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AUSTIN OPERA

It's an experience.



Welcome to Opera Notes: Austin Opera's new eNewsletter, where Austin Opera fans get the latest company news, special invites, and insider information. Thanks for reading!

From General Director & CEO Annie Burrige



We are under construction! For the next several months Austin Opera will operate remotely as our new home undergoes its transformation into the Butler Performance Center. We've launched this new version of our newsletter to help us stay better connected during this exciting period of transition and change. Over the coming months there will be several opportunities to learn about our plans online and at events around the community, culminating with our 40th Birthday Celebration Concert at the Long Center in November. Once our new home and rehearsal facility open in 2026, we look forward to returning to fully-staged experiences at the Long Center while introducing you to additional operatic experiences at the Butler Performance Center. Read on to find out more!

Inside the Trade | Building Towards the Future

On May 9, 2025, the Austin Opera administrative staff officially began working remotely while the new **Butler Performance Center** undergoes construction.

5811 Trade Center Drive will be transformed from a well-appointed, bright, and expansive administrative office building into a state-of-the-art performance center complete with a 185-seat theater with deluxe retractable seating, four rehearsal studios, a costume shop, conference center, and outdoor reception area. Pro-bono General Contractors Liza Wimberely and Tina Barrett will oversee the retrofit, which includes construction on the theater, theater lobby, new bathrooms, rehearsal studios, and the costume shop. The work is scheduled to be completed in early 2026, with opening events planned for that spring.

The **Inspire 2030** movement will make this transformative project a reality, funding the purchase and retrofit construction through \$8.5 million in capital investments, all while bringing new audiences and donors to Austin Opera. To date, \$5 million in pledges and gifts have been secured to fund the project.

Find out more about how you can join the movement [online](#), and stay tuned for more updates through our eNewsletter.



Government Funding Updates

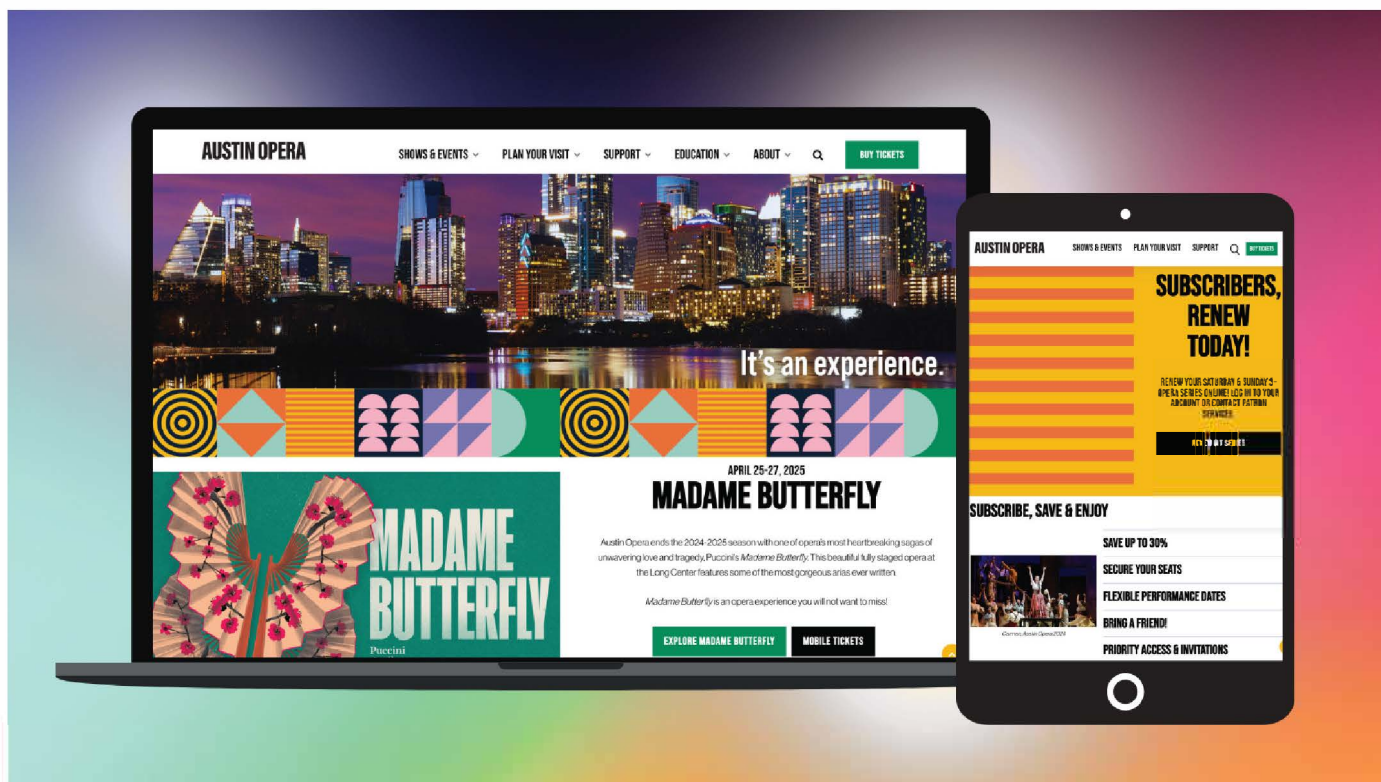
You have likely seen the recent headlines regarding the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). In May, hundreds of arts organizations received emails from the NEA withdrawing grants that had previously been awarded. This decision is part of a broader shift toward the potential elimination of the NEA entirely.

