

From: [Beitel Amanda](#)
To: [JWMCC Exhibits](#)
Subject: FW: Liberty Theater Supportive Documents
Date: Thursday, May 18, 2017 2:34:02 PM
Attachments: [Liberty Theater Materials.pdf](#)

Hi Julie,

Attached please find testimony in support of SB 5530 from the Liberty Theatre.

Thanks!

Amanda

From: Sen Hansell
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2017 1:57 PM
To: Beitel Amanda <Amanda.Beitel@oregonlegislature.gov>
Subject: Liberty Theater Supportive Documents

Amanda,

Attached is the supportive material for the committee members on the Liberty Theater \$1m Cap. Construction Project Proposal. They will be here to testify tomorrow with Rep. Barreto.

Branden

Branden Pursinger
Legislative Director
Senator Bill Hansell's Office
Senate District 29

503-986-1729



Union County's Living Room: The Liberty Theatre Campaign

Who We Are: The Liberty Theatre first opened its doors in 1910 as a venue for live performances. It later became a movie house and screened the classics of the day right up to its closure in 1959. It was a central icon in the landscape of downtown La Grande and served as a special entertainment space for many generations. In 2009, a group of La Grande citizens came together to form a nonprofit organization with the goal of restoring the Liberty. The Liberty Theatre Foundation (LTF) became an independent nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization in 2012. Its mission is to restore and operate the Theatre as a performing arts center, providing cultural and educational experiences.

The Vision: LTF envisions a vibrant community where people come together to experience great art, culture, and entertainment in an accessible, sustainable, and historic venue.

Project Scope: To reclaim, restore and refurbish the 1010 Adams Liberty Theatre building as a cultural center and Union County Living Room destination. LTF is actively seeking federal, regional, state and local support to preserve historic ambiance and improve community art opportunities, creating a magnet for reinvestment, downtown revitalization and economic development. LTF's revised campaign goal is a lean \$2.5 million with a focus on getting the theater up and running with the technical and theatrical equipment needed for live performances and screenings. LTF's revised campaign will retain original architectural elements of the Theatre's design as well as preserve existing historical layers.



The Challenge: The strengthening of community through historic preservation and creating “livability” as a funding priority requires leadership philanthropy, foundation and grant support leveraged by community investment at all levels. The hub of Union County is La Grande and creating a regional performing arts center with diversity of cultural and artistic opportunities is the goal of this campaign.



The Solution: The restored Liberty Theatre will seat up to 470 patrons at live performances, as well as showings of classic and independent films. The theater will be the home of the Eastern Oregon Film Festival as well as a host for local performing groups, including the La Grande Shakespeare Company, Grande Ronde Symphony, Grande Ronde Community Choir, and the Eastern Oregon University theater department. The modern facility will also attract touring performers traveling to and from the Boise and Portland metro areas. Amenities will include concessions offering food and drink, handicap accessible restrooms, and a mezzanine lounge.

