,359	340,234	333,762	346,572	299,315	169,938	255,312	319,632
FAIRWAY										
BILLIARDS	4,621	3,876	2,086	1,023	1,229	1,680	2,353	1,652	2,884	2,913
FITNESS TOTAL	88,669	96,931	101,189	108,008	103,011	101,565	108,294	47,658	71,005	92,309
Fitness - General	88,180	96,462	100,794	107,815	102,762	101,178	107,816	47,461	70,680	91,825
Fitness - Get Fit for Life with Dick & Jane	489	469	395	193	249	387	478	197	325	484

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2013-2022 MONITORED ACTIVITY REPORT

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
SWIM POOL	13,239	17,619	15,307	16,171	15,258	17,279	12,978	12,921	22,138	20,131
OUTDOOR SPA	17,029	26,601	25,729	23,361	22,666	23,510	20,810	10,934	12,978	16,279
INDOOR WALKING TRACK	43,616	50,920	57,981	60,701	57,529	64,112	78,832	27,447	46,475	54,135
WALKING POOL	38,888	46,618	49,566	47,639	48,692	47,200	48,100	23,282	27,289	34,129
FAIRWAY TOTAL	206,059	242,565	251,858	256,903	248,385	255,346	271,367	123,894	182,769	219,896
LAKEVIEW										
BILLIARDS	5,459	6,783	5,927	6,639	6,290	6,176	5,614	2,951	6,348	8,566
Billiards - General									5,704	4,856
Billiards Club									644	3,710
ROW BOAT	-	-	-	1,204	95	80	182	119	175	114
PEDAL BOAT	1,646	4,428	3,685	3,272	4,629	4,956	4,271	1,932	1,857	2,790
FISHING	937	1,413	2,252	1,866	2,057	2,327	2,224	2,232	2,761	1,351
FITNESS TOTAL	14,622	15,486	13,745	13,999	13,498	12,547	10,543	3,637	7,047	9,846
Fitness - General	14,616	15,451	13,727	13,995	13,486	12,542	10,421	3,459	7,043	9,846
Fitness - Get Fit for Life with Dick & Jane	6	35	18	4	12	5	122	178	941	0
MINI GOLF	10,466	12,211	13,838	13,473	12,515	13,248	9,408	7,974	8,838	12,038
Mini Golf - General									7,897	11,789
Mini Golf - Club									941	249
SWIM POOL TOTAL	29,032	36,791	35,378	33,994	28,124	30,077	28,030	16,101	24,554	27,375
Swim Pool - General	27,827	35,805	34,551	30,274	25,452	27,531	25,677	15,850	23,410	25,361
Swim Pool - Children	-	-	-	2,882	2,127	2,546	2,353	251	1,144	1,766
Swim Pool - Swim Club	1,205	986	827	838	545			-	0	248
INDOOR SPA	8,890	8,978	8,186	8,956	6,953	7,057	6,987	4,431	5,804	6,289
TENNIS COURTS	4,271	6,161	6,400	5,005	2,816	2,383	1,651	847	759	753
WALKERS AT HILLSIDE PARK	580	613	491	6,829	31,387	28,812	31,447	24,014	29,033	32,945
LAKEVIEW TOTAL	75,903	92,864	89,902	95,252	108,364	107,663	100,357	64,238	87,176	102,067
MOUNTAIN VIEW										
FITNESS TOTAL	17,231	18,826	17,579	13,392	13,588	13,206	12,530	6,536	7,911	9,352
Fitness - General	17,217	18,815	17,574	13,372	13,588	13,206	12,530	6,535	7,908	9,352
Fitness - Get Fit for Life with Dick & Jane	14	11	5	20	-	-	-	1	3	0
HORSESHOES	207	221	286	373	316	107	99	84	40	162
MINI GOLF	5,524	6,621	6,915	7,537	7,559	7,319	7,116	5,400	5,568	4,289
PICKLEBALL	3,373	5,907	9,248	5,675	7,114	7,433	8,321	4,951	8,539	12,130
Pickleball - General									8,528	9,498
Pickleball - Club									11	2,632

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2013-2022 MONITORED ACTIVITY REPORT

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
SWIM POOL TOTAL	26,122	35,929	25,683	30,100	32,087	23,309	22,339	20,656	19,511	24,896
Swim Pool - General	22,220	29,937	22,351	23,538	26,147	21,994	20,659	20,540	18,706	21,433
Swim Pool - Children	-	-	-	1,946	1,950	1,315	1,680	116	690	1,222
Swim Pool - Aqua Fitness	3,902	5,992	3,332	4,616	3,990	-	-	-	115	2,241
INDOOR SPA	5,779	6,736	6,355	6,858	6,205	4,813	4,785	2,295	2,057	975
TENNIS COURTS	744	930	834	510	381	305	360	322	725	740
MOUNTAIN VIEW TOTAL	58,980	75,170	66,900	64,445	67,250	56,492	55,550	40,244	44,351	52,544
MARINETTE										
BASKETBALL	-	-	372	477	590	428	513	235	299	334
FITNESS TOTAL	37,845	9,426	37,459	56,240	55,912	61,890	63,470	30,108	43,836	57,054
Fitness - General	37,821	9,373	37,331	56,024	55,620	61,520	63,268	29,976	43,737	56,906
Fitness - Get Fit for Life with Dick & Jane	24	53	128	216	292	370	202	132	99	148
HORSESHOES	615	335	300	555	530	558	559	543	737	600
PICKLEBALL	12,309	8,498	22,993	39,848	40,818	42,764	40,409	19,124	41,888	57,728
Pickleball - General	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37,210	18,928
Pickleball - Club	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,678	38,800
SWIM POOL TOTAL	20,775	14,887	23,948	29,363	34,318	27,823	26,567	21,642	23,343	29,975
Swim Pool - General	20,771	13,534	20,788	23,756	28,043	24,516	24,143	21,074	21,995	24,553
Swim Pool - Children	-	-	-	2,831	3,650	3,307	2,424	568	1,117	2,475
Swim Pool - Aqua Fitness	2,650	1,353	3,160	2,776	2,625	-	-	-	231	2,947
OUTDOOR SPA	5,972	4,001	6,257	9,312	10,058	10,088	11,787	7,717	10,421	10,457
OUTDOOR TRACK	2,650	2,008	4,013	6,131	3,925	5,517	5,260	4,132	5,695	5,495
MARINETTE TOTAL	82,812	39,155	95,342	192,570	191,432	149,068	148,565	83,501	126,219	161,643
OAKMONT										
FITNESS TOTAL	21,818	19,813	20,735	19,291	15,720	14,488	15,690	8,708	11,026	13,132
Fitness - General	21,811	19,807	20,731	19,287	15,716	14,488	15,690	8,708	11,024	13,130
Fitness - Get Fit for Life with Dick & Jane	7	6	4	4	4	-	-	-	2	2
SWIM POOL TOTAL	20,146	11,890	21,607	21,903	21,426	15,677	16,963	11,569	13,492	22,165
Swim Pool - General	13,372	5,795	12,804	12,299	12,576	15,677	16,963	11,569	12,103	11,389
Swim Pool - Aqua Fitness	6,165	3,326	3,326	3,845	2,768	-	-	-	409	7,211
Swim Pool - Water Volleyball	609	2,769	5,477	5,759	6,082	-	-	-	980	3,565
OUTDOOR SPA	3,728	2,572	6,701	7,039	6,939	9,849	13,931	8,731	9,360	8,809
OAKMONT TOTAL	45,692	34,275	49,381	48,233	44,085	40,014	46,584	29,008	33,878	44,106

