UPAF Connect, presented by Northwestern Mutual, increases access to the performing arts for individuals in our community who may not otherwise be able to enjoy these life-enriching experiences. Because of generous donor support, UPAF’s Performing Arts Members offer performances and programming that bring the arts to neighborhoods and neighborhoods to the arts.

The performing arts have the power to enlighten, engage and bring people together. UPAF Connect was launched in 2016 to unite families and communities through the magic of the performing arts.

UPAF works with local nonprofits to connect exceptional performing arts experiences with those who may not otherwise have access to these cultural assets. UPAF strongly believes that everyone in the community should have the chance to embrace the magic of music, dance and theater.

UPAF partners with 24 local nonprofits to bring the performing arts to more than 3,000 youth and families annually through over 200 free events. UPAF’s performing arts Members offers dozens of options to connect new audiences to the arts in the way that best works for them.

UPAF Connect’s nonprofit partners may select from over 100 distinct workshops, classes and performance opportunities. A wide range of programming offers audiences the chance to engage with the full spectrum of music, dance, song and theater.

Programming is provided at no cost to program partners. UPAF provides economies of scale to program partners and UPAF Member Groups by serving as funder, convener and connector, reducing administrative burdens and costs for both.
Arts Experiences For All

Engaging New Audiences Through the Arts

UPAF Member Groups provide a wide variety of programming designed to support, engage and nurture the communities served by our nonprofit partners. Examples of programming include:

- Next Act **Public Speaking Workshops** for Life Navigators
- Danceworks **Hip-Hop workshops** for Sojourner Family Peace Center
- Boys and Girls Club attendance at Milwaukee Chamber Theatre’s production, *Where Did We Sit on the Bus?*
- Neighborhood House and Boys and Girls Club attendance at Black Art Milwaukee’s *Black Nativity* by Langston Hughes
- First Stage **Sensory Friendly Performances** for Variety the Children’s Charity
- **Music workshops** tailored for youth including Florentine Opera’s *Opera Inside Out* and Skylight Music Theatre’s *Skylight Songbook Tour*
- **Next Narratives Monologue Workshop** opportunities for teens by Milwaukee Repertory Theater
- Community performances of Milwaukee Ballet’s *Ballet Beat: Summer Outreach and Performances* at partner organizations including St. Ann’s Center for Intergenerational Care – Indaba Bandshell

2022-2023 Program Partners

- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Milwaukee
- Boys and Girls Clubs
- Cristo Rey Jesuit Academy
- Dominican Center
- Grand Avenue Club
- Havenwoods Economic Development Corporation
- La Casa de Esperanza
- Life Navigators
- Lighthouse Youth Center
- Meta House
- Neighborhood House
- Next Door
- PEARLS for Teen Girls
- Penfield Children’s Center & Penfield Montessori Academy
- Project Kindred
- Ronald McDonald House Charities
- Serenity Inns
- Silver Spring Neighborhood Center
- Sojourner Family Peace Center
- St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care
- St. Augustine Preparatory Academy
- St. Joan Antida High School
- United Community Center
- Variety the Children’s Charity

Opportunities to Designate to UPAF Connect

With a gift of $1,200 or more to the 2023 UPAF Community Campaign, you may choose to designate 10% of your gift to UPAF Connect. With a gift of $5,000 or more, you may designate 20% of your gift to UPAF Connect to support the arts in our community.