

Million Dollar Milestones

- At the 11th Annual Joci Awards in April, Las Casas Foundation awarded a record breaking \$118,000 in scholarships, surpassing \$1 million in total scholarship giving since the inception of the Scholarship Program.
- An exceptionally competitive year, in addition to the 25 finalists who were selected, additional students were chosen to perform in celebration of awarding our millionth scholarship dollar. These eight “One In A Million” students received \$1,000 scholarships.
- Four students were selected for the Production Assistant Internship Program. These students shadowed the Blanchard Creative Group and served as assistant stage managers during tech week and the final performance. These students also received \$1,000 scholarships.
- The 11th Annual Joci Awards was attended by over 650 people, a 10% increase over 2018.
- In addition to the scholarships awarded, two students (Katie Bulen of Taft High School and Jackson Hager of Reagan High School) were selected to represent the region at the National High School Musical Theatre Awards. They, along with perennial chaperone Ana Flores, spent a week at NYU working with Broadway professionals before performing on stage of the Minskoff Theatre on June 24.
- In order to select these two students, staff and adjudicators attended 21 productions from October 2018 through February 2019. The number of productions remained consistent with the prior year, but new schools included Geneva School of Boerne, Harlan High School (NISD) and Edison High School (SAISD).
- For the first time, the top three musicals were recognized for their exceptional productions. \$500 grants were presented to Taft High School for its production of *The Drowsy Chaperone*, Reagan High School for its production of *Hello, Dolly!*, and Brennan High School for its production of *Into the Woods*. Reagan was awarded the top honor, and Paul Fillingim, Reagan’s Theatre Director, was rewarded with a trip to New York City to attend the National High School Musical Theatre Awards.
- Adjudication for the 2019-2020 season is already underway. Staff and adjudicators will attend a total of 24 productions all over Bexar County and as far as Harlingen, TX.

Hamilton Mania

- On May 16, over 200 guests gathered at the Sheraton Gunter Hotel for cocktails and dinner before proceeding to the Majestic Theatre for a performance of *Hamilton*.
- One of Las Casas’ most successful galas, net proceeds from the event total over \$240,000.
- 16 students, all Joci Awards alumni, performed during the cocktail hour and thanked guests for their commitment to the performing arts in San Antonio. The students were able to see the performance and given a tour of the set by the production’s Resident Director Tiffany Nicole Greene.
- In addition to the Gala, through the Courtesy Ticket Sales program, Las Casas filled nearly 500 seats throughout the rest of the show’s run (thanks in large part to outreach conducted by our board members). Additionally, through a partnership with Bohanan’s, over \$500 was raised with their special “Hamilton’s Post” cocktail.