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2013-2022 MONITORED ACTIVITY REPORT

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
SUNDIAL										
BOCCE (open)	797	812	899	1,004	607	1,110	977	700	520	1,418
FITNESS TOTAL	53,100	51,836	49,755	41,542	43,097	45,000	48,231	22,713	28,702	38,595
General	52,957	51,714	49,635	41,524	43,072	44,967	48,191	22,693	28,670	38,572
Fitness - Get Fit for Life with Dick & Jane	143	122	120	18	25	33	40	20	32	23
INDOOR WALKING	3,879	3,315	3,054	2,611	1,976	2,321	1,164	409	1,237	2,349
MINI GOLF	4,126	5,284	4,722	5,068	6,291	4,871	5,112	4,622	2,693	5,950
LARGE SWIM POOL TOTAL	56,683	22,028	56,727	49,158	58,861	42,044	46,594	34,217	40,451	54,068
General	40,687	4,275	41,139	34,394	41,814	42,044	46,594	34,217	37,831	37,591
Swim Pool - Aqua Fitness	15,738	17,542	15,274	14,375	16,775	-	-	-	2,516	316
Swim Pool - Swim Club	258	211	314	389	272	-	-	-	104	16161
WARM WATER POOL TOTAL	24,327	26,347	23,575	22,050	25,290	20,387	21,866	17,520	19,932	20,754
General	21,844	24,526	21,611	20,174	23,338	20,387	21,866	17,520	19,586	19,034
Swim Pool - Handicapped	2,483	1,821	1,964	1,876	2,313	-	-	-	346	1,720
INDOOR SPA	20,330	24,768	24,717	21,279	24,942	19,701	26,363	16,633	16,183	17,949
SUNDIAL TOTAL	163,242	134,390	163,449	142,712	161,064	135,434	150,307	96,814	109,718	141,083
CENTER USAGE GRAND TOTAL	975,800	932,304	1,045,191	1,140,349	1,154,342	1,090,589	1,072,045	607,637	839,423	1,040,971
USAGE BY CENTER										
BELL	343,112	313,885	328,359	340,234	333,762	346,572	299,315	169,938	255,312	319,632
FAIRWAY	206,059	242,565	251,858	256,903	248,385	255,346	271,367	123,894	182,769	219,896
LAKEVIEW	75,903	92,864	89,902	95,252	108,364	107,663	100,357	64,238	87,176	102,067
MOUNTAIN VIEW	58,980	75,170	66,900	64,445	67,250	56,492	55,550	40,244	44,351	52,544
MARINETTE	82,812	39,155	95,342	192,570	191,432	149,068	148,565	83,501	126,219	161,643
OAKMONT	45,692	34,275	49,381	48,233	44,085	40,014	46,584	29,008	33,878	44,106
SUNDIAL	163,242	134,390	163,449	142,712	161,064	135,434	150,307	96,814	109,718	141,083
TOTAL CENTER USAGE	975,800	932,304	1,045,191	1,140,349	1,154,342	1,090,589	1,072,045	607,637	839,423	1,040,971

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2013-2022 MONITORED ACTIVITY REPORT

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
USAGE SUMMARY BY ACTIVITY										
BASKETBALL	0	0	372	477	590	428	513	235	299	334
BILLIARDS	16,477	23,403	22,209	21,860	23,844	25,157	26,337	11,153	21,067	27,743
BOATS, PEDAL & ROW	1,646	4,428	3,685	4,476	4,724	5,036	4,453	2,051	2,032	2,904
BOCCE (open)	1,275	1,023	904	1,004	604	1,110	977	700	520	1,418
DARTS	0	0	3,591	4,325	3,958	3,629	4,685	1,851	4,135	8,109
FISHING	937	1,413	2,252	1,866	2,057	2,327	2,224	2,232	2,761	1,351
FITNESS	376,575	360,758	380,979	393,624	384,786	387,559	397,200	184,602	259,310	330,670
HAND/RACQUETBALL	3,027	3,075	2,866	45,528	47,932	3,238	3,036	818	1,629	2,623
HORSESHOES	822	556	586	928	846	665	658	627	777	762
MINI GOLF	32,614	37,233	38,923	35,657	41,104	41,432	36,554	25,140	29,273	39,325
PICKLEBALL	15,682	14,405	32,241	45,523	47,932	50,197	48,730	24,075	50,427	69,858
POOLS, SWIMMING	204,546	211,768	214,485	219,742	226,636	188,692	177,934	139,764	174,455	215,953
POOLS, WALKING	111,625	108,916	124,475	122,943	151,206	123,842	99,602	61,012	90,391	107,281
POOLS, WARM WATER	24,327	26,347	23,575	22,050	25,290	20,387	21,866	17,520	19,932	20,754
SHUFFLEBOARD (open)	0	4,411	4,451	4,196	3,968	3,994	4,381	2,140	3,506	7,765
SPA, INDOOR	39,948	44,556	43,335	41,549	42,162	35,745	42,625	26,478	27,882	29,461
SPA, OUTDOOR	46,275	53,910	61,406	62,644	58,509	78,839	67,081	41,430	51,869	58,141
TABLE TENNIS	7,554	8,683	8,579	9,244	8,566	6,945	6,986	3,391	5,910	10,015
TENNIS COURTS	11,640	11,517	10,398	11,740	11,499	10,605	9,500	6,416	10,588	11,580
WALKING, INDOOR	47,495	54,235	61,035	63,312	59,505	66,433	79,996	27,856	47,712	56,484
WALKING, OUTDOOR	3,230	2,621	4,504	12,960	35,312	34,329	36,707	28,146	34,728	38,440
TOTAL CENTER USAGE	945,695	973,258	1,044,851	1,125,668	1,181,030	1,090,589	1,072,045	607,637	839,203	1,040,971
OTHER USAGE STATISTICS										
DUFFEELAND DOG PARK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8,258
TOTAL POOL (CHILDREN)	0	0	0	0	0	7,168	6,457	935	2,951	5,463
SPECIAL EVENTS at SUNDIAL	0	0	0	0	-	14,974	16,800	0	0	3
OUTSIDE BUS TOURS	0	0	0	0	-	148	0	0	0	0
MOVIES	8,673	7,171	7,132	0	-	10,095	7,049	4,199	4,335	5,358
FITNESS EQUIPMENT DEMOS	0	0	0	0	-	344	294	128	0	225
SUNDIAL MASSAGE	186	220	653	0	-	486	364	210	151	0
BELL MASSAGE	421	352	1,151	0	-	1,092	1,189	894	1,070	1,331
FAIRWAY MASSAGE	0	278	440	0	-	374	408	232	318	281
VISITOR / TOUR	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	577	2,691	8,827

