

# Blackstone River Theatre

Executive Director / CEO

EIN 050493733

RI · NTEE A600

FY ending 2023-12-31

June 9, 2026

This analysis benchmarks the total compensation of **Russell Gusetti, Executive Director / CEO** (\$72,538) against **every comparable organization** that fit the selection criteria — **108** in total — drawn systematically from IRS Form 990 filings, not a hand-picked subset.

Compensation sits at approximately the **92<sup>nd</sup>** percentile of comparable organizations above the 90th percentile — board review recommended

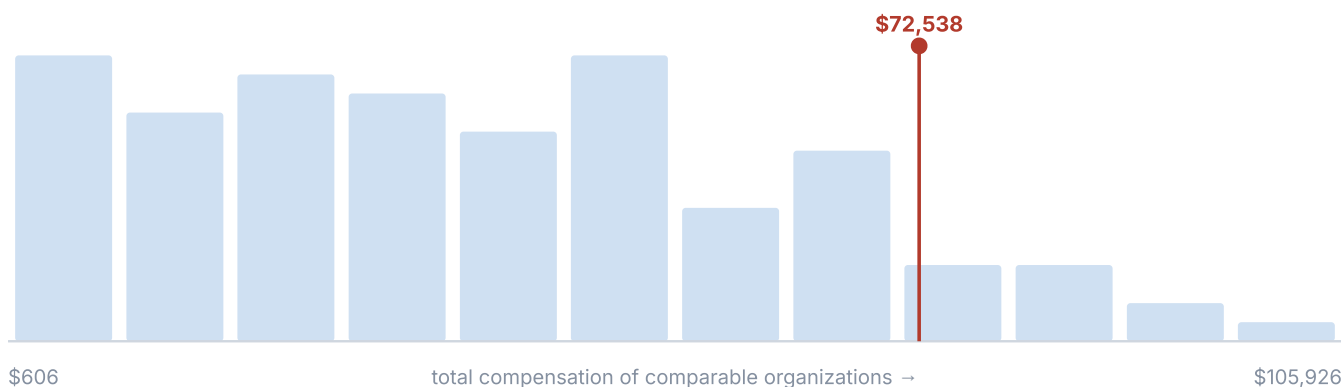
**Benchmarked executive:** Russell Gusetti — reported title “EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR”, a **direct title match** to the Executive Director / CEO role.

## How comparable organizations were selected

SECTOR	Organizations sharing the subject's NTEE classification (A600).
BUDGET	Total revenue between \$143,049 and \$320,260 — 0.67x to 1.50x the subject's \$213,507 (the band tightens as size grows).
GEOGRAPHY	Same NTEE sector (A60), nationwide + budget 0.67–1.5x revenue.

**108** organizations qualified on sector, size, and geography → **108** within the band form the benchmarked peer set.

## Distribution of comparable compensation



\$7,566	\$19,066	\$35,831	\$55,386	\$70,189	<b>\$72,538</b>
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## ● Comparable organizations

Each figure is Form 990 Part VII columns D + F (reportable pay plus other compensation and benefits; column F may include amounts from related organizations), normalized to RI cost of living (BEA RPP, 2023) and to its filing year (CPI-U); the reported amount is on each linked 990.

ORGANIZATION	STATE	REVENUE	MATCHED TITLE	COMP (REPORTED)	COMP (ADJUSTED)	FY
<a href="#">East Side Arts Council</a>	MN	\$213,627	Executive Dir.	\$40,810	<b>\$40,848</b>	2024
<a href="#">Steel City Improv Theater</a>	PA	\$215,164	Interim Executive Director	\$60,370	<b>\$62,785</b>	2023
<a href="#">Freed Performing Arts Inc</a>	FL	\$211,849	President	\$36,000	<b>\$35,270</b>	2023
<a href="#">Bruka Theater Of The Sierra Inc</a>	NV	\$215,521	Executive Director	\$28,620	<b>\$29,918</b>	2023
<a href="#">Experiments In Opera</a>	NY	\$211,152	Executive Director	\$12,000	<b>\$10,701</b>	2025
<a href="#">Opera Project Columbus Inc</a>	OH	\$216,683	Secretary	\$7,600	<b>\$8,395</b>	2023
<a href="#">Ovation Theatre</a>	CA	\$209,509	Executive Director	\$53,750	<b>\$47,015</b>	2024
<a href="#">Theatre Art For Kids</a>	NE	\$208,967	President	\$23,333	<b>\$25,422</b>	2024
<a href="#">Our Fabulous Variety Show Inc</a>	NY	\$208,492	Executive Di	\$33,648	<b>\$30,005</b>	2025
<a href="#">Theater At The Center Inc</a>	IN	\$208,112	Administrator	\$44,677	<b>\$49,135</b>	2023
<a href="#">Maryland Center For The Visual And Performing Arts Inc</a>	MD	\$207,895	Executive Director	\$22,000	<b>\$20,298</b>	2025
<a href="#">Corrib Theatre</a>	OR	\$219,389	Managing Director	\$63,358	<b>\$61,361</b>	2023
<a href="#">State Theatre Preservation Society</a>	PA	\$207,334	President	\$3,116	<b>\$3,241</b>	2023
<a href="#">Starring Buffalo Inc</a>	NY	\$206,183	Executive Director	\$15,000	<b>\$13,376</b>	2025
<a href="#">Base Academy Of Music</a>	MO	\$220,833	Executive Director	\$29,692	<b>\$31,856</b>	2024
<a href="#">Vineyard Arts Project Limited</a>	MA	\$221,556	Founder And Artistic Director	\$97,846	<b>\$91,697</b>	2023

