



CITY OF KETTERING
PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL ARTS DEPARTMENT

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Vicki Scuri Siteworks, Schantz, 2020,
commissioned through the CitySites Public Art Program

14 FT 6 IN



MISSION

We are here to provide quality parks, recreation and cultural arts that make Kettering home.

VISION

We envision an exceptional and engaging parks, recreation and cultural arts department that improves the quality of life for everyone in our community.

Don Patterson, Mayor
Don.Patterson@ketteringoh.org 937.545.0008

Tony Klepacz, Vice Mayor, District 3
Tony.Klepacz@ketteringoh.org 937.435.9830

Jacqueline Fisher, At Large
Jacque.Fisher@ketteringoh.org 937.232.1637

Bill Lautar, At Large
Bill.Lautar@ketteringoh.org 937.689.2205

Robert Scott, District 1
Rob.Scott@ketteringoh.org 937.776.2315

Joseph D. Wanamaker, District 2
Joe.Wanamaker@ketteringoh.org 937.296.1712

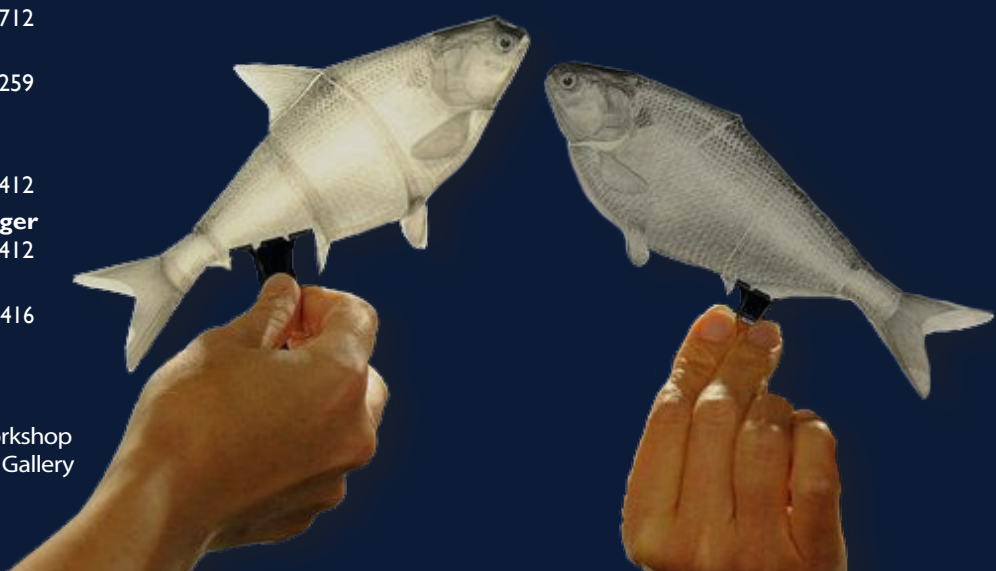
Bruce E. Duke, District 4
Bruce.Duke@ketteringoh.org 937.299.2259

Mark Schwieterman, City Manager
Mark.Schwieterman@ketteringoh.org . . 937.296.2412

Steven Bergstresser, Assistant City Manager
Steven.Bergstresser@ketteringoh.org . . 937.296.2412

Council Office
KetteringMayorCouncil@ketteringoh.org . . 937.296.2416

Ghost fish created in a virtual workshop with Lori Kella for her Rosewood Gallery exhibition *Erie: Lost and Found*



DIRECTOR'S LETTER



2020 has been one of the most unprecedented years in decades. In March, COVID-19 changed the trajectory of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department operations severely. A hiring freeze was mandated for all city departments in April. In addition 200 plus staff were laid off or furloughed and all indoor facilities were closed through the end of May. Once certain facilities began to reopen in Mid-May, strict state mandates were rolled out, creating an abundance of uncertainty which altered operations, minimized the department staffing model, and financially crippled the Department's typical robust revenue streams. PRCA did not open Adventure Reef, canceled summer camps and Frazee Pavilion went dark for the first time in 29 years. Although our Parks were open, we minimized group activities by taking down basketball hoops, volleyball nets and restricting shelter reservations in all of our parks.