APPENDIX C

[illegible][illegible]

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
2	Oakmont	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
3	Total Center Daily Hours	11	11	11	11	14	14	14	14	14	11	11	11	
4	Seasonal Hours Lost (Temps)	(4)	(4)	0	0	(9)	(9)	(9)	(9)	(9)	0	0	(4)	
5	Total Available Play Hours	7	7	11	11	5	5	5	5	5	11	11	7	
6	Total Monthly Play Hours	217	196	341	330	155	150	155	155	150	341	330	217	
7	Daily Maintenance Time	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
8	Seasonal Maintenance	0	0	0	0	(10)	(10)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
9	Seasonal Aerification	0	0	0	0	0	0	(70)	0	0	0	0	0	
10	Turf Recovery Time	(105)	(98)	(165)	(165)	(75)	(75)	(38)	(75)	(75)	(165)	(165)	(105)	
11	Rain Hours Lost/Month (AVG)	(14)	(14)	(22)	(22)	(10)	(10)	(10)	(10)	(10)	(22)	(22)	(14)	
12	Monthly Total Hours Available	94	80	150	139	56	51	33	66	61	150	139	93	
13														
14	Number of Greens	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
15	Number of Rinks	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	
16														
17	Net Center Game Hours Available	752	640	1,200	1,112	448	408	260	528	488	1,200	1,112	744	
18														
19	Average Game Time (Hours)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	
20														
21	Games Available	376	320	600	556	224	204	130	264	244	600	556	372	
22														
23	Total Supported Players	1,504	1,280	2,400	2,224	896	816	520	1,056	976	2,400	2,224	1,488	17,784
24														
25														
26	Reported Attendance	274	525	362	199	287	142	17	0					1,806
27														
28	Percent of Available Utilized	18.2%	41.0%	15.1%	8.9%	32.0%	17.4%	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	10.2%
29														
30	Doubling Reported Attendance	548	1050	724	398	574	284	34	0	0	0	0	0	3,612
31		36%	82%	30%	18%	64%	35%	7%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	20.3%
32														
33	Double Oakmont + Mountain View	1,348	2,274	2,038	1,254	574	382	88	154	100	0	0	0	8,212
34		90%	178%	85%	56%	64%	47%	17%	15%	10%	0%	0%	0%	46.2%
35														
36														
37														
38														

APPENDIX D

Pickleball Utilization
Marinette

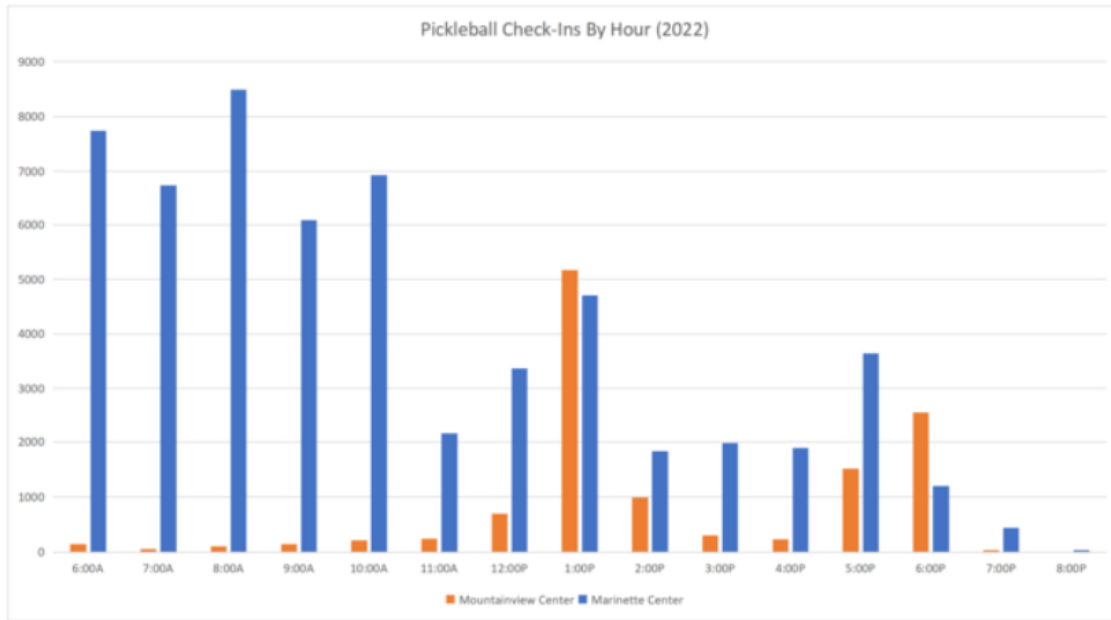
	31	28	31	30	31	30	31	31	30	31	30	31	
Marinette	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Total Center Daily Hours	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	
Seasonal Hours Lost (Temps)	(6)	(6)	0	0	(9)	(9)	(9)	(9)	(9)	0	0	(6)	
Total Daily Available Play Hours	9	9	15	15	6	6	6	6	6	15	15	9	
Total Monthly Play Hours	279	252	465	450	186	180	186	186	180	465	450	279	
Monthly Court Washing Time	(10)	(10)	(10)	(10)	(10)	(10)	(10)	(10)	(10)	(10)	(10)	(10)	
Tournaments	0	0	(45)	0	0	0	0	0	0	(45)	0	0	
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Rain Hours Lost/Month (AVG)	(18)	(18)	(30)	(30)	(12)	(12)	(12)	(12)	(12)	(30)	(30)	(18)	
Monthly Total Hours Available	251	224	380	410	164	158	164	164	158	380	410	251	
Number of Courts	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	
Net Center Court Hours Available	5,020	4,480	7,600	8,200	3,280	3,160	3,280	3,280	3,160	7,600	8,200	5,020	62,280
Average Player Time (Hours)	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
Player Positions Available	1,673	1,493	2,533	2,733	1,093	1,053	1,093	1,093	1,053	2,533	2,733	1,673	
Total Supported Players	6,693	5,973	10,133	10,933	4,373	4,213	4,373	4,373	4,213	10,133	10,933	6,693	83,040
Reported Attendance	6,690	6,955	7,178	5,675	3,916	2,931	2,425	2,642	2,972	4,698	5,931	5,715	57,728
Percent of Available Utilized	100.0%	116.4%	70.8%	51.9%	89.5%	69.6%	55.4%	60.4%	70.5%	46.4%	54.2%	85.4%	69.5%
Combined Availability (Oct-Apr)	61,493												
Combined Usage (Oct-Apr)	42,842												
	69.7%												

