



Rotary
Little Rock



Rotary Club 99: Tuesday, August 8, 2023

A New Hub of Music Education: The Groundbreaking of Arkansas Symphony Orchestra's Stella Boyle Smith Music Center



Club 99 will get a sneak peek to the city's newest cultural addition on Tuesday - two days before the groundbreaking of the new Stella Boyle Smith Music Center in the heart of Little Rock's East Village.

The new center will function as a welcoming hub of musical activity for all Arkansans and will greatly expand ASO's capacity to serve Arkansas children and adults through outstanding programming and engagement opportunities. In addition to the recitals, concerts and rehearsals that will take place, the center will also include a broadcast/recording studio, multiple practice spaces, music classrooms, climate-controlled instrument storage and additional flexible space to serve generations of Arkansans.

ASO has successfully raised \$11 million to date to fund the new center. The original \$9 million estimated project cost has grown due to significant changes in inflation, interest rates and construction expenses since the campaign was publicly announced in January 2022.

Nate Coulter, Executive Director of the Central Arkansas Library System, will moderate a discussion on the new Stella Boyle Smith Music Center with ASO Executive Director Christina Littlejohn, ASO Music Director Geoff Robson and WER Principal/Architect Benjamin Gregory.

Christina Littlejohn, a cellist as well as orchestra executive, joined ASO in 2009 as Executive Director and has successfully led the arts organization for the past 14 years. She had previously grown symphony programs in Mobile, Ala., Miami and Pensacola, Fla. Littlejohn earned her M.A. in Arts Administration at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music and MBA from the University of Cincinnati Carl H. Lindner College of Business. She studied Executive Business and Leadership through Harvard Business School, Stanford and University of Michigan through leadership programs of National Arts Strategies and earned her undergraduate degree from Furman University in her hometown of Greenville, S.C.

Named winner of the 2017 Respighi Prize in Conducting by the Chamber Orchestra of New York, **Geoff Robson** has emerged as a force of artistic leadership throughout the United States and the state of Arkansas. He was recently named ASO's next Music Director after a four-year nationwide search. Prior to his recent appointment, Robson's tenure as ASO's Artistic Director and Principal Conductor was a significant success. His dynamic leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in national

and statewide visibility for the organization. The orchestra's Bedtime with Bach online concert series received nationwide acclaim and was featured by The Washington Post and The Kelly Clarkson Show.

During his tenure with ASO, Robson has conducted critically acclaimed and sold-out masterworks, pops, chamber and educational concerts throughout the state. His innovative programming has brought new audiences into the hall and made them feel welcome, and has inspired and energized the orchestra. Robson envisions his new role in the community as a connector, bringing the community closer together and making it more inclusive.

In addition to his rigorous Arkansas Symphony Orchestra schedule during the 2023-2024 season, Robson will be guest conducting the Greenville (South Carolina) Symphony Orchestra and the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra, with other guest appearances to be announced soon. An active violinist, Robson is an avid chamber musician and regularly collaborates with musicians across the country. He also serves as Artistic Director of the Faulkner Chamber Music Festival. In this role, he curates a summer concert series and serves as director of the chamber music camp for students.

Ben Gregory, AIA, is a principal at WER Architects and is the project architect for the new Arkansas Symphony Orchestra Education Building. Since joining WER in 2018, he has worked on significant projects across the state ranging from corporate campus design to higher education. Notable projects include the Northeast Rice Research and Extension Center for the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, the Windgate Center for Three-Dimensional Arts at Arkansas State University and the new Delta Dental of Arkansas corporate campus in Sherwood. Gregory holds a Bachelor of Science in Architecture from the University of Maryland and a Master of Architecture from the University of Virginia where he was a William R. Kenan Fellow at the School of Architecture. A strong interest in woodworking, a keen sense of economy and efficiency in design and a sensitivity to the intersections of the constructed and natural environments all influence his approach to the practice of architecture.

