

Classical Theatre Company

Executive Director / CEO

EIN 208412415

TX · NTEE A65

FY ending 2025-06-30

June 9, 2026

This analysis benchmarks the total compensation of **John Johnston, Executive Director / CEO** (\$35,000) against **every comparable organization** that fit the selection criteria — **196** in total — drawn systematically from IRS Form 990 filings, not a hand-picked subset.

Compensation sits at approximately the **59th** percentile of comparable organizations within the typical range

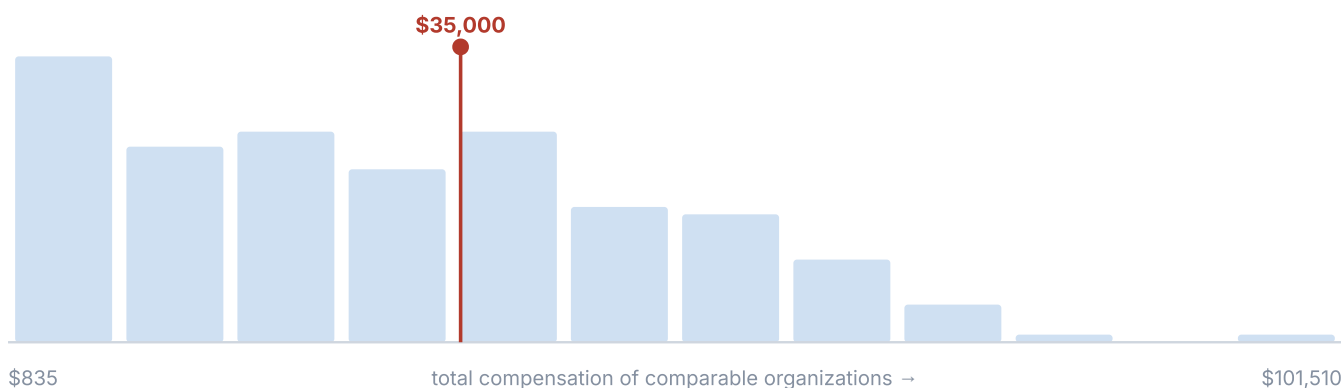
Benchmarked executive: John Johnston — reported title “Executive Artistic Director, Treasurer”, selected as the organization's **highest-paid individual** — no exact title match, so confirm this is a comparable role.

How comparable organizations were selected

SECTOR	Organizations sharing the subject's NTEE classification (A65).
BUDGET	Total revenue between \$133,760 and \$299,464 — 0.67x to 1.50x the subject's \$199,643 (the band tightens as size grows).
GEOGRAPHY	Same NTEE sector (A65), nationwide + budget 0.67–1.5x revenue.

196 organizations qualified on sector, size, and geography → **196** within the band form the benchmarked peer set.

Distribution of comparable compensation



\$4,411	\$11,802	\$28,128	\$45,124	\$58,325	\$35,000
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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 TX 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
Delaware Children's Theatre Ltd	DE	\$199,891	Vice President	\$30,000	\$31,033	2023
Spinning Tree Theatre	MO	\$200,081	Ex-officio	\$35,845	\$38,957	2024
Christian Performance Theatre Inc	KS	\$200,199	Artistic Dir	\$9,499	\$10,841	2023
Pittsburgh International Classic Theatre	PA	\$200,248	Artistic Director	\$36,222	\$36,111	2025
What A Do Theatre	MI	\$198,941	Executive Di	\$53,109	\$54,800	2025
Lynnville Area Arts Association Inc	TN	\$198,597	Executive Director	\$16,900	\$18,767	2023
Fort Totten Little Theater Company	ND	\$198,130	President	\$1,500	\$1,739	2023
Shabach Enterprise	TX	\$201,957	Executive Director	\$5,500	\$5,812	2023
North Street Playhouse Inc	VA	\$202,483	Artistic Dir	\$20,800	\$20,608	2024
Lakewood Community Players	WA	\$196,531	Producing Artistic Director	\$4,928	\$4,527	2024
Matheatre Corporation	WY	\$203,072	President	\$18,130	\$19,922	2024
Enlightened Theatrics	OR	\$195,716	Executive Director	\$65,000	\$63,770	2023
Bandit Theater	WA	\$195,227	Executiveartistic Director	\$57,991	\$54,851	2023
Alton Little Theater Incorporated	IL	\$194,676	Executive Director	\$36,050	\$36,368	2024

ORGANIZATION	STATE	REVENUE	MATCHED TITLE	COMP (REPORTED)	COMP (ADJUSTED)	FY
St Marys Childrens Theatre Inc	GA	\$204,728	Executive Dir.	\$9,583	\$9,888	2024
Bricolage	PA	\$194,428	Principal Creative & Co-fo	\$58,112	\$61,222	2023
St John Community Theatre	LA	\$204,923	Managing Director	\$14,033	\$16,325	2023
Running To Places Theatre Company Ltd	NY	\$194,342	Resident Director	\$31,552	\$29,257	2024
Black Repertory Theatre Of Kansas City	MO	\$204,948	President Emeritus/ Executive Artistic Director/founder	\$51,416	\$55,880	2024
Bright Lights Theatre	TX	\$205,508	President And Exec Dir	\$17,750	\$17,750	2025
Dandylyon Drama	WA	\$205,579	Artistic Director	\$31,973	\$29,374	2024
Saltworks Theatre Company	PA	\$206,405	Executive Director	\$71,749	\$73,420	2024
Uptown Theater For Creative Arts Inc	NY	\$192,481	Executive Director	\$16,375	\$15,632	2023
Evergreen Players Inc	CO	\$207,078	Executive Director	\$58,055	\$58,810	2023
Restoration Stage Inc	MD	\$207,234	Executive Dir	\$50,098	\$49,480	2023

Comp (reported) is the figure on each organization's Form 990 (columns D + F); **Comp (adjusted)** normalizes it to TX cost of living and 2025 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 TX 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.

● Sample, role match & sensitivity

PEER COUNT **196** organizations. Compensation range \$835–\$101,510; filing years 2022–2025.

SIZE BASIS	Matched on total revenue (\$199,643); for reference, expenses \$240,618 and assets \$23,300.
ROLE MATCH	John Johnston, reported title " <i>Executive Artistic Director, Treasurer</i> ", benchmarked as Executive Director / CEO. Selected as the organization's highest-paid individual without an exact title match — the board should confirm this is a comparable role.
RELATED-ORG PAY	3 peers report related-organization compensation (column E), which the D + F benchmark does not fully capture; review where material.
OUTLIERS	1 peer fall outside 1.5× the interquartile range — consider whether any reflect one-time payments (severance, deferred-comp payouts).

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

BASIS	SUBJECT PERCENTILE
Total compensation (D + F), cost-of-living + inflation adjusted — the PeerBasis default	59 th
Total compensation (D + F), as reported (no adjustments)	62 nd
Reportable pay only (column D), adjusted	60 th
All sources (D + E + F), adjusted	58 th

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 (John Johnston) 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 196 similarly situated organizations (Same NTEE sector (A65), nationwide + budget 0.67–1.5× revenue).
3. The authorized body determined that total compensation of \$35,000 is reasonable (approximately the 59th 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.