Additional Information	Count	Check-Ins	Average	C/H %	Visit %
Total Cardholder Count	2367	57,728	24		
Total Cardholder Count > 12 visits	804	52,106	65	34.0%	90.3%
Total Cardholder Count > 24 visits	568	47,859	84	24.0%	82.9%
Club Member Counts	894	48,027	54	37.8%	83.2%

Not Club member Counts 1473 9701 7 62.2% 16.8%

APPENDIX E

Location	6:00A	7:00A	8:00A	9:00A	10:00A	11:00A	12:00P	1:00P	2:00P	3:00P	4:00P	5:00P	6:00P	7:00P	8:00P
Mountainview Center	141	58	106	142	211	242	690	5164	987	302	234	1510	2553	30	0
Marinette Center	7741	6747	8490	6089	6928	2156	3367	4703	1824	1974	1885	3638	1194	436	37



NOTE: Mountainview check-in times can reflect the time the Facility Attendent enters signin sheet information rather than actual play/check-in time.

APPENDIX F

Pickleball Utilization Consolidated

	31	28	31	30	31	30	31	31	30	31	30	31
Consolidated	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total Center Daily Hours	28	28	28	28	29	29	29	29	29	28	28	28
Seasonal Hours Lost (Temps)	(10)	(10)	0	0	(18)	(18)	(18)	(18)	(18)	0	0	(10)
Total Daily Available Play Hours	18	18	28	28	11	11	11	11	11	28	28	18
Total Monthly Play Hours	558	504	868	840	341	330	341	341	330	868	840	558
Monthly Court Washing Time	(14)	(14)	(14)	(14)	(14)	(14)	(14)	(14)	(14)	(14)	(14)	(14)
Tournaments	0	0	(45)	0	0	0	0	0	0	(84)	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rain Hours Lost/Month (AVG)	(36)	(36)	(56)	(56)	(22)	(22)	(22)	(22)	(22)	(56)	(56)	(36)
Monthly Total Hours Available	508	454	753	770	305	294	305	305	294	714	770	508
Number of Rinks	#VALUE!	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33
Net Center Court Hours Available	#VALUE!	7,470	12,449	12,880	5,113	4,928	5,113	5,113	4,928	11,942	12,880	8,361
Average Player Time (Hours)	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Player Positions Available	#VALUE!	2,490	4,150	4,293	1,704	1,643	1,704	1,704	1,643	3,981	4,293	2,787
Total Supported Players	#VALUE!	9,960	16,599	17,173	6,817	6,571	6,817	6,817	6,571	15,923	17,173	11,148
Reported Attendance	8,243	8,527	9,134	7,091	4,435	3,027	2,508	2,712	3,039	5,701	8,004	7,437
Percent increase	10166	10215	10634	8407	4433	3758	3127	2685	3855			
	23%	20%	16%	19%	0%	24%	25%	-1%	27%			
Percent of Available Utilized	#VALUE!	85.6%	55.0%	41.3%	65.1%	46.1%	36.8%	39.8%	46.3%	35.8%	46.6%	66.7%
Combined Availability (Oct-Apr)	#VALUE!											
Combined Usage (Oct-Apr)	54,137											
	#VALUE!											

#VALUE!

69,858

0.1952643

0.1697181

#VALUE!

Additional Information	Count	Check-Ins	Average	C/H %	Visit %
Total Cardholder Count	2881	69,858	24		
Total Cardholder Count > 12 visits	927	63,727	69	32.2%	91.2%
Total Cardholder Count > 24 visits	674	59,141	88	23.4%	84.7%
Club Member Counts	930	57,363	62	32.3%	82.1%
Not Club Member Counts	1951	12,495	6	67.7%	17.9%

APPENDIX G

Pickleball Utilization Consolidated

	31	28	31	30	31	30	31	31	30	31	30	31
Consolidated	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total Center Daily Hours	28	28	28	28	29	29	29	29	29	28	28	28
Seasonal Hours Lost (Temps)	(10)	(10)	0	0	(18)	(18)	(18)	(18)	(18)	0	0	(10)
Total Daily Available Play Hours	18	18	28	28	11	11	11	11	11	28	28	18
Total Monthly Play Hours	558	504	868	840	341	330	341	341	330	868	840	558
Monthly Court Washing Time	(14)	(14)	(14)	(14)	(14)	(14)	(14)	(14)	(14)	(14)	(14)	(14)
Tournaments	0	0	(45)	0	0	0	0	0	0	(84)	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rain Hours Lost/Month (AVG)	(36)	(36)	(56)	(56)	(22)	(22)	(22)	(22)	(22)	(56)	(56)	(36)
Monthly Total Hours Available	508	454	753	770	305	294	305	305	294	714	770	508
Number of Rinks	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34
Net Center Court Hours Available	8,618	7,700	12,822	13,240	5,254	5,064	5,254	5,254	5,064	12,276	13,240	8,618
Average Player Time (Hours)	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Player Positions Available	2,873	2,567	4,274	4,413	1,751	1,688	1,751	1,751	1,688	4,092	4,413	2,873
Total Supported Players	11,491	10,267	17,096	17,653	7,005	6,752	7,005	7,005	6,752	16,368	17,653	11,491
Reported Attendance	10,166	10,215	10,634	8,407	4,433	3,758	3,127	2,685	3,855	0	0	0
Percent of Available Utilized	88.5%	99.5%	62.2%	47.6%	63.3%	55.7%	44.6%	38.3%	57.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Combined Availability (Oct-Apr)	102,019											
Combined Usage (Oct-Apr)	39,422											
	38.6%											

