



kind. generous. brave.

Theater is not a commodity; it is a relationship.  
Theater belongs to everyone.  
Theater is an invitation to fellowship without fear.  
Theater is a space of revelation, discovery, and transformation.

These are the driving principles behind The Orbit Initiative. By participating in our satellite adventures and/or the large-scale production of *The Tempest* this past year, each community participant, cast member, and cameo group demonstrated that the creation of art is everyone's right and that when we do that collectively, the result can be life changing.

To have more than 200 Tulsans on stage in costumes singing, dancing and acting together, regardless of obstacles that limited their past involvement, was truly remarkable. Discovering and affirming each person's strengths is one of the many ways we can foster community engagement. By inviting everyone to the table to create, we think we made our art better, our institution better, and our city better. The Tulsa Performing Arts Center was designed and built to be "Everyone's Place" and because of The Orbit Initiative, it continues to be just that.  
Thank you, Tulsa, for an incredible first year.

But we are just getting started.  
Join me as we continue onward and upward and #intoorbit!

**Jeremy Stevens**  
Community Outreach & Development Coordinator  
Program Director, The Orbit Initiative



"This PAC Trust-sponsored program in my opinion **exceeded its goal** to provide free arts education and performance opportunities to communities without access to the arts. I imagine many cast members' **lives were changed** on several levels by this experience."

-Glenda Silvey  
Tulsa PAC Trustee

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
ABOUT THE ORBIT INITIATIVE, CONTACT:  
Jeremy Stevens  
Community Outreach & Development Coordinator  
918.596.7119  
jstevens@tulsapac.com



TULSA  
PERFORMING  
ARTS  
CENTER  
TRUST



**orbit**  
INITIATIVE  
A PUBLIC WORKS AFFILIATE

Theatre by,  
of, and for  
**ALL** people





collaboration  
creation  
ART  
strong  
transform  
participatory

The ORBIT INITIATIVE is an educational endeavor by the Tulsa Performing Arts Center Trust that strives to reach beyond downtown to work with community partners citywide to provide theatrical education to anyone interested, ages 4-84, free of charge, and located within their community. The goal is to provide collaboration and fellowship for all of Tulsa's communities through entertainment, education and performance that reflects Tulsa's own unique diversity. Strong community partnerships are the bedrock of ORBIT. Reaching out to those community members who feel the theater is out of their reach or is an elitist organization is the primary objective. Our approach is founded on a 180-degree transformational experience of theater of, by and for the people of Tulsa. The disciplines included in this project are acting, dance/movement, singing/vocal technique, visual art, and stage tech, with master class opportunities in vocal auditions, playwriting/poetry and puppetry. Getting the word out to every school, classroom, and student will take some effort from not just the Tulsa Performing Arts Center and Trust, but also local schools, recreation centers and community partners. These community partners provide the space for classes and workshops to take place. We invite members of diverse communities to participate in workshops, take classes, attend performances, and, most important, to join in the creation of ambitious works of participatory theatre and help bridge communities together accentuating our similarities and diversity as motivation and strength as our city takes center stage. The ORBIT INITIATIVE is animated by the idea that theater is a place of possibility where the boundaries that separate us from each other in the rest of life can fall away. In essence, it is inviting the whole city to celebrate themselves.



# BY THE NUMBERS

(FIRST YEAR OF PROGRAM)

103 Total participants in Orbit Adventures

9 Communities served

14 Meals Served

16 Local restaurants/nonprofits donating food

156 Hours of instruction

45 Hours of rehearsal and performance for Tempest 2019

108 Total principal cast hours

1,688 Attendance for Tempest 2019

8 States from which tickets were purchased for Tempest 2019 (Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas, Arkansas, Alabama, Mississippi, Missouri, New York)



"The Orbit acting classes were **life-changing!** I really enjoyed being able to learn new acting skills right in the midst of my North Tulsa community."  
-Michelle Cullom

# HOW it WORKS

The Orbit Initiative invites a stunning diversity of people to participate in workshops and classes, to attend performances, and to join in the creation of ambitious works of participatory theatre.

**CLASSES**  
Communities participate in "Adventures," or classes ranging from acting and improv to spoken word, poetry to playwriting, and musical theatre to Shakespeare, as well as dance/movement classes, visual art classes and stage tech classes.

**CONVERSATION**  
Together, we attend plays, discussions and social events to deepen our connections.

**COLLABORATION**  
Once a year, we all come together to create a large-scale production that puts our city center stage at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center.