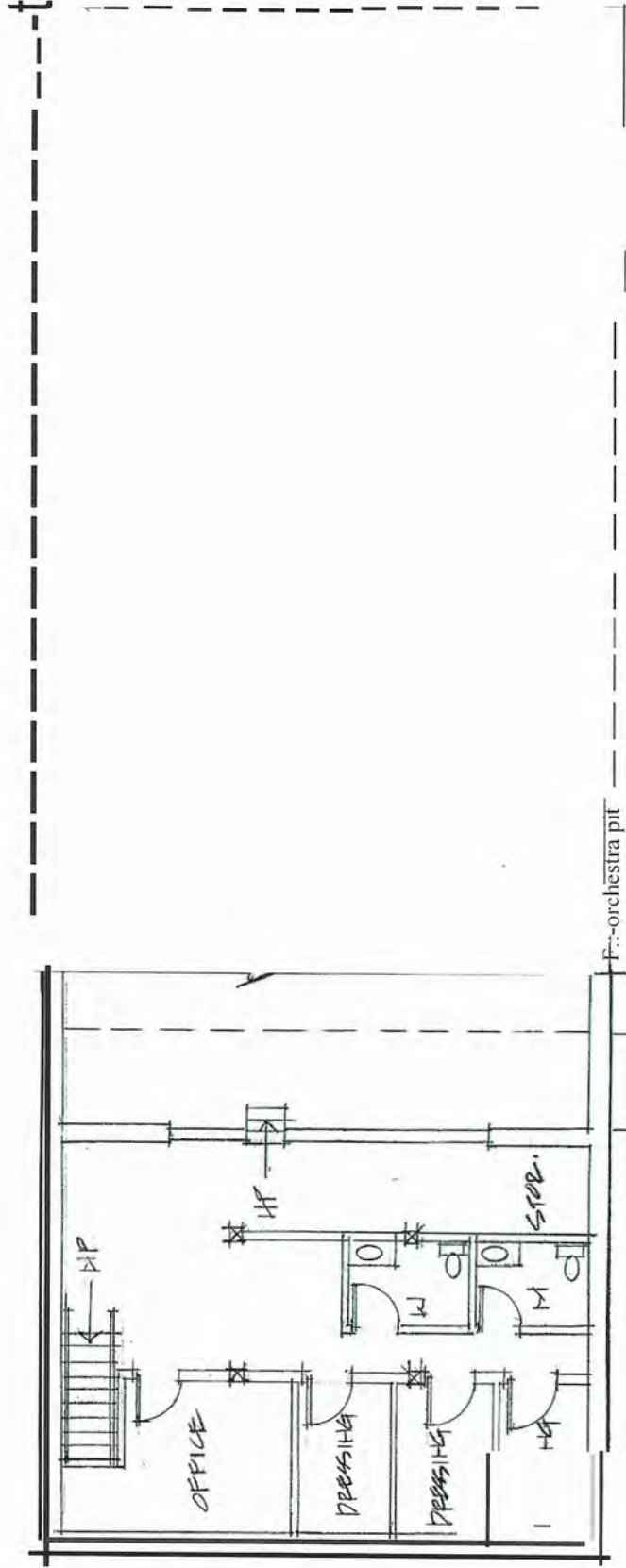
Economic Development: Each year, more than \$150 million is spent by Oregon’s arts and culture consumers, over and above the cost of admission to art events. For every \$1 million in sales by Oregon’s cultural nonprofits, \$1.1 million in sales is generated for other Oregon businesses. This means local restaurants, retailers, hotels, and other businesses benefit from a thriving arts scene, and Union County is no different. LTF anticipates the creation of 2 FTEs upon opening, in addition to the Executive Director. Within five years as programming grows, LTF anticipates employing 5 FTES (artistic direction, stage management, business/marketing) with that number doubling by Year 10 of operation. These positions will offer competitive wages and benefits. These numbers do not include other payroll employees such as concession workers, janitors, ushers, etc., or contract employees hired for specific projects and events.

Project History: To date LTF has nearly completed exterior facade improvements, including brick repointing, mansard and window repair, and the installation of a replica “blade” sign. Interior demolition has opened up the auditorium and stage area for the first time since the early 1960s, and recent work has stabilized the auditorium ceiling. This work represents more than \$670,000 or 27% of the total campaign goal of \$2.5 million.

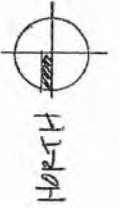
Status: LTF is engaged in philanthropic outreach within Union County. It has also issued challenge requests to the City of La Grande and Union County to leverage a 2017 Oregon Legislative request of \$1 million. A team from LTF testified in March 2017 before the Joint Ways & Means Committee and will return to Salem this spring.

How you can help: For more information or to schedule a tour, contact Board Members Kelly Ducote at 541-626-3051 or info@libertyonadams.org or Dale Mammen at 541-963-5758.





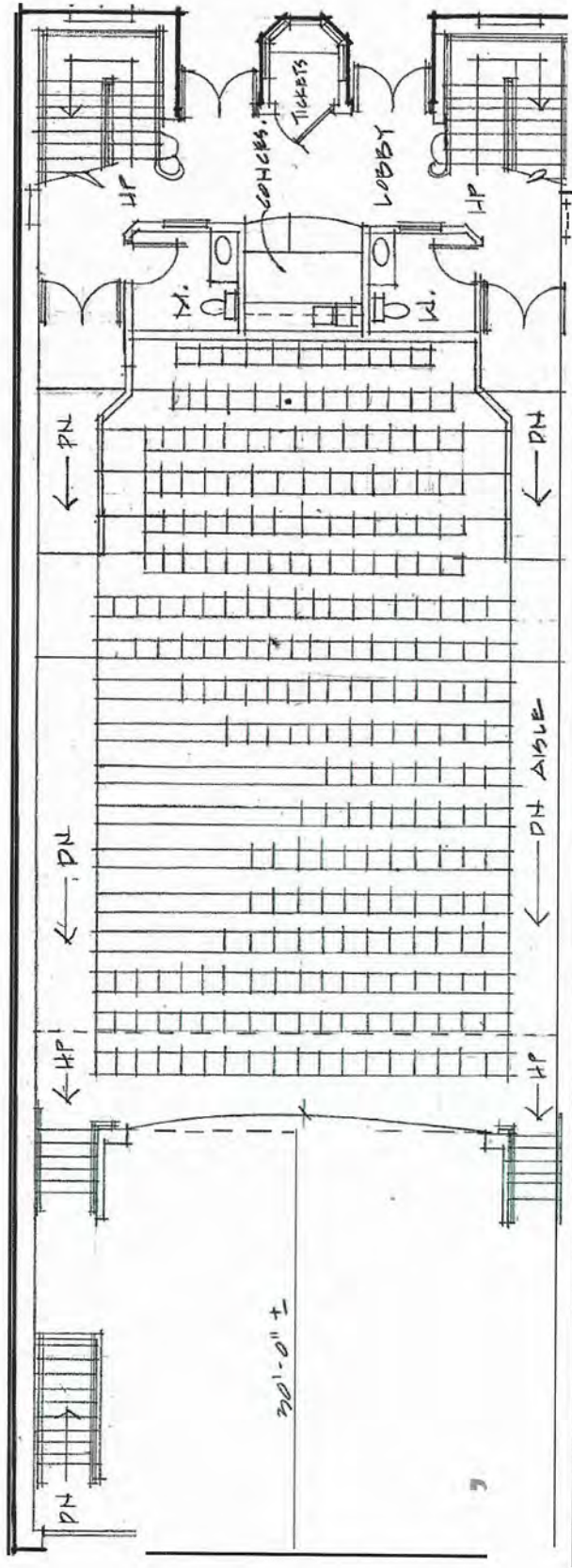
BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN



