

October 1, 2020

Chris Silva

In 1994 Chris became Executive Director of the 944 seat Bardavon 1869 Opera House in Poughkeepsie, New York. Since arriving at the Bardavon, Chris has overseen the theatre's dramatic growth from an \$800,000 annual operating budget in 1994 to its present \$4 million annual budget and the completion of over \$10 million in capital projects. Besides presenting illustrious artists as diverse as Itzhak Perlman, Al Pacino, Diana Ross and Bob Dylan, he has also established major events outside the theatre's walls, including the Hudson River Arts Festival, Celebration of Lights and Kids Expo and has spearheaded the expansion of the theatre's community outreach, daytime children's programming and in-school residencies which reach 20,000 children each year.

In 1999 Chris oversaw the rescue from bankruptcy of the region's oldest professional symphony orchestra, the Hudson Valley Philharmonic, which the Bardavon now manages and presents. In 2002 the Bardavon was honored to receive New York State's highest cultural recognition, the Governor's Arts Award.

In May 2006 the Bardavon took over the management and operation of the 1500 seat Ulster Performing Arts Center (UPAC) in Kingston, New York and presents in both venues.

From 2006 to 2017 the Bardavon completed \$10 million in renovations on its Kingston theatre. Chris and Bardavon Production Manager Stephen LaMarca were operating consultants from 2004-06 during the creation of the Bethel Woods Center for the Arts in Bethel, New York and since 2006 have served as program consultants for the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in Great Barrington, Massachusetts.

In 2017 the Bardavon opened the Hutton Brickyards, a 3500 capacity space on the Hudson River in Kingston with two sold out Bob Dylan concerts.