

## Individual Donation Allows All Lansing School Second Graders to Attend Disney's Aladdin at Wharton Center

On Thursday, December 5, Wharton Center welcomed every second-grade student from the Lansing School District (LSD) to the weekday matinee of Disney's Aladdin. For many of these students, it was their first Broadway performance and they were bursting with excitement and anticipation.

Wharton Center and the Lansing School District diligently planned the day together from start to finish. Students previewed videos on theatre etiquette and teachers were prepped on timing, bathroom breaks and overall expectations of the day. Wharton Center communicated with patrons ahead of time to make them aware that they would be sharing the theatre with over 900 seven-year-olds. Many teachers happily put in a 10-hour day and arrived back at their schools around 5:30pm. Everyone agreed the exhaustion and hard work was well worth it to see how much the students enjoyed the day.

This incredible opportunity was only possible due to Wharton Center supporter Linda Arens and her family, who made a significant contribution to Wharton Center's Seats 4 Kids fund. Linda has attended Wharton Center since she was a child. She fully believes exposure to the arts at a young age is extremely important to foster confidence, creativity and empathy for others. Linda has been a contributor to Wharton Center's Seats 4 Kids program and the Education Institute for many years, however, this is her largest gift to Wharton Center. Linda was absolutely thrilled to see all of the students' exhilarated faces as the show began that day.