

News & Events

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Topeka Performing Arts Center

Great Events. Lifetime Experiences.



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It Takes A Village Awards Gala

- -5:30PM Doors open
- -6:15PM Dinner
- -7:00PM Show

For ticketing info please contact It Takes A Village: 785-969-2100

SAT **20 JULY**



Joe Bonamassa: The "Blues Deluxe Tour" pays homage to Bonamassa's critically acclaimed albums. The setlist is poised to be an electrifying journey through Bonamassa's repertoire, featuring a mix of beloved fan favorites and deep tracks making their live debut, all performed alongside a band of world-class musicians.

THUR
8 AUG



KANSAS 50th Anniversary Tour

With a legendary career spanning five decades, KANSAS has firmly established itself as one of America's iconic classic rock bands. This "garage band" from Topeka released their debut album in 1974 after being discovered by Wally Gold, who worked for Don Kirshner, and have gone on to sell more than 30 million albums worldwide

THUR
3 OCT
FRI
4 OCT







Front Row: Carter Tappan, Jonas Buford, Alaina Barry, Lillian Krohe, Emily Patton Back Row: Elaina Sinclair, Victoria "Happi" Rodriguez, Addison Resch, Miriam Smith, Brady Clark

This past May, TPAC was honored to recognize 10 high school juniors with a scholarship for their post high school education. Each student completed an application and submitted a video along with a nominator letter. The submissions are reviewed by a panel of judges. This year's judges were: Julie Pentz from Kansas State University, Tracy Routsong from Washburn University, Ye Wang from Washburn University and Broadway performer and TPAC Super Fan, Jeff Kready.

Security Benefit was the sponsor for this year's Young Artists Awards Scholarships.



A Brief History of TPAC (part one)

The land on which the Topeka Performing Arts Center stands was originally the site of a Victorian home, the first in the city with electric lights. Owned by Colonel George W. Veale, the building hosted guests such as President Ulysses S. Grant, as well as several governors and senators from Kansas.

In the late 1800s, the land was acquired by the city, the home demolished, and a two-story auditorium, fire station, and office building was opened in September 1900. Three decades later, a town hall and additional city offices were added to the north side of the building.

On May 12, 1940, the Municipal Auditorium was dedicated and the following day the city held a parade to celebrate the occasion. The first touring act to perform in the auditorium was Paul Whiteman and his orchestra.

The multi-purpose facility hosted basketball games, circuses, trade shows, and Broadway touring companies. Its stage was graced by Count Basie, Imogene Coca, Nat King Cole, Elvis Presley, and Fred Waring, among many others.

In addition to its role in arts and entertainment, the building has been utilized as an emergency disaster relief center during both the 1951 Topeka Flood and the devastating tornado that struck the city on June 8, 1966. Town meetings, political speeches, and gubernatorial inaugurations have also taken place in the auditorium.

In 1977, seven women from Kansas formed Mariachi Estrella de Topeka to share the music, traditions, and culture of Mexico with our community. In the male-dominated world of mariachi, these pioneering women were among the first groups of their kind in the U.S. A tribute statue and plaque commemorating their work and achievements stands on the west side of TPAC's property, near a large oak tree.

In our next newsletter, we will continue our two-part history with the closing of the Municipal Auditorium and its revitalization as TPAC.