Many of our decisions were counterintuitive to any type of typical customer service decisions we would make, mostly guided by the public health protocols. Regardless of the protocols, the city and the department made the right decisions to keep our customers and employees safe and healthy as we moved through the many months living with COVID-19. The Department did the right things at the right time for the right reasons, and we did prevail.

Despite the pandemic, the Department did achieve many successes in 2020. The Cultural Arts Division lead by Shayna McConville, saw several projects end and begin. The Rosewood Art Center renovation project moved forward with the anticipation of construction beginning in mid-2021. The Schantz Avenue Bridge Public Art project was the first of its kind for Kettering. Through a collaborative effort between Engineering (John Sliemers) and Cultural Arts (Shayna McConville,) the city's first bridge art project came to fruition. The art project was a result of great team work and is an incredible example of enhancing Kettering infrastructure through the arts.

In the Parks Division the mandated hiring freeze reduced the weekly manpower for parks maintenance by 900 hours. However, the Parks team truly rose to the occasion, even with limited resources. Although typical levels of service could not be implemented, the Parks Division triumphed. In collaboration with the Recreation Division, Parks were able to open the JFK Park Splash Pad. The mandated protocols limited the number of participants in the space at a time, but our now famous Recreation "crowd counters" ensured a safe environment for kids and families to enjoy some water relief this summer.

During the spring shutdown, the Recreation Division team stepped up to assist the Kettering Schools with food distribution to the underserved kids and families in Kettering. Through the collaborative efforts between the schools, PRCA and the Backpack program the Recreation masked up team helped deliver meals to thousands of children at 5 different school sites. Through another collaborative effort between Parks, Cultural Arts and Recreation the team created a Welcome Back video, which explained all of the safety precautions the Department put in place to keep our PRCA spaces, places and programs safe for participation. Collaboration was the theme for our team in 2020 and in December despite the Mayor Tree Lighting canceled, Recreation, Park, and Cultural Arts created a 45 minute pre-event countdown that aired right before the virtual Tree Lighting event with 1,400 kids and adults participating from the comfort of their own home.