ORGANIZATION	STATE	REVENUE	MATCHED TITLE	COMP (REPORTED)	COMP (ADJUSTED)	FY
<a href="#">Allens Community Theatre</a>	TX	\$205,139	At Large	\$1,275	<b>\$1,330</b>	2023
<a href="#">The Square Foot Theatre Company Inc</a>	CT	\$222,033	Excutive Director & Co-founder	\$12,379	<b>\$12,104</b>	2023
<a href="#">Mosaic Steel Orchestra</a>	VA	\$222,867	President	\$70,763	<b>\$71,255</b>	2023
<a href="#">Wonderlust Productions</a>	MN	\$223,119	Board Member And Co-artistic Director	\$44,750	<b>\$46,114</b>	2023
<a href="#">Resonance Works</a>	PA	\$223,259	Board Member	\$600	<b>\$606</b>	2024
<a href="#">Dance Canvas Inc</a>	GA	\$202,673	Executive Artistic Director	\$104,000	<b>\$105,926</b>	2024
<a href="#">Collide</a>	TX	\$224,510	Artistic Dir	\$47,000	<b>\$47,625</b>	2024
<a href="#">Hancock County Childrens Choir Ltd</a>	IN	\$225,638	Board Chair, Executive Director	\$21,845	<b>\$23,335</b>	2024
<a href="#">Bach Society Of Dayton Inc</a>	OH	\$230,536	Music Director	\$15,000	<b>\$15,678</b>	2025

**Comp (reported)** is the figure on each organization's Form 990 (columns D + F); **Comp (adjusted)** normalizes it to RI cost of living and 2023 dollars. Click any organization to verify the figure on ProPublica.

## ● Methodology

Comparable organizations were drawn from electronically filed IRS Form 990 returns and matched on sector (NTEE code), budget (a size-adaptive revenue band that tightens as the organization grows), and geography (same-state first, broadening only when too few peers qualify); every organization within the band forms the peer set. To compare fairly across regions and years, peer compensation is normalized to RI cost of living (BEA Regional Price Parities, 2023) and to the subject's filing year (CPI-U). The figure benchmarked is Form 990 Part VII, Section A, columns D + F — reportable pay plus other compensation, benefits, and deferred amounts (column F may include amounts from related organizations) — with the chief executive matched by role. Related-organization amounts (column E) and institutional trustees are excluded. Full methodology: [peerbasis.org/methodology](https://peerbasis.org/methodology).

## ● Sample, role match & sensitivity

**PEER COUNT** 108 organizations. Compensation range \$606–\$105,926; filing years 2023–2025.

**SIZE BASIS** Matched on total revenue (\$213,507); for reference, expenses \$387,229 and assets \$865,099. **Revenue and expenses diverge this year — revenue may misrepresent operating size; weigh the expense-based view.**

**ROLE MATCH** Russell Gusetti, reported title *"EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR"*, benchmarked as Executive Director / CEO. The title maps directly to this role.

RELATED-ORG PAY 1 peer report related-organization compensation (column E), which the D + F benchmark does not fully capture; review where material.

Sensitivity — the subject's percentile under alternative compensation definitions:

BASIS	SUBJECT PERCENTILE
Total compensation (D + F), cost-of-living + inflation adjusted — the PeerBasis default	92 <sup>nd</sup>
Total compensation (D + F), as reported (no adjustments)	93 <sup>rd</sup>
Reportable pay only (column D), adjusted	91 <sup>st</sup>
All sources (D + E + F), adjusted	91 <sup>st</sup>

If the percentile moves materially across these definitions, the result is sensitive to methodology choices, and the board should weigh which basis best fits its facts.

### ● Rebuttable presumption of reasonableness · 26 CFR 53.4958-6

Compensation paid by a tax-exempt organization is presumed reasonable — shifting the burden to the IRS — when three requirements are met. This report supplies the comparability data for the second. The board should record the following in its minutes *concurrently* with its decision:

#### Draft board minutes – executive compensation

1. The compensation of the Executive Director / CEO (Russell Gusetti) was approved in advance by [the Board / Compensation Committee], composed of members with no conflict of interest with respect to the arrangement.
2. Prior to its determination, the authorized body obtained and relied upon appropriate comparability data, namely the PeerBasis Compensation Comparability Determination dated June 9, 2026, comparing compensation against 108 similarly situated organizations (Same NTEE sector (A60), nationwide + budget 0.67–1.5× revenue).
3. The authorized body determined that total compensation of \$72,538 is reasonable (approximately the 92<sup>nd</sup> percentile of comparable organizations) and documented the basis for this determination concurrently, on [date], by a vote of [\_\_ for / \_\_ against].

Sources: IRS Form 990 e-file data (apps.irs.gov); IRS Business Master File (NTEE classification). Every figure traces to an original public filing — click any organization above to verify it on ProPublica. PeerBasis is a service of Prismind Analytics; its [methodology is published](#), was commissioned for independent adversarial review, and discloses its own limitations. This report is comparability data to support a board's good-faith determination under IRC 4958; it is not legal or tax advice. Generated by PeerBasis on June 9, 2026.