

About Us

Ghostlight Educational Theatre Collective is an educational theatre company in the southwestern suburbs of Chicago. We began our company as an LLC with the mission of teaching children to participate in and love the theatre arts. We run a K-3rd grade, a 4th-8th grade, and a high school/college program year-round and each produce a fully-realized musical at the end of each session (typically in January, May, and July).



The mission at Ghostlight Educational Theatre is to inspire, nurture, challenge, amaze, educate and empower artists and audiences in order to make our public a more conscious and compassionate community. Our primary objectives within our nonprofit are to provide scholarship opportunities, and teach vocational / theatrical trade skills.

We have always said that our focus is making theatre accessible for all regardless of race, gender, identity, disability, or socioeconomic status. We believe theatre should be a means by which students grow as individuals by examining their sense of self and the world in which they live. Within this mission, we hope to provide students with the skills and training to be successful artists and leading members in the community.

After launching as an LLC, we quickly realized that some students in our area are interested in accessing theatrical programs like ours but do not have the means to pay the tuition to enroll in our programming. We are not prepared to allow finances to prevent a student from participating in the arts so we feel very passionately about opening a non-profit arm of our operations that will allow for generous donors to contribute to a fund to allow us to offer scholarships to the less-privileged. The other companies in our area who do similar work do not have a non-profit portion of their company to allow for scholarships like this to be offered. We want to be that safe haven for students who need some financial support in accessing programs to foster their love of the arts.

In addition, Ghostlight ETC is hoping to expand our repertoire to provide programs, free of charge or at a reduced cost, that cover a wide range of vocational skills. Classes covering skills such as sound engineering, lighting design, theatrical rigging, set construction, and stage management are very rarely offered to students in our area. These more tactile and

technical skills are a fantastic way for students to connect with every aspect of a production. We hope that by teaching these skills, we give students the tools to make a career in the arts a possibility in the future.

Our Team

Ghostlight ETC was founded by a team of five creatives who have worked together for many years to produce educational theatre. The non-profit will also be directed by these five individuals to continue to develop our programming.

Michaele "Micki" Doherty- Micki has been a children's musical theatre director for 23 years and is Ghostlight's Artistic Director/ Vice President

Alex "Baha" Bahaveolos- Alex has been working as a teacher and children's music director for 10 years. Alex also owns his own vocal lessons studio. Alex is Ghostlight's Music Director/Secretary

Colleen Gibbons- Colleen has been working in technical theatre for the last 18 years while also teaching American Sign Language and special education to high schoolers. Colleen is Ghostlight's Production Manager/Vice President

William Hunter Evans- Hunter has been teaching and managing theatre programming in area high schools for 18 years. Hunter is Ghostlight's Technical Director/ Treasurer.

Carolina Menapace- Carolina has been a theatre and dance photographer/videographer for 5 years and is Ghostlight's Producer/ President

Our Program

Our programming is all centered around the southwestern suburbs of Chicago. Currently, we are renovating our new rehearsal space in Downers Grove, IL. This space will serve as both a rehearsal space and performance venue for Ghostlight productions.

Currently, the Downers Grove community is void of a theatre company like ours. While there are companies similar to ours in Hinsdale and Western Springs, Ghostlight is serving a community that is in need of this sort of programming. Alex, one of our founders, grew

up doing theatre in the Downers Grove area and often speaks to just how much Ghostlight would have changed the lives of him and his friends had it been an option for students in the DG area.

Nonprofit Mission:

Ghostlight's mission sector plans on allowing scholarships and vocation-centered programming, we hope to allow students to gain experience and skill sets that they may not have had access to otherwise. The arts are for everyone, and by operating our nonprofit in a way that is aligned in our mission, we can provide artistic enrichment to members of our community from whom it may be missing.

The talent, stories, and voices in our community speak greater volumes than any one theatrical production. The art form of theatre offers a wealth of experiences that allow us to grow in our musicality, creativity, and discipline; among many other things. Over the span of our student's theatrical training, we hope that they can find a greater sense of self confidence and leadership. Our activity is meant to grant opportunities to youth in our community to be able to explore their voices, tell their stories, and foster their talents.