Zoom Login for August 8, 2023

Topic: RCLR Weekly Meeting

Time: Aug 8, 2023 11:30 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84041106314?pwd=WVE4bUtBcXlJN1JyaEhsdjREMEprZz09>

Meeting ID: 840 4110 6314

Passcode: 439934

One tap mobile

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This Week at Club 99

Summer Internships: Making It a Win-Win for You and Them

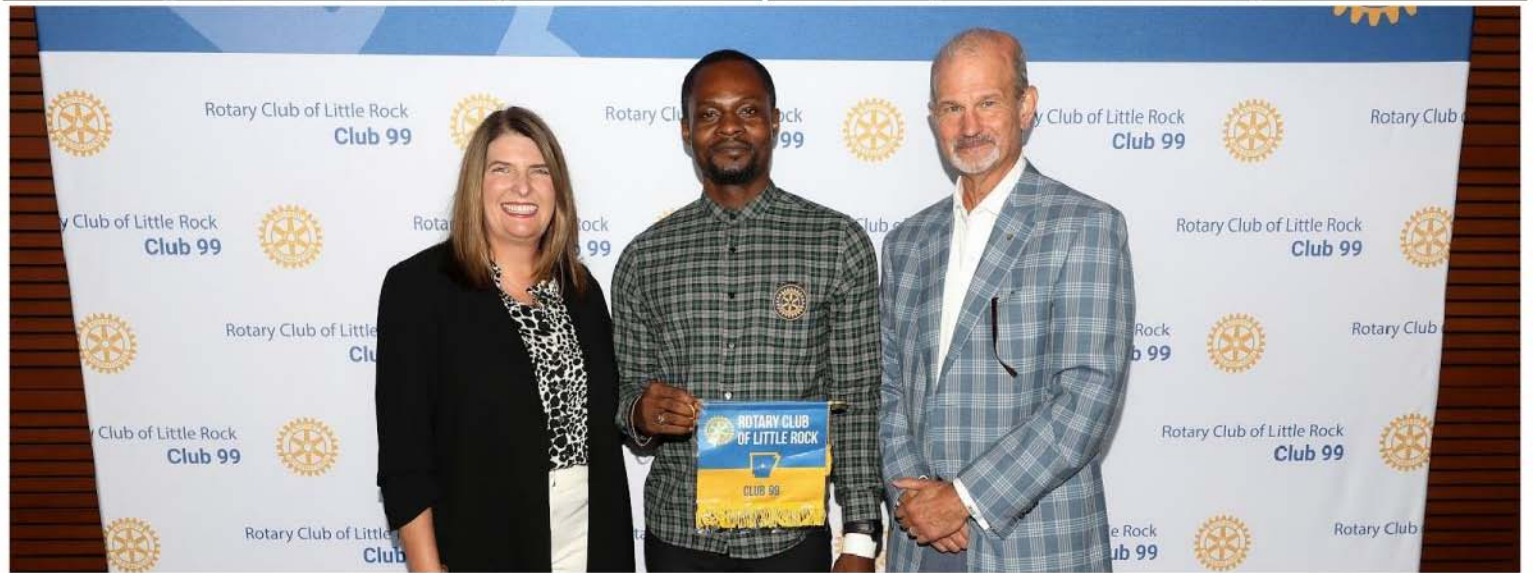


Thank you to the many Club 99ers who brought their summer interns to this week's meeting to hear from a panel of local businesses who have created outstanding internship programs. **Mimi San Pedro** of **The Venture Center** moderated a lively discussion with industry professionals at Stephens Inc., Rose Law Firm and Stone Ward on how to get the most out of your summer interns while giving them the practical, hands-on experience that helps prepare them for their post-college careers.

Club 99ers heard from **Steven Ransdell**, vice president and training coordinator with **Stephens Inc.**; **Nicole Gore**, attorney at **Rose Law Firm's** Little Rock office; **Matthew Stewart**, marketing analyst at **Stone Ward**; and **Peyton Ellis**, copywriter (and former intern) at Stone Ward. The panel shared best practices on creating successful internship programs that not only teach and inspire students, but also create a pipeline of high-quality future employees. Watch a video of the full meeting [here](#).

Members Caught Having Fun at This Week's Meeting





The 5th Test: Is It Fun?