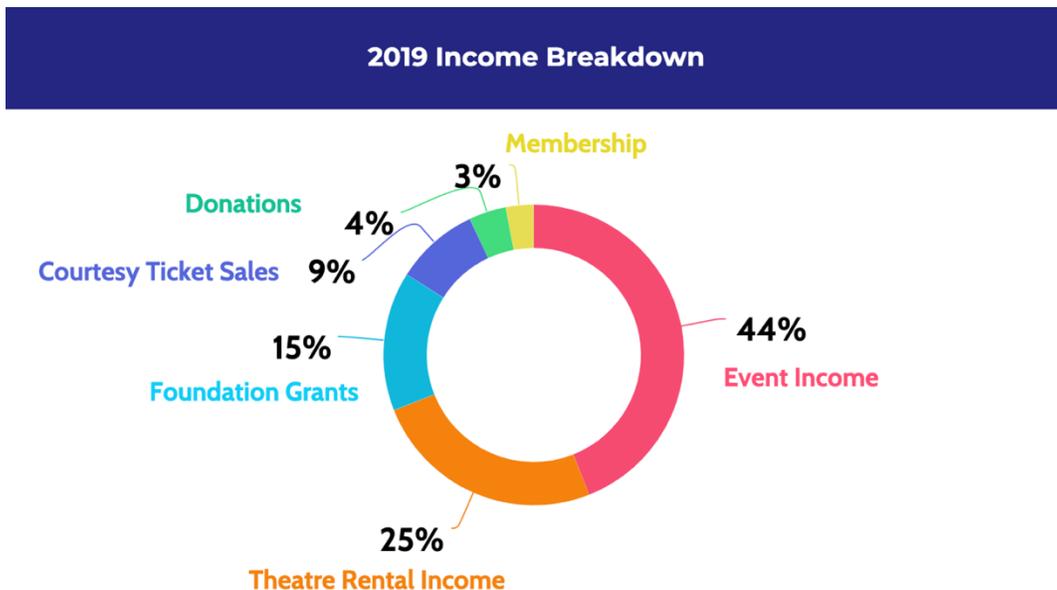
- This year's San Antonio Book Festival Luncheon was a talk with author Ron Chernow who wrote the best-selling biography of Alexander Hamilton. Las Casas Foundation partnered with the Book Festival in order to promote the Joci Awards and the Hamilton Gala: four Joci Awards alumni performed a *Hamilton* medley to introduce Ron Chernow.
- To help San Antonio better understand the history behind the musical, Las Casas hosted a free event in partnership with Trinity University's History and Political Science departments. Dr. Hal Bidlack, a historical interpreter and American History expert, gave a talk as Alexander Hamilton and answered questions from the audience about Hamilton's life.
- In partnership with the San Antonio Riverwalk Association, he also represented Las Casas at the annual Armed Forces River Parade.

Programs and Partnerships

- In February, Las Casas and Ambassador Theatre Group co-hosted a dinner for the City of San Antonio and the delegation from San Antonio's new Sister City, Darmstadt, Germany. In celebration of this new relationship, and in partnership with the City of San Antonio, a 15-year-old student from Darmstadt attended Camp Broadway on full scholarship.
- He was joined by about 40 students aged 9-17 who spent a week in the Charline McCombs Empire Theatre putting together a production of *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang Jr.* which was performed at the end of the week for friends and family.
- In March, Las Casas conducted its first "teach the teacher" master class. NYU Steinhardt's Assistant Director of Music Theatre Ryan Driscoll conducted a free class on how teachers can best prepare their students for the college audition process. Approximately 50 teachers, parents, and students were in attendance.
- Through a partnership with NYU, two San Antonio students (Faith Bulen of Taft High School and Jonathan Reyes of North East School of the Arts) were able to attend NYU Steinhardt's Summer Study in Music Theatre program on full scholarship. These students were selected from Las Casas' scholarship program, and they spent two weeks in New York City taking dance, music, and acting classes at NYU and attending a number of Broadway productions.
- The 2019-2020 Behind the Scenes program began in September. The 40 students selected to participate have already taken a backstage tour of the Majestic and Empire Theatres, seen *Dreamgirls* at the Woodlawn Theatre, observed load-in for *Les Miserables* and spoke to the production's stage manager at the Majestic Theatre, and they took master classes with cast members from *Les Miserables* and *Cats*.
- Through a new partnership with the Public Theatre of San Antonio, Las Casas is offering master classes with the cast for all of the Broadway Across America productions this season. Behind the Scenes students will be able to attend all of these master classes at no cost.

Strengthened Numbers

- The Foundation is poised to finish the year strong, with staff making progress in diversifying income streams for greater sustainability. Since 2017, Membership Income has increased by 2%, Courtesy Ticket Sales by 4%, and Foundation Grants by 9%.



- Approximately 90% of funds are used on programs, with 10% designated for administration and fundraising.
- Las Casas' office has successfully completed a number of technological updates, all of which are more budget-friendly and will increase productivity. Updates include state-of-the-art web-based phones that pair with staff cell phones for ease of communication during travel, a new external hard drive which will simplify document sharing among staff and allow us to digitize archival records from the restoration, and a migration to Rackspace's email servers.
- At the start of this scholarship season, Las Casas launched the application on a new software that allows applicants to save an application in progress and call a dedicated technical support team if they need assistance.