

Q&A



ALLISON STOCKEL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF GLAZER HALL, SAT DOWN WITH OUR DIRECTOR OF MARKETING TO SHARE HER VISION FOR THE VENUE AND WHAT AUDIENCES CAN EXPECT FROM ITS INAUGURAL SEASON.

GLAZER HALL: What inspired you to take on this role at this moment in your life?

Allison Stockel: I led the team at The Ridgefield Playhouse in Connecticut for over 20 years, then took some time off to focus on other boards and nonprofits I was involved with. After a three-year hiatus, I realized that the arts are – and have always been – my true passion. The idea of opening up a new venue was very exciting. I knew it would be a lot of hard work, but working with the Glazers has been an incredible experience and I have fallen in love with Palm Beach and the area.

GH: GLAZER HALL is opening on one of the most storied sites in Palm Beach, the former Royal Poinciana Playhouse. What does it mean to you to help write this next chapter?

AS: While my primary focus has been on creating an exceptional venue that will showcase every facet of the performing arts, I've also come to deeply appreciate the historical significance of what we're doing. Watching the building take shape and retaining so many of its classical elements has been a powerful reminder of its legacy. Conversations with longtime residents who share fond memories of attending performances at the Playhouse have been especially meaningful. Their stories reinforce just how much this space means to the community and inspire me to ensure its next chapter is just as remarkable.

GH: As Executive Director, you're shaping the artistic vision from the ground up. What can audiences look forward to in GLAZER HALL's inaugural season?

AS: I'm shaping the vision, but it's truly a collaborative effort, and I'm working very closely with founders Jill and Avie, particularly in this first season. There are so many moving parts and we're all working together, which is amazing. I think people will be thrilled to see that the programming will include family shows, movies, speakers, music, and comedy – truly something for everyone. We'll be announcing the first part of the season to members in the next few weeks, so now is the perfect time to purchase a membership so you can enjoy early access to both information and ticket purchases before they open to the public. Experiencing performances of this caliber in an intimate, 400-seat setting will be something truly special.

GH: With such an intimate, versatile space and a breathtaking setting on the Intracoastal Waterway, how do you envision GLAZER HALL serving not only as a performance venue but as a gathering place for the community?

AS: The venue offers a variety of spaces, not just the main theater, but also the scenic Waterview Terrace and the more intimate Waterview Room on the second floor – perfect for speakers, lunches, dinners, and similar gatherings. We anticipate these spaces will host many wonderful community events and serve as a true gathering place where people can come together, connect, and celebrate the arts.

GH: Is there a performer or production on your personal bucket list that you dream of bringing to GLAZER HALL (and do you think it might happen)?

AS: There are many! But we are really going after some big names that you wouldn't expect to see in a small venue like this, as well as some up-and-coming artists – so it will run the gamut.

GH: How can people support GLAZER HALL?

AS: There are many ways to get involved with the theater, whether it's becoming a member, naming a seat in your own name or in honor or memory of someone, sponsoring a show or series, or even volunteering. Our goal is to be a warm and welcoming place, where everyone can come together to enjoy Palm Beach and the arts.

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We extend our deepest gratitude to Howard and Wendy Cox, who were among GLAZER HALL's earliest and most visionary supporters. In recognition of their generosity, our box office will proudly bear their name: The Howard and Wendy Cox Box Office. Patrons will be able to walk in and purchase their tickets at the exact spot where the original box office once stood.

"Wendy and Howard's generous gift to the Cox Science Center inspired Avie and me to create Glazer Hall. Their unwavering commitment to Palm Beach is something we deeply admire. Having them involved in Glazer Hall is not only meaningful to us personally – it strengthens the very foundation of what we're building." – Jill Glazer

Great care was taken to preserve the spirit of the original design. The proportions of the lobby and box office remain intact, with molding profiles, trim, and door details carefully recreated to reflect the Playhouse's historic character.

"We are so pleased to support Glazer Hall! John Volk's forward-feeling architecture was anchored in the cool past. Glazer Hall's programming similarly will present the arts we love with a fresh look grounded in our shared past." – Wendy Cox

Longtime champions of philanthropy, the Cox family's enduring legacy includes the Cox Science Center and Aquarium, and we are honored to be part of their continued commitment to enriching the cultural and educational fabric of our community.