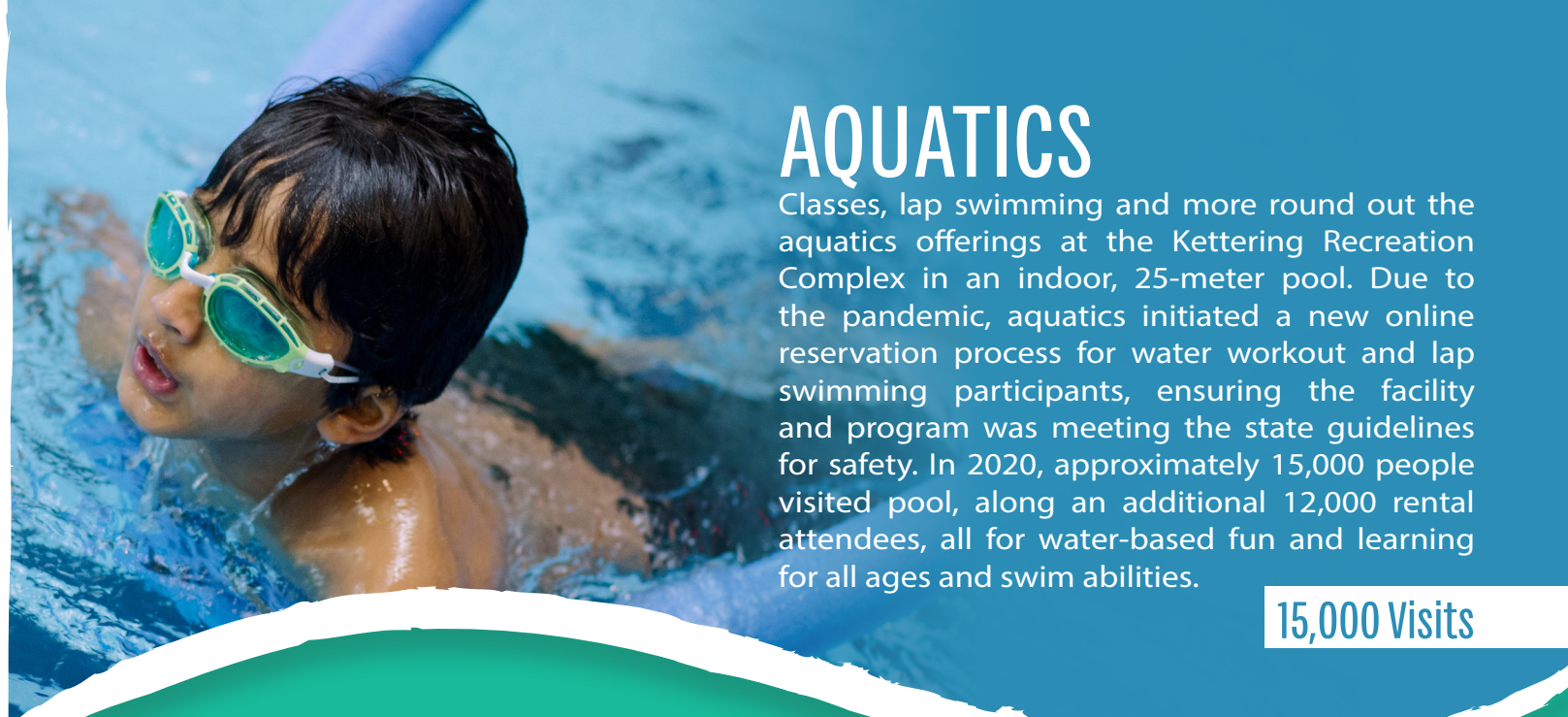
2020 was a year like no other; nevertheless, the PRCA Team demonstrated their service hearts and passion for delivering the best parks recreation and cultural arts services to our residents. Like you, I am looking forward to returning to some normalcy, and as we anticipate our new life after Covid-19. The 2020 Annual Report will reveal the "service hearts" and passion the PRCA Team demonstrates every day regardless of this year's circumstances.

May Beth O'Dell



YEAR IN REVIEW

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts is committed to offering safe, fun and enriching activities and spaces to Kettering residents. In March, when COVID-19 began to make an impact on our community, all of us here in Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts were challenged to be flexible, patient and creative to adapt to the ever-changing landscape. With our number-one goal in mind of keeping everyone safe, we had to pivot towards a new way to offer our programs and facilities. Although challenging, 2020 was still a year of successes, as we continued to positively impact our community's wellness. Here are some of those highlights!



AQUATICS

Classes, lap swimming and more round out the aquatics offerings at the Kettering Recreation Complex in an indoor, 25-meter pool. Due to the pandemic, aquatics initiated a new online reservation process for water workout and lap swimming participants, ensuring the facility and program was meeting the state guidelines for safety. In 2020, approximately 15,000 people visited pool, along an additional 12,000 rental attendees, all for water-based fun and learning for all ages and swim abilities.

15,000 Visits

ARTS EDUCATION

Arts education is the core of Rosewood Arts Centre, with hundreds of class offerings in ceramics, dance, theatre, music, the humanities, photography, painting, printmaking, drawing, jewelry, glass and more. During the spring season, Rosewood Arts Centre staff created a robust collection of Art From Home projects in partnership with the Dayton Daily News, including a homemade kite, a zoetrope and many more activities. Almost 200 in-person and virtual classes were offered, all taking place with modifications for participant safety and for a high quality experience.

Over 1,000 visits for drop-in studio use





ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

The environmental education program includes the Land Lab Nature Program with the Kettering City Schools and classes and workshops at the Habitat Environmental Education Center. Reduced class sizes and social-distancing rules were in place, and programs like Archery Basics for kids continued to be popular, with over 300 participants in programs throughout 2020.

