

Dear Theater Camp Parent,

Thank you for taking the time to contact me and Mayor Berns with your concerns regarding the Theater Camp. I understand your disappointment and desire to have the camp reinstated. Unfortunately, that is not possible. To clarify matters, the City of Beachwood is not canceling the Beachwood Community Theater program in its entirety. The 2022 theater camp is canceled and nothing else. We will return with great programming in 2023.

I want you to understand that I love theater!!! I have been a Playhouse Square Broadway Series season passholder for many years. I have seen hundreds of musicals and plays. I was the Twinsburg Community Theater Administrative Coordinator for 10+ years. I absolutely appreciate the importance of theater in our community, and I realize how theater can bolster kids' self-esteem and self-confidence. Furthermore, I have seen how theater develops critical thinking, encourages cooperation and teamwork, and problem-solving skills. That is why I am confident and excited for the return of the Beachwood Community Theater in 2023.

Unfortunately, a lot of misinformation is being spread on social media and email. Theater camp does have decreased enrollment and staffing is at an all-time low. We have dealt with some administrative issues as well.

The organization of any camp is essential. We impress upon all of our camp directors the importance of timely planning, meeting deadlines and maintaining clear communication. I did not feel confident that this was occurring.

We thoughtfully discussed what we could do to accommodate the children who were already enrolled in our Theater Camp, and while we understand it's not the same as the Beachwood Theater Camp, we researched and found the following options:

- Mandel JCC Performing Arts Camp <https://www.mandeljcc.org/daycamps>
- Orange Community Education and Recreation – Stagecrafters Theatre Camps <https://orangerec.ce.eleyo.com/courses/category/115/summer-camps/stagecrafters-theatre-camps>
- City of Shaker Theater Camp <https://etrak-se1.com/etrak/cp?org=80>

If those do not work for you, we are providing our Theater Campers with the option of transferring to one of our other camps by Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 PM.

We have exciting plans for the future of our Theater Program. We will be moving in a different direction with new staffing and look forward to sharing redesigned theater opportunities in 2023.

Again, we apologize for the inconvenience and ask for your patience during this transition.

Sincerely,

*Derek Schroeder*