The elimination of federal funding for the arts, on top of the recent drastic reductions in city funding for major arts institutions, has a \$250,000 impact on Austin Opera's annual budget. If these trends continue, there will be devastating consequences for our arts community, resulting in fewer performances and fewer artists being employed.

Please consider taking action by calling your federal elected officials to voice your support for the NEA. You can find out who those individuals are [HERE](#). You can also sign up for state-wide arts advocacy alerts at [Texans for the Arts](#).

Your support of Austin Opera as donors, subscribers, and ticket buyers has been an integral part of our 40 years shaping the cultural landscape in Austin, fueling our ability to unite audiences for powerful storytelling and creative experiences. Thank you for your steadfast support!

AustinOpera.org Gets a Full “Glow-Up”



We're thrilled to share with you that Austin Opera has a new website with a fresh look! The user-friendly site was designed by Adage, an industry leader in performing arts websites, to match our new bold brand, communicate our vision and impact, and reflect the uniqueness of our vibrant city. Now you have a more streamlined way to find information about events, buy tickets, donate, read educational materials, and much more.

Explore the new beautiful [AustinOpera.org](https://austinopera.org) – It's an experience!

Austin Opera in the Community

Earlier this month, Austin Opera, in collaboration with the Consulate General of Mexico in Austin and Armstrong Community Music School, held a special **Children's Day – ¡Día del Niño!** event. Austin Opera Teaching Artists Cristina Flores and Monica Salas led a fully bilingual program introducing young participants to the world of opera, covering topics such as operatic voice types, musical languages, and orchestral instruments. A hands-on group activity gave students a chance to explore the many roles that bring opera to life, both on stage and behind the scenes.

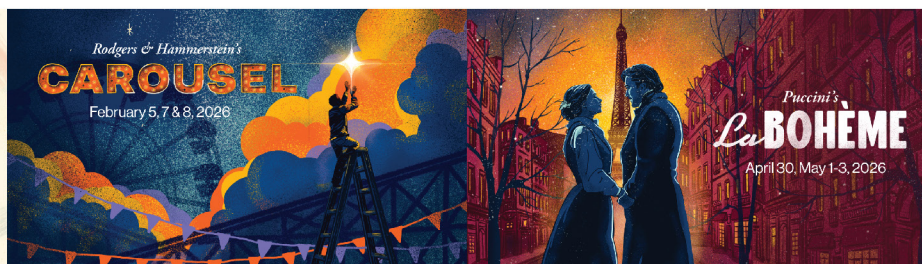
The event also featured a popular craft station, allowing families to create and connect in a relaxed, welcoming environment. Most importantly, we were honored to build meaningful connections with the consulate community through music and shared cultural experiences.

Join us for our next event on **Thursday, June 5, 2025**. You'll enjoy a free intimate concert of opera and beloved music by Latinx composers performed by San Antonio native bass-baritone Brandon Morales. The Consulate General of Mexico in Austin is located at 5202 E Ben White Blvd #150, Austin, TX 7874, just half a mile from Austin Opera's new building – come get to know our new neighborhood!

Reserve your **FREE** ticket



2025-2026 Long Center Season



Austin Opera is delighted to welcome you into our audience for a season of glorious music and powerful story-telling that will unite both newcomers & longtime opera lovers through unforgettable experiences.

With construction on our new rehearsal facility underway during 2025, we open with **Celebrate Opera! A Spectacular Birthday Concert** featuring iconic arias and ensembles from *Aida*, *Rigoletto*, and *Don Giovanni*, including “Nessun Dorma” from Puccini’s *Turandot*.

Making a company premiere is a touching story of the power of love and forgiveness, Rodgers & Hammerstein’s ***Carousel***. The new-to-Austin production features an

For both new and seasoned fans, we welcome back Rodolfo, Mimi, and the rest of the bohemians in one of opera's greatest love stories, Puccini's ***La Bohème***.

Secure your seats today with a 3-opera Package starting at just \$99. Want more flexibility? Opera fans can now Create Their Own 3-Opera Package! Mix your performance days to fit your schedule at the price that's right for you.

[Explore the 2025-2026 Season](#)

[Explore Ticket Packages](#)

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