Over 300 Participants

PARKS

The 21 parks owned and maintained by our Parks division brought great opportunity for outdoor recreation to the Kettering community. During the COVID-19 shut-down, the Parks team continued their work as essential workers, maintaining over 350 acres of safe public spaces. In addition, the Parks team continued to focus on accessibility, by adding new adaptable play features to the Van Buren Park playground through support from the Community Foundation for Kettering, as well as going the extra mile to ensure that Lincoln Park Civic Commons was beautifully decorated for the holiday season!

Parks staff spent 24,986 man-hours maintaining the City's public spaces

Parks planted, removed, pruned and conducted maintenance on 517 trees within public facilities, medians and parks



ICE ARENA

The Kettering Ice Arena is home to a nationally recognized Skating Lesson Program with offerings for any age, skill level and ability. Over 1,600 people enrolled in classes in 2020, with over 9,000 people visiting for open skate and rentals.

Over 9,000 Visits

Over 1,600 People Enrolled

SPORTS

It was a busy year for sports, with leagues in the summer and fall. Over 1,300 participants enrolled in sports programs offered at the Kettering Recreation Complex, and activities like the Senior Golf League at Community Golf Course kept many residents outside and active.

Over 1,300 Participants



FITNESS AND WELLNESS

Our indoor facilities at the Kettering Recreation Complex (KRC) and Kettering Fitness and Wellness Center (KFWC) ran smoothly in compliance with safety guidelines, with over 100,000 visits in 2020. Fitness also was the recipient of a generous gift from the estate of Larry Tracy, a longtime Kettering Recreation Complex passholder, which enabled the fitness center at the KRC to receive new cardio equipment including 5 treadmills, 2 recumbent bikes, an upright bike and a power mill. The fitness team also began offering select virtual group exercise classes to make sure patrons were able to stay connected to us during the pandemic, with over 300 patrons joining online in the first month.