President Ghidotti's Power of Fun Tip of the Week

Did you know there is a National Institute for Play? Dr. Stuart Brown is its founder and the world's foremost expert on play and its benefits to our health - namely the brain.

Through years of research, Dr. Brown has determined that play (aka TRUE FUN) is a necessity in brain development and engagement. In much of his research, he has found that people who continue to play games, and to explore and learn (both of which are forms of play) throughout life, are not only much less prone to dementia and neurological conditions, but are also less likely to get heart disease and other afflictions that seem like they have nothing to do with the brain.

Here are some of the things that have been scientifically proven to lower our risk of disease and lengthen our lives.

- Not being chronically anxious and stressed (which fun can counteract)
- Feeling confident
- Being able to find humor in life
- Laughing
- Having strong social ties
- Being part of a community
- Spending time in nature
- Being physically active
- Feeling focused, engaged and present
- Feeling purposeful
- Feeling a sense of control

Stuart Brown says play is essential to a good life and also reflects our core, authentic self. In fact, he says ... life without play is a life without books, without movies, art, music, jokes, dramatic stories. A world without play means no flirting, no daydreaming, no comedy, no irony.

I don't know about you, but that sounds pretty awful. Your challenge this week is to figure out at least one playful thing you can do this week - preferably on repeat!

Who's Having Fun This Week?

Each week we will feature a member and what they do for fun! Check out **Alisha Curtis** and her tales of galas, country music awards and her personalized champagne saber [here!](#)

Information: Committee, Service and Social Events

Ottenheimer International Scholars Program: August 12 - September 2

Our two students from Germany will be here before we know it! We are looking for Rotarians who are willing to house our students for a couple of nights and/or entertain them and show off all the great things about our beloved state. Robert Quack and Florian Ketterl will be here from Aug. 12 - Sept. 2, and we want to ensure they have an amazing Arkansas experience!

If you are interested in helping host our students, you can sign-up [here](#) or reach out to T. Martin Davis at tmartind@swbell.net.

Kicking Off a Great School Year with Dunbar Magnet Middle School

Help us ensure the students at Dunbar Middle get off to a great start this year! Two fun service opportunities.

Stuff Backpacks: Monday, Aug. 7, 3-5 p.m., Dunbar Magnet

We need volunteers to help stuff 400 backpacks full of supplies. In partnership with Eat My Catfish - which is putting up collection boxes at all of their Central Arkansas locations - we are gathering supplies to fill a backpack for each student at Dunbar! We need all hands on deck to fill these packs full of goodies!

[link to sign up]

Back-to-School Bash: Thursday, Aug. 10, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Dunbar Magnet

We are hosting a Back-to-School Bash to welcome all the Dunbar students and families back to a new school year. We'll hand out the backpacks, plus serve dinner that night to families and faculty. Help us support our Dunbar community on this exciting and FUN night!

[link to sign up]

Don't Miss Club 99's First Social of the Year!

It's Happy Hour time with your favorite Rotarians! Join us after the Dunbar Magnet "stuffing party" for drinks and networking at Lost Forty on Monday, Aug. 7 from 5-7 p.m.. Please don't get this confused with a recent email from the District about a separate event the following night (at the same place).

Club 99 will be socializing on Monday, so join us for some fun to kickstart your week!

[link to sign up]

Service Above Self

The Service Committee is hard at work planning our first big weekend outing. Stay tuned for more information soon. And if you have an idea or passion you want to share with the Service Committee, please contact Chairman Dan Parker at dparker6600@sbcglobal.net.

Upcoming Programs

August 2023

8 Groundbreaking of the new Arkansas Symphony Orchestra Music Center with Executive Director Christina Littlejohn and Artistic Director Geoffrey Robson

15 Growth of Arkansas Distilleries with Matt Bell (Origami Sake), Phil Brandon (Rocktown Distillery) and Harvey Williams (Delta Dirt Distillery)

22 Artificial Intelligence in Education with Principal Nancy Rousseau of Central High School and Head of School Steve Straessle of Catholic High School for Boys

29 Ottenheimer International Scholars Program Participant Panel

2023-2024 Club Leadership



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