For more than 100 years, the Rialto Center for the Arts at Georgia State University has been a vital thread in the cultural fabric of a vibrant downtown Atlanta. Once the largest movie theater in the Southeast, the first Rialto opened in 1916, evolving from a vaudeville house to what it is today: a world-class performing arts center dedicated to enriching audiences of all ages and backgrounds. Through every boom and decline in downtown Atlanta, the Rialto has remained a place where people gather to experience the arts.

For the past two decades, the Rialto has played an important role for Georgia State. Bringing people from all walks of life together from across the world to enjoy the arts, the Rialto also provides Georgia State students with opportunities to gain experience, perform in a professional setting and study with master artists from a variety of creative disciplines.

Georgia State is driving downtown Atlanta’s dynamic transformation, and the Rialto is poised to strengthen its position as a crossroads for the cultural community. Offering a rich mix of artistic and educational programming, the Rialto serves a distinctive cultural niche. It’s truly “Where Atlanta Meets the World.”

Our Next Century Starts Now

The arts matter. Through them, people experience their common humanity in profound and moving ways. Each year, more than 60,000 people come together to share the Rialto’s stellar performances and events. We aim to entertain diverse audiences by presenting arts programming that is both exceptional and unexpected while cultivating influential community partnerships.

An investment in the Rialto’s future will help ensure a more connected arts community in downtown Atlanta and provide the city with the thriving, historic performing arts venue it needs to maintain its prominence and appeal as a premier city. Now in its second century, the Rialto aims to heighten its impact by enhancing its performing arts portfolio, extending its education outreach, and upgrading its technology and infrastructure.
Enhancing Our Performing Arts Portfolio

The Rialto stage is home to emerging talent, newly commissioned works and artists from different backgrounds often collaborating for the first time. Audiences are captivated by the unique and unusual combinations we bring together, such as a collaborative performance between Red Baraat, a South Asian brass band, and New Orleans legends The Dirty Dozen Brass Band. As the Rialto blends traditions like these on stage, audience members embark on a path of greater cultural understanding and become a part of the unique community that is the Rialto Center for the Arts.

Through your generous support, we can enhance our arts and educational programming to:

• Maintain and expand the Rialto Series, which features the best of national and international jazz, world music and dance, and broaden its international focus.

• Commission original pieces by renowned artists, bringing national and international attention to the Rialto and Georgia State.

• Broaden connections between Rialto visual and performing arts presentations.

These programming enhancements will enhance the university’s appeal among prospective students and also benefit Georgia State students by offering them additional opportunities to take master classes with visiting artists.
Broadening Our Education Outreach

With increased funds, the Rialto will continue to build its educational outreach to high-need public school students in underserved communities. Our programming transforms classrooms into interactive stages for dance, music and other creative disciplines and gives students the opportunity to engage with artists.

With your support, the Rialto can broaden our education outreach to:

- Establish an endowment to secure the future of Rialto Jazz for Kids, a unique, year-round, curriculum-based jazz education program for marginalized students in public middle schools. Through Rialto Jazz for Kids, students take lessons and learn jazz history and culture from professional musicians.

- Increase programming budgets for workshops and master classes with the Rialto’s visiting artists and performers, and Rialto2Go, which takes the arts into Atlanta elementary, middle and high schools.

- Expand initiatives such as Feed Your Senses, a free lunch-and-learn series at the Rialto where artists perform for public school children, senior center residents, people with disabilities, downtown workers and the university community; and the Visual Arts Series, which showcases Georgia-based artists in the Rialto’s lobby gallery.

- Provide more discounted and free tickets for Georgia State students and Title I school students and families, and increase funding for student performances.

Upgrading Our Technology and Infrastructure

While recognized as a premier performing arts venue, the Rialto also has a storied history as a movie theater. Offering more film screenings will showcase our facilities as a coveted arts and events venue among the region’s film and television production community and enable us to expand our blend of program offerings.

Downtown Atlanta does not have a theater equipped to show film and media-ready video. With facility alterations and technology additions, the Rialto will be fitted to function as a state-of-the-art venue for film and media screenings. Increased funding will allow the Rialto to:

- Make infrastructure improvements to build advanced screening accommodations.

- Enhance the Rialto’s reputation as a premier performing arts venue with upgrades to audio, lighting and other equipment.

- Present itself as an exceptional arts and special event venue.

With increased funding through the Burning Bright Campaign, the Rialto will bring the arts to more audiences, more classrooms and more neighborhoods, transforming even more lives.

Contact

Suzy Blough
Director of Development
404-413-9821
sblough@gsu.edu
rialto.gsu.edu