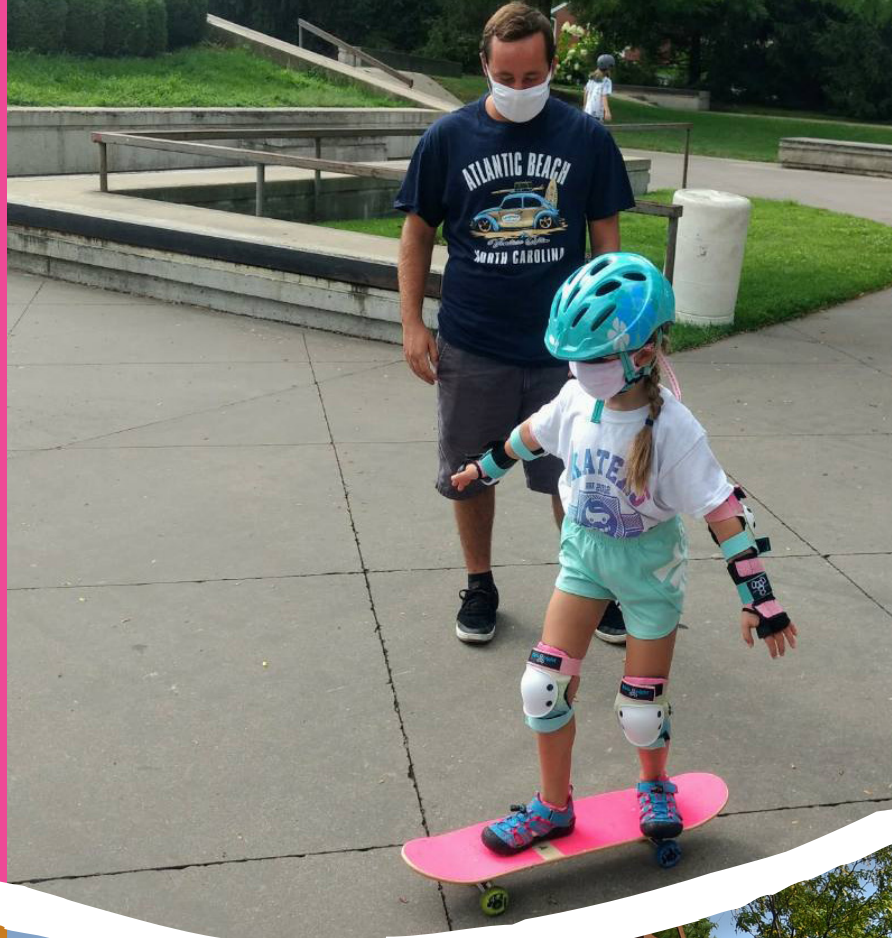
Over 100,000 Visits

RECREATION

The Recreation team offered programs for adults, youth and families, with over 9,000 visits in the Charles Lathram Center, and over 1,000 program enrollments. Special new programs included the 1 Day, Free Play initiative, designed to allow kids to try a program free of charge, including skateboarding, bowling, ice skating and judo.

Over 9,000 CIL Member Visits

Over 1,000 Program Enrollments



PUBLIC ART

Public art is a part of the CitySites percent for art program, aiming to recognize artistic excellence, accessibility to the arts for all people, and the positive impact creativity has on our community and quality of life in the City of Kettering. In the summer of 2020, the Schantz Avenue Bridge over South Dixie Highway was completed, with the artwork designed by Vicki Scuri SiteWorks installed. The demolition of another bridge—the Ridgeway Road bridge—also began with ongoing conversations in preparation for the artwork component created by Cliff Garten Studios to take place in 2021.



ROSEWOOD GALLERY

Kettering's professional exhibition space, Rosewood Gallery, featured regional and national artists in a wide range of media. Due to the pandemic, Rosewood Gallery went virtual as well, with four exhibitions housed online in addition to in-person exhibitions. Over 1,000 people attended the exhibitions in person, with several hundred participating in the online exhibitions for the annual The View Juried Landscape Competition, HWD invitational Sculpture Exhibition, Lori Kella, Erie: Lost and Found, and Erin Holscher Almazan and Kate Snow. Gallery patron Jim McCoy sponsored artist awards through the Joan W. McCoy Artist Memorial Fund, and FotoFocus made the Lori Kella exhibition possible.

Over 1,000 Visits



SPECIAL EVENTS

Due to the pandemic, many of the special events organized by PRCA were either canceled or reimaged. Here are some of the highlights from a most unusual year!

- The annual Mayor's Tree Lighting was hosted as a virtual program due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and included performances by Fairmont High School musicians, fun activities from Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts, and a Christmas story read by the Mayor.
- Other noteworthy events included Middle School Madness on Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend, the Flashlight Candy Cane Hunt at Polen Farm, disc golf tournaments at our Kettering Recreation Complex course and A to Zumba a special day of free classes, giveaways and guest speakers in partnership with Kettering Health Network.
- The 32nd annual Art on the Commons Fine Arts Festival became a four-day, virtual event featuring children's art activities, featured festival artists, live artist interviews, a raku firing, and a special partnership with WYSO 91.3 to share the music created during the pandemic by local musicians.

Over 16,000 Web Page Views for the virtual Art on the Commons



ACCESSIBILITY, INCLUSION AND OPPORTUNITY

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts and the City of Kettering are committed to accessibility, inclusion and finding opportunity to reach our Kettering residents. PRCA works closely with the City of Kettering's Inclusion and Compliance Manager to educate the staff on working with all individuals, including offering program modifications as requested by patrons with disabilities. Over the next several years, our goals include reaching new participants who may not be aware of our inclusivity mission, and advocate for accessibility within our programs and facilities.