136,539

57,280

42.0%

Additional Information	Count	Check-Ins	Average	C/H %	Visit %
Total Cardholder Count	2881	57,280	20		
Total Cardholder Count > 12 visits	927	63,727	69	32.2%	111.3%
Total Cardholder Count > 24 visits	674	59,141	88	23.4%	103.2%
Club Member Counts	930	57,363	62	32.3%	100.1%
Not Club Member Counts	1951	(83)	0	67.7%	-0.1%

APPENDIX H

The Players Club

	1985	2020	2023
Membership Estimate	500	175	125

2022 Shows

Don't Talk Savage Old Hams Total

USAGE IN WEEKS

Rehearsal	6	6	6	18
Shows (6-7 nights)	1	1	1	3
Total Weeks	7	7	7	21

Peak Season Availability	28
Usage Rate	75%

Total Year Availability	52
Usage Rate	40%

ATTENDANCE

Attendance	856	1,231	1,150	3,237
Number of Performances	6	6	6	18
Average per Performances	143	205	192	180

	2022	Pre-Covid Average
Attendance		
The Players Club Shows	3,237	4,757

	Actual	Projection
Movies		
Weeks	40	40
Times per Week	2	2
Total Shows	80	80
Attendance per Show	69	100
Total Attendance	5,520	8,000

Likely Attendance	12,757
Percent of Sun City Use	0.8%

APPRNDIX I

Year	Attendance	Performances	Average Per Performance
2015/2016	4,226	21	201
2016/2017	3,947	21	188
2017/2018	5,409	21	258
2018/2019	5,444	21	259
2019/2020	3,415	21	163
2020/2021	season cancellation		
2021/2022	2,167	12	181
2022/2023	3,237	18	180
Pre-Covid Average (2016-2019)	4,757		

APPENDIX J

1	Capacity Analysis									
2	Shuffle Board									
3		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019		2020	2021	2022
4	Jan	493	655	467	433	465				
5	Feb	545	607	564	643	602				
6	March	571	648	576	738	647				
7	April	429	311	408	434	372				
8	Oct	321	247	258	189	263				
9	Nov	343	261	255	159	372				
10	Dec	445	300	265	274					
11	Total	3147	3029	2793	2870	2721		2140	3506	7765
12	AVG	450	433	399	410	454				
13	TOTAL	3597	3462	3192	3280	3628				
14	Actual Utilization as a % of Capacity	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	1.8%%	3.02%	6.7%%
15										
16	Total Hours of Availability/week			108						
17	Total Hours of Availability/ month			454						
18	Total Hours of Availability/Sept-April			3629						
19	# of Courts		8							
20	Max. # of Players/Court		4							
21	Max. players/hr		32							
22	Max Capacity		116122							
23										
24										

Four top theater trends to watch in 2023

As live theater continues to rebound from a global lockdown prompted by the COVID pandemic, Drama Dean [Scott Zigler](#) identifies several trends that will help the industry define its new normal. Zigler says he and his [faculty](#) continue fine-tuning the curriculum to position graduates to lead in a more agile and inclusive creative ecosystem.

“The [School of Drama](#) sold out three shows during the fall season,” Zigler says. That means nearly 4,000 in gross ticket sales for live performances of “[Amadeus](#),” “[Sweeney Todd](#)” and “[Roe](#).” But Broadway shows and regional theater productions across the country did not fare as well. “Audiences are not coming back to live theater in pre-pandemic numbers,” Zigler says. “People are very selective about what they are willing to go see in person. Theater organizations have to find ways to sustain themselves.”

UNCSA School of Drama presents "Amadeus" by Peter Shaffer / Photo: Allison Isley

Zigler pointed to several trends – or ongoing strategies – the theater industry will employ:

Bringing theater to the community

Since the community is not coming to the theatre, some organizations are taking theater to the community, trading the high overhead cost of brick-and-mortar buildings for partnerships that attract new audiences. Zigler points to [Long Wharf Theater \(opens in new tab\)](#) in New Haven, Connecticut which announced in February that it would not renew its lease on the building that had long been its home. In the fall of 2023, the organization will begin a new model that includes a theatre hub and a network of partner venues and organizations throughout New Haven. Over the next few years, the company will produce in-person and virtual programming in partnership with local civic, cultural and public institutions.

According to Zigler, this model serves two purposes: it reduces ticket prices and breaks down economic barriers. “Buildings bring substantial overhead costs. That contributes to higher ticket prices. Many people have historically been priced out of live theater,” he explains. “When you make the whole city your stage, you can reach many people who have never seen live theater.”

He predicts that the new model will also break barriers in which stories get told. “When you are actively taking theater into the community, you pay particular attention to what kinds of work will speak to the audience,” he says. “For hundreds of years, the higher socio-economic strata have flocked to theaters to see stories about people who look like themselves. But the appetite changes along with the audience.”

What's new in the performing arts?

As 2023 begins, Northwestern faculty assess their artistic fields and the impacts of COVID-19, social justice and technology

January 26, 2023 | By [Stephanie Kulke](#)



Robert Schleifer in the role of the Provost delivers his lines in American sign language, which cast member Kidany Camilo, in the role of a nightclub performer, interprets simultaneously in “Measure for Measure” at Chicago Shakespeare Theater. Photo ...

- [Dance](#)
- [Expert Viewpoint](#)
- [Music](#)

[Theater](#)

Theater never recovered from COVID — and now change is no longer a choice

February 6, 2023 5:00 AM ET

Heard on [Morning Edition](#)



[Chloe Veltman](#)



A repurposed school bus from Control Group Productions' climate change-focused immersive theater experience, *The End*.

Katie Weisberger/Control Group Productions

Many of the problems facing the nonprofit theater industry in the U.S. right now — from scant resources to the lack of diversity — have been around for ages.

But before the pandemic, performing arts groups were so focused on raising the curtain each night it was easier to ignore long-standing problems than fix them.

Now, thanks to a combination of lackluster ticket sales and an end to government relief, they have no choice but to try out new things in order to secure a future.

"The key question is, what are the things that are being done in order to emerge from the pandemic in a sustainable way?" said Teresa Eyring, executive director and CEO of [Theatre Communications Group](#), a support organization for the nation's performing arts sector.

No one has the answer. But organizations around the country are at least trying to find creative new solutions.

Overhauling systems at Oregon Shakespeare Festival

At [Oregon Shakespeare Festival](#), securing a future means focusing on the stuff that most audience members don't see, much less think about: overhauling systems behind the scenes.

At a recent company meeting, interim executive artistic director Nataki Garrett explained how Oregon Shakespeare, founded in 1935, planned to correct years of deficits and declines in revenue.

"I have to change the way we do development, the way we market, the way we do finance, the way IT functions, instead of sort of plugging in the holes and filling in the gaps, which is what we've been doing," Garrett said at an all-staff meeting recently. "We didn't want to disturb the art. We have to disturb the art now."



