

SOUTH
BEND
CIVIC
THEATRE

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Kris Arizmendi Choinacky
Executive Director
South Bend Alumni Association

I am writing to recommend Jack M. Champagne for the 2023 Class of the South Bend Hall of Fame. As Executive Director of the South Bend Civic Theatre (CIVIC), I have known Jack for over four years. During that time, I have been impressed with his commitment to the arts and his community. In addition to his support of the CIVIC, I've witnessed his dedication to the South Bend Alumni Association, the South Bend Symphony Orchestra, and Mishawaka Troop Town. He has a heart for South Bend that goes beyond philanthropy; he roots for everyone trying to make this city a better place to live, work, and play.

Jack, as he prefers to be called, was instrumental in the completion of the CIVIC's Orchestra Loft capital upgrade. His unsolicited generosity allowed the project to resume after the financial uncertainty of COVID made us hit the brakes. Over three years, Jack donated over \$160,000 to this single project, 40% of its total cost. But it was more than his financial resources that brought the project back to life: it was his encouragement. He called me one evening in the middle of the lockdown and gave me reassurance, kind and uplifting words in an incredibly dark time for me and the CIVIC. Jack is a mentor and friend who sows kindness and encouragement wherever he goes. That's his superpower.

After nearly six years in my role at the CIVIC, I'm familiar with many philanthropic families, organizations, and individuals here in South Bend. Jack M. Champagne is in a class of his own. He epitomizes what it means to be a civic cheerleader. As a CIVIC Board member, he offers organizational guidance, personal mentorship, and humor whenever needed. He demonstrates a passion for South Bend in all he does. He deserves to be in the South Bend Hall of Fame. Thanks for your consideration.

Yours in the arts,



Aaron Nichols
Executive Director
South Bend Civic Theatre