In 2020, PRCA offered the following initiatives:

- Led by the Kettering Recreation team, The Kettering Giving Tree program served 512 school-aged children in 2020 (an increase of almost 100 more youth from 2019). Around the winter holidays each year, school counselors work with families in need to generate a small list of needs and wants. Those lists are turned into tags which decorate various trees at sites throughout Kettering. Community members can take a tag, purchase gifts, and help to provide a wonderful holiday to children in our community.
- The CIL transportation program continued to provide services to our senior population, even during the closure and facility shutdown—the only senior transportation service in the region that did not close. We provided transportation to medical appointments, shopping, banks and pharmacies. In total for 2020, we served 2,096 riders for a total of 17,413 miles.
- 15 PRCA staff members volunteered over 300 hours with the Kettering Backpack Program to distribute food to students during the spring and early summer months.
- The PRCA team and volunteers continued to work with AARP to provide free tax services to seniors. Almost 1,000 appointments made in the first 24 hours it opened, with over 3,000+ appointments hosted.
- A special internship through the Kettering Medical College (KMC) Occupational Therapy Doctoral program brought candidate Lauren Conine to the Kettering Recreation Complex in the early months of 2020 to audit services and ensure best accessibility practices were taking place for programs, lessons and events.



AWARDS

The PRCA team celebrated several recognitions in 2020:

- Including being designated a Tree City USA community for the 38th consecutive year. The Parks division, through the City of Kettering, received the Growth award for the first time since 2000.
- Dayton Magazine Best of Dayton awards went to the Kettering Recreation Complex fitness center and The Frazee Pavilion.
- The Ohio Parks and Recreation Association named the special internship with Kettering Medical College and the Kettering Recreation Complex a 1st Place Award for Management Innovation.

SUPPORT

January 1 – December 31, 2020

PRCA is thankful to the many individuals, foundations, corporations and community partners that make programs possible.

Program Sponsorship and Partners

- | | |
|--|---|
| 91.3 WYSO | Kettering Health Network |
| Area Agency on Aging | Miami Valley Communications Council |
| Brookdale Kettering | Miracle Ear |
| City of Kettering Board of Community Relations | Montgomery County Health Department |
| City of Kettering Police Department | Oak Creek Terrace |
| Dayton Daily News | Partners for Healthy Youth |
| Dayton Metro Library | ProMedica |
| Eudora Brewing | Town and Country Shopping Center |
| Heartland Hospice | Village at the Green |
| Heartland of Kettering | Visual AIDS |
| Kettering Backpack Program | Washington-Centerville Public Libraries |
| Kettering City Schools | Woodlawn Cemetery |

Foundations

- Community Fund for Kettering
- The Dayton Foundation
- The Estate of Larry Tracy
- Jill and Brent Bamberger Fund
- Joan W. McCoy Art Memorial Fund
- Kettering Parks Foundation
- Leonardt Foundation
- Meyer Memorial Endowment
- Thomas Schiff Foundation

State Agencies

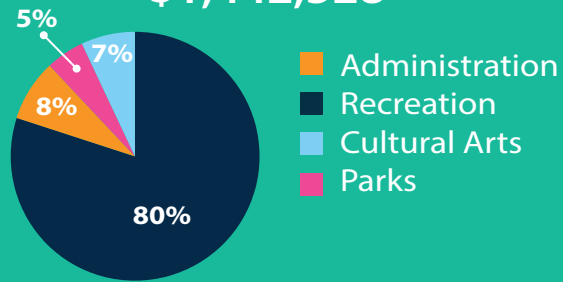
- The Ohio Arts Council
- The Ohio Facilities Construction Commission



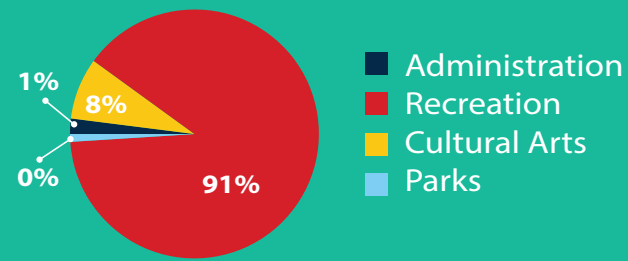
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

PRCA capital improvement projects (CIP) were mostly put on hold in 2020, with the exception of the Rosewood Art Center renovation. The phased project begins construction in 2021 with completion projected in 2023, and a total project cost of \$4.3 million, with support from the Cultural Facilities Fund administered by the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission.