Oregon Shakespeare Festival leaders prepare to share their sweeping recovery plan with staff at the company's headquarters in Ashland on Jan. 10, 2023. Pictured, from left to right: Alys Holden, Director of Production & Solutions; Anyania Muse, Interim Chief Operating Officer; Nataki Garrett, Interim Executive Artistic Director; Troy Freeland, People & Culture Director.
Chloe Veltman/NPR

The company recently slashed its expenses. It laid off and furloughed about 10 percent of its staff and cut two productions from the upcoming season. But the kind of ambitious reset Garrett imagines actually takes *more* money.

The company hopes to launch an \$80 million fundraising campaign and it reached into its endowment for \$4 million to cover emergency operating costs. Garrett told NPR she now wants millions more unlocked.

But endowment board chair Eric Johnson said that for legal reasons, his hands are tied for now.



[The Next Stage](#)

[OSF focuses on expansion – but is not without its critics](#)



Culture

[NPR reporting on Oregon theater death threats prompt local and national response](#)

"This endowment has already done a huge amount to help rise to the occasion of this crisis," Johnson said. "Additional distributions at this time of any substantial magnitude become extraordinarily difficult – if they're even possible."

Garrett said even if additional funding does not come through from the endowment, she plans to do whatever she can to save her institution.

Working toward diversity at Control Group Productions

For many performing arts groups, the future means diversity. That's true at the Denver-based [Control Group Productions](#); which is why the theater company recently acquired an old school bus.

"It's a 2006 Thomas HDX 32-foot freightliner," artistic director Patrick Mueller said. "We actually bought it on Craigslist from a guy in Ontario, Calif. Flew out and drove it home."

Mueller said his nomadic company had performed in places like warehouses, theaters and even an old slaughterhouse. But the social justice reckonings of the past few years propelled Control Group to try to make more of an impact — and that means reaching new, more diverse audiences.

"We are a small grassroots organization," he said. "It's hard to get beyond our friends of friends of friends."

Staging plays on buses or trains or horse-drawn carts is nothing new. But the company's associate director Caroline Sharkey said that for the company, the bus isn't just a novelty. It's fully integrated into the action.

"We're taking people to places that they know," Sharkey said. "And we're shifting their expectations for those places. So that every time they go back, the memory of the art is still there."

Much of *The End*, Control Group's immersive production about climate change, unfolds on the bus. It visits some of Denver's most toxic hotspots, like the SunCor oil refinery and a polluted part of the Platte River, on its way to a fictional safe harbor known as "The Refuge."

[The Refuge: You'll Never Have to Worry About Anything, Ever Again](#) from [Control Group Productions](#) on [Vimeo](#).

Artistic director Mueller said for the Denver run of the show last summer (he's planning a version for San Diego audiences later this year), Control Group wanted to engage people who live in places like Commerce City, where the oil refinery is located. The company enlisted local environmental activists to help with outreach.

But one of those activists, Harmony Cummings, the founder of the Green House Connection Center, said the people who live in the shadow of the refinery often don't have the bandwidth to think about attending an experimental physical theater show on a bus.

"The problems in these communities — where am I going to live? Do I have enough food? — are so large, that it's hard to even talk to people about any of the environmental injustices," Cummings said.

Mueller understands this. He said Control Group is currently developing partnerships with theater makers in underrepresented communities aimed at supporting those companies' production efforts. But diversifying audiences will take time.

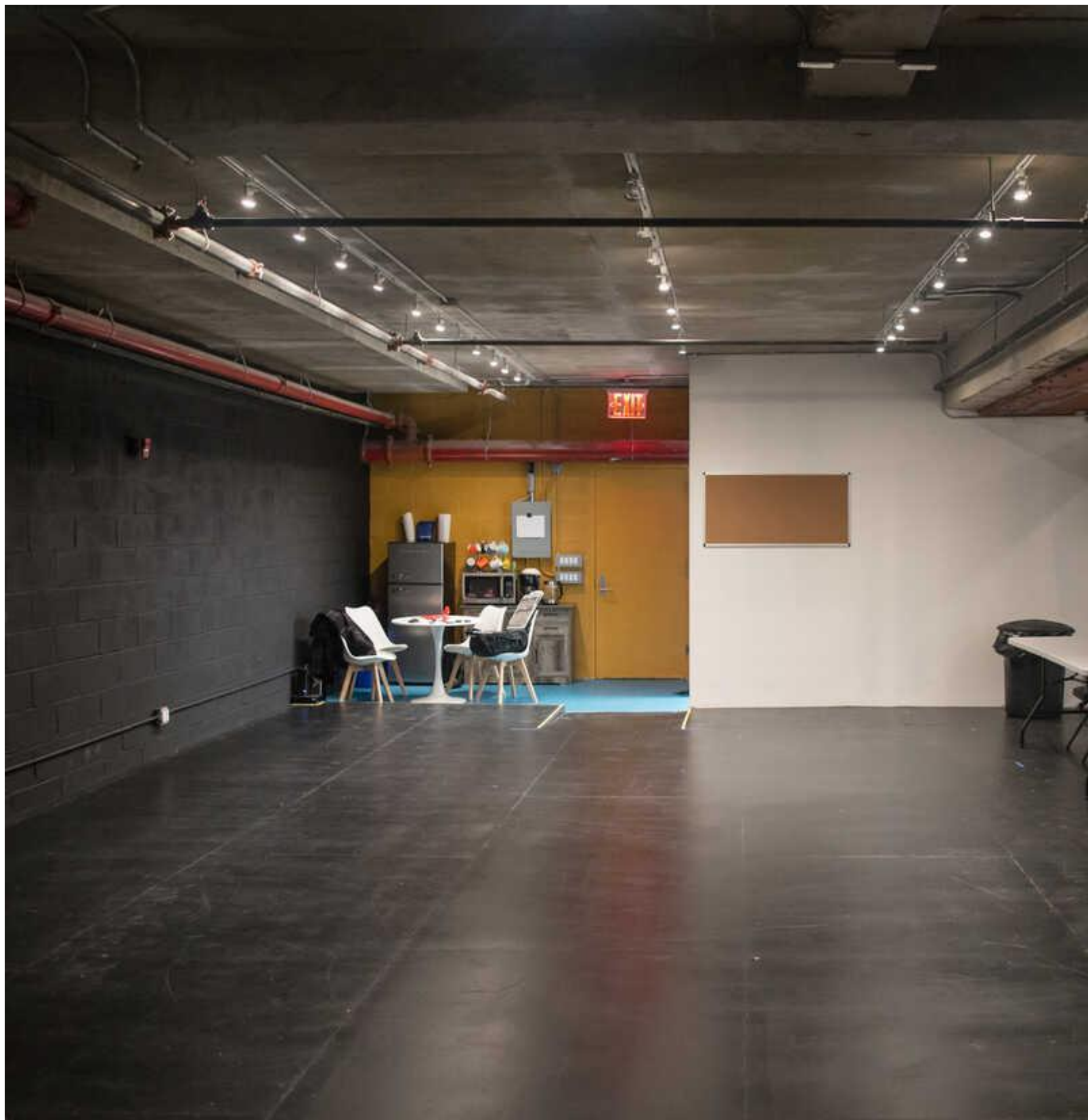
Sharing resources at West Village Rehearsal Co-Op

In expensive New York City, small performing arts organizations are putting their energy into sharing resources.

