



2022 Annual Report

- Friends of the Ritz, Inc. (FOTR) presented Lightwire Theater on May 7th, 2022 and initiated a new local music series *Local at the Ritz* with live showcase performances by regional artists on May 12th and November 3rd, 2022.
- Friends of the Ritz, Inc. (FOTR) co-presented Katie Deal: Silver Belles Classic Country Christmas live performance with Main Street Toccoa on December 17th, 2022. This fundraising event generated almost \$800 for our organization.
- Partnered with the NE Georgia Mountains Chapter of the UGA Alumni Association to present a live UGA vs. Oregon game watch party at the Historic Ritz Theatre on September 3rd raising donations for both organizations.
- Raised over \$3,600 in cash and in-kind donations from the following businesses or organizations:
 - American Pest Control
 - First Citizens Bank
 - First Franklin Financial
 - Georgia Power
 - McClure, Ramsey, Dickerson & Escoe, LLP
 - TruVista
 - WNEG Radio
 - Plus a local business owner who wishes to remain anonymous
- Won the 2022 Toccoa-Stephens County Chamber of Commerce Tourism & Promotion Award.
- Increased 2022 dues-paying memberships to 159 members, a net increase of 56 members.
- Held four Board of Directors public meetings on January 25th, April 26th, July 26th and October 25th.
- Conducted the Annual Membership Meeting and 2022 Board of Directors elections on January 25th.
- Added four new Board Members. (Nathan Collins, Mark Elam, Shantelle Grant and Karon Miller)

- Secured a Georgia Presenters Block Booking grant from the Fox Theatre Institute to present comedian Karen Mills, which allowed FOTR to enter into a contract for her February 18th, 2023 performance.
- December 31, 2022 – \$8,833.35 cash on hand.
- President Gary Cortellino and President-elect Ron Matheson attended several Georgia Presenter meetings both in-person at the Fox Theatre in Atlanta and virtually, and board member Karon Miller attended the Georgia Presents Showcase in Columbus, GA.
- Established a \$65 Family Membership rate.
- Received numerous hours of support and assistance from the staff at Main Street Toccoa and Ritz Theatre General Manager Tami Mayhugh.
- Friends of the Ritz events received local media coverage on WNEG Radio and The Toccoa Record.

Proposed 2023 Goals:

- Formalize and execute a capital fundraising campaign for the Historic Ritz Theatre expansion project.
- Present four live performances in 2023.
- Actively seek additional corporate sponsorships.
- Increase total memberships to at least 175 members.