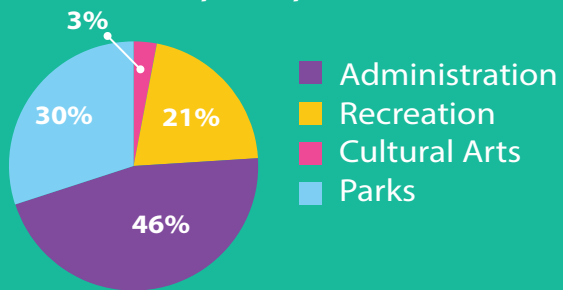
2020 TOTAL INCOME \$1,442,528



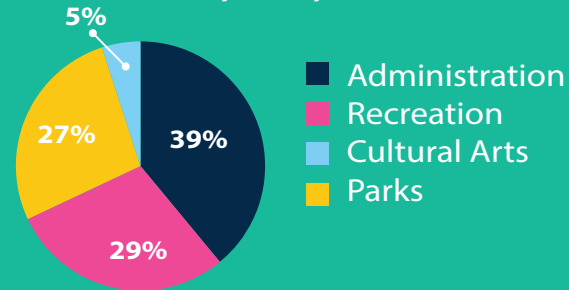
2020 BUDGET INCOME \$3,748,000



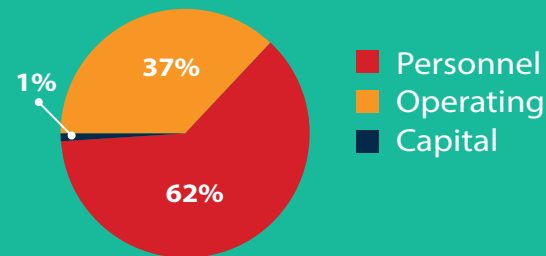
2020 TOTAL EXPENSE \$8,695,373



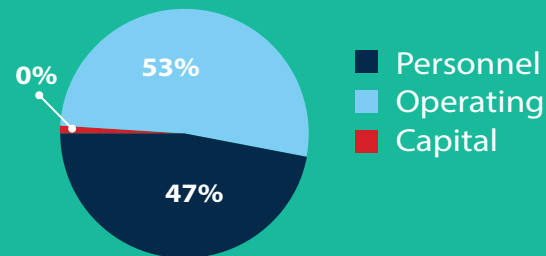
2020 BUDGET EXPENSE \$11,685,200



BREAKDOWN OF PRCA EXPENSES



BREAKDOWN OF FRAZE EXPENSES



MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

The PlayKettering Refresh campaign was launched in April 2020 in response to COVID-19 mandated facility closures with a focus on safe recreation options and soft messaging focused on limiting the spread of COVID-19 in our parks. Our focus on mental and physical wellbeing included several initiatives such as Art From Home, virtual gallery exhibitions, activities to do in the parks, a kids' Pandemic Journal, fitness videos, and a PlayKettering virtual puzzle page.

In 2020, Playkettering.org had over a 15% increase from 2019 in unique homepage views

Facebook, Twitter and Instagram collectively had over 13% new followers in 2020

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts is committed to providing high quality experiences to our residents. Several advisory committees comprised of dozens of volunteers work closely with PRCA staff on programs, special projects and much more!

Art in Public Places

Gerald Busch, Susan Byrnes, Connie Campbell, Stefan Chinov, Tess Cortés (Incoming Chair), Meghan Dillon, Bruce Duke, Matt Dunn, Pete Horan, Linda Lombard (Outgoing Chair), Michael Roediger, Terry Welker, Shayna V. McConville (PRCA Staff)

Kettering Arts Council

Laura Arber (Vice President), Susan Bennett, Sue Ellen Boesch, Christian Davell, Meghan Dillon (Secretary/Treasurer), Elom Dossa, Sandra Doninger, Gine Elliott, Pat Higgins (President), Tracy McElfresh, Thom Meyer, Pene Miller, Terry Schalnat, Meghan Thomas, Shane Weber, Shayna V. McConville (PRCA Staff)