"As we saw during the pandemic, arts organizations that were working on their own were struggling on their own," said Randi Berry, executive director of [IndieSpace](#), a nonprofit that provides support to New York City's sprawling indie theater community. "When we have an amazing resource for the community, the more people that can get their hands in it, the better."

IndieSpace is one of the main forces behind the [West Village Rehearsal Co-Op](#), a rehearsal studio located in the Meatpacking District, one of the most upscale neighborhoods of Manhattan. (Louis Vuitton is a fellow tenant.)

IndieSpace, together with several downtown theater companies — [Rattlestick Playwrights Theater](#), [HERE](#) and [New Ohio Theatre](#) — worked with the local community board, politicians and property owners to secure a 99-year lease on the basement of the building, exclusively for the use of small, local performing arts organizations.



Inside the West Village Rehearsal Co-Op, a new, affordable shared basement rehearsal space for small performing arts groups in New York City.

Jody Cristopherson

"We love a good basement — it's quiet, dark and cool," said Berry. "And those spaces aren't generating a tremendous amount of income for the owners anyway."

In a city where it's not unusual to pay \$50 or \$60 an hour for rehearsal space, the co-op costs just \$10 an hour. Selected Black and indigenous theater-makers have access for free.

"Not a cent! Which is great, because we have not a cent right now!" said [Nedra Marie Taylor](#), the co-founder of The Grove Theater, a new endeavor using the co-op for community events, with the goal of eventually building a complex for Black theater artists in Midtown Manhattan.



The Next Stage

Taylor said the West Village Rehearsal Co-Op is vital to her group's larger effort.

"Having a physical space in which people can share story, just say hi in passing, it's going to boost morale," Taylor said. "Especially for the indie theater community, who's been so hard hit in the past few years."

IndieSpace's Berry said brokering the real estate deal for the West Village Co-Op took years, and there's already a waiting list of theaters that want to use it. She wants to see the model replicated throughout New York City.

"We have to commit to doing this over and over and over again," Berry said. "That's when the real impact is felt."

Looking to the future

Theatre Communications Group's Eyring said it's this kind of long-term thinking that will secure the future of the non-profit theater industry, albeit that it's not how cash-strapped arts organizations are accustomed to operating.

"I would advise any company to have a three-to-five year plan for rebalancing their organizations, to get away from the urgency of the moment, even though it's there," Eyring said.

Yet, she added: "When we get there, our theater ecology, it'll be in a place of vibrancy, where people are excited to be working in it."

At the tip of the iceberg': Cornhole (yes, cornhole) finds international stage as it continues to grow



[Ian Garcia](#)/Cronkite News

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Cornhole is a familiar game at tailgating events, like this one outside the Arizona Cardinals' State Farm Stadium, but its popularity has grown so much that national networks are televising competition. (Photo by Ralph Fresno/Getty Images)

PHOENIX – If any moment in this sport's ascent turned heads, it was a weekend in August of 2017, when tournament competition on ESPN2 attracted better ratings than Major League Baseball on TBS and FS1, and the final stage of the Tour de France on NBCSN.

The sport? Cornhole.

While some may view it as a simple backyard activity – where competitors throw bags filled with corn or resin at a raised board with a hole in the far end – cornhole has grown and attempted to stake its claim as a legitimate sport over recent years.

"I think we're just at the tip of the iceberg," said Todd Kisicki, owner of KB Kornhole Games and a national director with the American Cornhole League (ACL).

It feels that way. Tournaments are now broadcast on ESPN, and a new audience came aboard in the summer of 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic forced major sports leagues to suspend their seasons.

Now the sport's top organizers have a loftier goal in mind: the Olympics.

Sport on the rise



Todd Kisicki, owner of KB Kornhole Games and a national director with the American Cornhole League, has worked to expand the sport of cornhole locally, nationally and internationally. (Photo courtesy of KB Kornhole Games)

While teaching at Arizona State University, Kisicki decided to start KB Kornhole Games, renting out cornhole boards to people. After running a fundraiser event, Kisicki realized that he really liked the business side of the sport.

Business took off when he began running events in the Valley as more people became interested in playing both recreationally and competitively. Needing to balance time between both jobs, Kisicki was forced to choose which path he wanted to pursue.

"We started (KB Kornhole Games) in 2015, and I was kind of doing it on the side when I was at ASU," said Kisicki, who in 2012 completed his Ph.D. in Educational Technology. "A year and a half in, it just got to a point where I couldn't devote all my energy to one or the other. I had to make a decision to see which one I was more passionate about. After 15 years in education, I decided to kind of take a chance on myself and go with cornhole."

Kisicki left his teaching position at the end of 2016 to focus on growing the sport of cornhole locally.

His role would eventually expand beyond Arizona.

With the ACL, Kisicki oversees hundreds of directors and organizes professional events for players around the country.

According to Kisicki, there are over 100,000 registered players in the ACL database, and there could be anywhere from 10,000 to 50,000 active players throughout the season.

The Phoenix and Arizona cornhole community is one of the largest in the country.

KB Kornhole Games held its state championships at Arizona360 Sports & Fitness Complex in Phoenix in 2018 and 2019 before moving to Harrah's Ak-Chin Hotel & Casino in 2021 after the 2020 event was canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Player turnout at the Arizona State Cornhole Championships has grown each summer, and more than 450 players competed in this year's event, making it the biggest one in the country by far.



State champion Doug Zafft says the cornhole community is very friendly and welcoming to fresh faces, and always willing to offer advice to new players. (Photo courtesy of KB Kornhole Games)

"It's been awesome," ACL pro and 2021 state champion Doug Zafft said. "I've been playing for 11 years competitively. I think back 10 years ago to what a tournament was, and it would just be in someone's yard. Once Todd got involved, we were hosting tournaments in (Ability360 Sports & Fitness Center) and filling this place up.

