

March 31, 2021

Cecil Pruitt 14900 Bogle Drive Ste 204 Chantilly, VA 20151-1757

Dear Cecil:

Inventor Alexander Graham Bell said, "When one door closes, another opens." Your support last year through the Friends Society enabled the Van Wezel Foundation to move from in-person performances on the stage into the world of innovative virtual programming to reach tens of thousands more children than ever before. We are so grateful to you.

Please help continue this positive momentum by renewing your Friends Society contribution now. You will help increase the breadth of programming to address culturally diverse classrooms and the social and emotional well-being of children. The programs you fund build confidence and self-esteem, challenge and examine social perspectives, build relationships through artistic collaboration, foster imagination, and create empathy through storytelling.

We have made the difficult decision not to hold the Gala this year. For the first time in 20 years, our largest fundraiser is cancelled, so we need your support more than ever. We remain committed to providing meaningful connections to the arts to enhance education, give hope and inspire awe in this challenging time.

We can't do it without you. You are currently giving at the \$25,000 level. Will you renew your annual Friends Society contribution at the same level to help close the unexpected gap in funding that would normally be raised at the Gala?

While our reach has grown wider and our mission is being fulfilled in ways we had not predicted, we miss seeing you in the lounge and look forward to sharing the thrill of live performances in the future. Until then, thank you for making a difference when it matters most.

With gratitude,

Nancy Denton *J*Annual Giving Manager

all the difference durings ouch a difficult time.