Lathrem Senior Advisory Board

Karen Schmitt (Chair), Edna Vanderkarr (Vice Chair), Gail Carone (Secretary), Jan Crosby, John Schmitt, Lisa Fields. PRCA Staff: Jennifer Giessler, Drew Corbett, Chris George, Vickie Carraher

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Advisory Board

Laura Arber (Chair), Jamie Jarosik, Carrie Kihn, Rob Leonard, Shane Sullivan

Partners for Healthy Youth

Kari Basson (Chair), Angela Brown, Jonelle Carroll, Drew Corbett, Rick Earley, Troy Erbes, Dan Von Handorf, Olivia Johnson, Jennifer Kane (Vice Chair), Matt Kesner, Bill Lautar, Shauna Lewallen, Tracey Nissen, Mary Beth O'Dell, Lee Sanders, Addie Weaver, Andrea White, Lindsey Whitley, Shannon Wright

Program Advisory Committee

Laura Arber, Rebecca Anderson, Amy Bellar, Danielle Barthelemy, William Cavanaugh, Jonelle Carroll, Sarah Conard, Debi Cope, Alex Duvall, Regine Elliott, Joan Fisher-Hatton, Carol Glass, Jennifer Guanciale, Timothy Hall, Barbara Hecht, Jay Heitz, Alexis Ignatiou, Jamie Jarosik, Carrie Kihn, Beverly Knapp, Rob Leonard, Kyndall Ostermann, Joe Russo, Edward Sevillano, Shane Sullivan, Meghan Thomas, Parker Tsocheff

OUR TEAM

2020 Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Leadership

Mary Beth O'Dell, Director
Lindsey Whitley, Secretary
Claudine Bennett, Marketing and Communications Manager (through January 2020)
Ryan Davis, Administration and Special Projects Superintendent (Through June 2020)
Shauna Lewallen, Recreation Superintendent
Shayna V. McConville, Division Manager of Cultural Arts
Gary Schussler, Parks Superintendent
Rachel Sherwood, Frazee Pavilion Operations Manager

2020 Program and Facility Lead Staff

Beth Brubaker, Polen Farm Coordinator
Matt Byrd, Parks Manager
Drew Corbett, Recreation Manager
Lindsey Curry, Fitness and Wellness Supervisor
Andy Dailey, Cultural Arts Program Supervisor
Christopher George, KRC/CIL Facility Manager
Tara Barnhart, Frazee Facility Coordinator
Jennifer Giessler, KRC/CIL Senior & Adult Program Supervisor
Becky Grushon, Aquatics Supervisor
Tony Habart, Ice Arena Manager
Caitlin Hayes, Business Services Coordinator
Jake Hensel, Sports Supervisor
Kerri Miles, Environmental Education Supervisor
Barry Sanders, Parks Manager
Sara Thomas, Communications Coordinator
Addie Weaver, KRC/CIL Program and Event Supervisor
Claire Zook, Rosewood Operations Coordinator
Breck Jordan, Frazee Ticket Office and Merchandise Manager





Administrative Office

3600 Shroyer Road
Kettering, OH 45429
(937) 296-2454

Fraze Pavilion

695 Lincoln Park Blvd
Kettering, OH 45429
(937) 296-3300

Habitat Environmental Education Center

3036 Bellflower Street
Kettering, OH 45429
(937) 296-2477

Kettering Fitness & Wellness Center

3351 Shroyer Road
Kettering, OH 45429
(937) 293-4348

Kettering Recreation Complex

2900 Glengarry Drive
Kettering, OH 45420
(937) 296-2587

Rosewood Arts Centre

2655 Olson Drive
Kettering, OH 45420
(937) 296-0294

Parks Maintenance

3170 Valleywood Drive
Kettering, OH 45429
(937) 296-2486

www.ketteringoh.org

 [@Kettering_OH](https://twitter.com/Kettering_OH)

 [City of Kettering, Ohio – Government](https://www.facebook.com/CityofKettering)