"It's great to see and just continue to grow and grow and get more players at all levels. It's been important to have the new base of players come in to get started, but there's a pathway for them to go all the way up to advanced and get to the pro ranks."

With increased participation and the challenge of finding venues big enough to hold events, Kisicki decided to work on opening up a cornhole-specific venue in the area, something he believes the sport will see more of as groups continue to grow.

Naturally, with a large sport comes an integral part of showcasing it to an audience: television.

ESPN began televising cornhole in 2017. Event coverage was watched by hundreds of thousands of people, earning a larger viewership than many other popular events.

Cornhole participation sees an uptick every time an event is broadcasted on national television, Kisicki said. It has reached a point where the inaugural events with a few dozen players, a "big deal" at the time, now seem miniscule compared to the hundreds – and sometimes even thousands – of people who show up to compete at some of the larger events across the nation.

Now, 256 professional players around the country are participating in a season with a whopping \$1 million prize pool.



American Cornhole League pro Kevin Nellis relishes the opportunity to play the sport he loves. Over the years, Nellis says, he has become a part of something bigger than a simple backyard game. (Photo courtesy of KB Kornhole Games)

"It's so exciting to be able to see this," ACL pro Kevin Nellis said. "When I started, the game wasn't even really doing that. I kept telling my friends that I'm getting to play at the advanced level, then, all of a sudden, it's not just the advanced level anymore, it's the chance to play on national TV for serious money and getting potentially paid to play a sport that we absolutely love playing. It's just fun."

In a strange turn of events, the pandemic turned out to be one of the best things for cornhole.

While many sports were forced to postpone their seasons, cornhole was able to work its way around it as a non-contact sport that is physically distanced.

As a result, the sport received a ton of airtime while other sports leagues were on hiatus, exposing audiences hungry for some sort of competitive action to the world of cornhole.

"I think it will continue to gain popularity," Zafft said. "The more it's on TV and seen consistently, I think more and more people will say, 'Wow, I can go play these tournaments nearby, maybe win some money, have some fun and meet some new people.' It's just going to continue drawing more people to the sport, and hopefully driving more and more bigger tournaments."

Now, Kisicki wants to pounce on the opportunity and maximize growth.

He recently hired a national director at ACL for high school development, focusing on getting cornhole into schools around the country. Additionally, USA Cornhole will be responsible for developing the sport at the youth level.

With continued growth, Kisicki and the rest of the cornhole community has one goal in mind: reaching the Olympics.

The 2020 Tokyo Games saw the debut of several sports, including skateboarding, surfing, karate and sport climbing.

Zafft was drawn in by the competitive aspect of cornhole because of his background as a former NCAA Division I swimmer at the University of Cincinnati and Olympic Trials qualifier. Now, he may one day find himself competing to qualify for the Olympics once again, this time in the sport of cornhole.

Hoping to have cornhole reach Olympic heights, Kisicki has worked in the international development of the sport, speaking with representatives from around 25-30 countries about the possibility of affiliating with the ACL and starting their own affiliate in their own countries.

"That's where we're striving," Kisicki said. "The CEO of the ACL is very invested in seeing that it gets to the Olympics, and that's part of my role with the international community: growing it and getting them to start their federations so that we can one day get it to the Olympic level."

The cornhole community

Many in the cornhole community got involved in the same way: playing in the backyard or at a bar with some friends.

The sport has developed a strong community over the years.

"To be able to see people meet and grow and get comfortable with each other and make new friends is pretty amazing," Kisicki said. "As human beings, we all want to feel part of a community. As you get older, once you get out of college, it's sometimes harder to make friends. Having that area where you can go or that activity that you can do with other people that enjoy doing it as well, that community part of it is a big thrill for me."

Nellis started playing the sport with some friends in the backyard at a Christmas party. One of his neighbors saw there was a local tournament being held, and they decided to compete in it.

Initially, Nellis showed up to events without his own set of bags, which was required to compete. As a result, he had to borrow bags from some of the locals before buying his own set once he "got more and more addicted" to the sport.

With a friend at his side, Nellis became entrenched in the world of cornhole.

"We just absolutely fell in love with it at that point," he said. "The people are what drew us to it (along with) the competitive nature. We both have lots of sports backgrounds, but being able to compete and not be sore the next day was a nice thing. That's when we started really getting serious about it."

The cornhole community does not only come together when events roll around. They are there for each other whenever and wherever necessary.

"After the first month, I felt like I was part of something bigger," Nellis said. "When it really hit home was when a few people had a tragedy happen in the family, and the cornhole community came together in days. Everybody from every side of town – from the east, west, down south in Tucson – they all came together as a community to help every individual person whether they knew them or not. Everybody is willing to pitch in on whatever level that they can, and that's when you really know that you're part of something a little bit bigger than just cornhole."

While participation has continued to reach impressive levels, the community is still a bit niche and has formed a space for those involved to come together regardless of skill level.



Jillian Willis posing after winning the women's singles event at the 2021 Arizona State Cornhole Championships. The 2021 female player of the year says the sport and its community is "like a big family." (Photo courtesy of KB Kornhole Games)

"It's like a big family," said Jillian Willis, 2021 state champion and female player of the year. "Everybody knows everybody. I actually see cornhole people more than I see my actual family. It's a great community. Everybody is very friendly and very welcoming to new players."

One fascinating aspect of cornhole is its wide age range among players.

While players mainly fall in the 25-49 age range, there are pros as young as 11 and some all the way up to their 70s and 80s, Kisicki said.

The sport crosses generations, and people are encouraged to get involved as early as they would like.

"It's a family thing," Willis said. "A lot of people think that we're always out at bars playing. A lot of times, we're at golf clubs, clubhouses and stuff like that. Almost all the tournaments have junior levels, and the kids can come play against the adults. It is a very family-oriented sport. Anybody can play."

New or younger players may feel a bit intimidated at these large events, but the community has always been supportive and welcoming of fresh faces no matter the issue.

"I try to offer any advice I can," Zafft said. "I don't try to keep any secrets of how I hold the bag or what I do to consistently get in the hole. I just try to be as friendly and helpful as I can to the cornhole community, and I think it is a great community if you talk to any player. The game itself is fun, but the community is an aspect that everybody enjoys. It's very friendly, we all get to know each other and travel together, and it's just a lot of fun."

Although it remains to be seen just how far the sport can go, cornhole has developed a strong community both locally and nationally, and they hope to continue to drive participation in the future.

"The people are the limit," Nellis said. "At the current rate we're going, it's going to be up there with anything else. People are hoping to get it to the Olympics. I don't think it's going to really get that far, but it's going to be a sport that everybody plays growing up. Hopefully, it becomes another major game like everything else."