PRESENTATION CONCEPT MASTER PLAN
 LIBERTY THEATRE
 LA GRANDE, OR

1/21 = 11'-0" 0' 4' 0' 16'

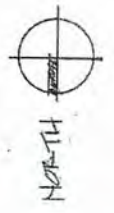




18" = 1'-0"
 0-4 8--16'
 ■ 1

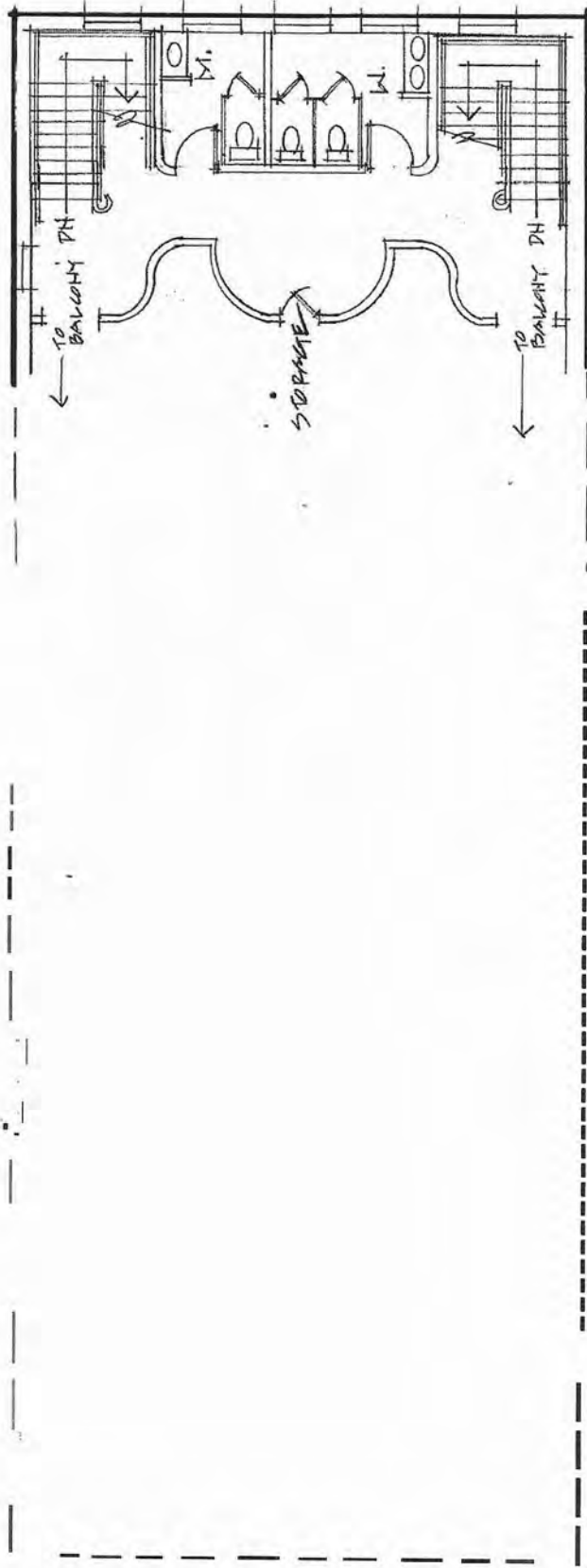
MAIN FLOOR PLAN

PRESERVATION CONCEPT MASTER PLAN
 LIBERTY THEATRE
 La GRANDE, OR



DKA
 ARCHITECTURE
 100 N. 1st St.
 Portland, OR 97201
 Phone: 503.228.1111
 Fax: 503.228.1112

NOV. 19, 2011



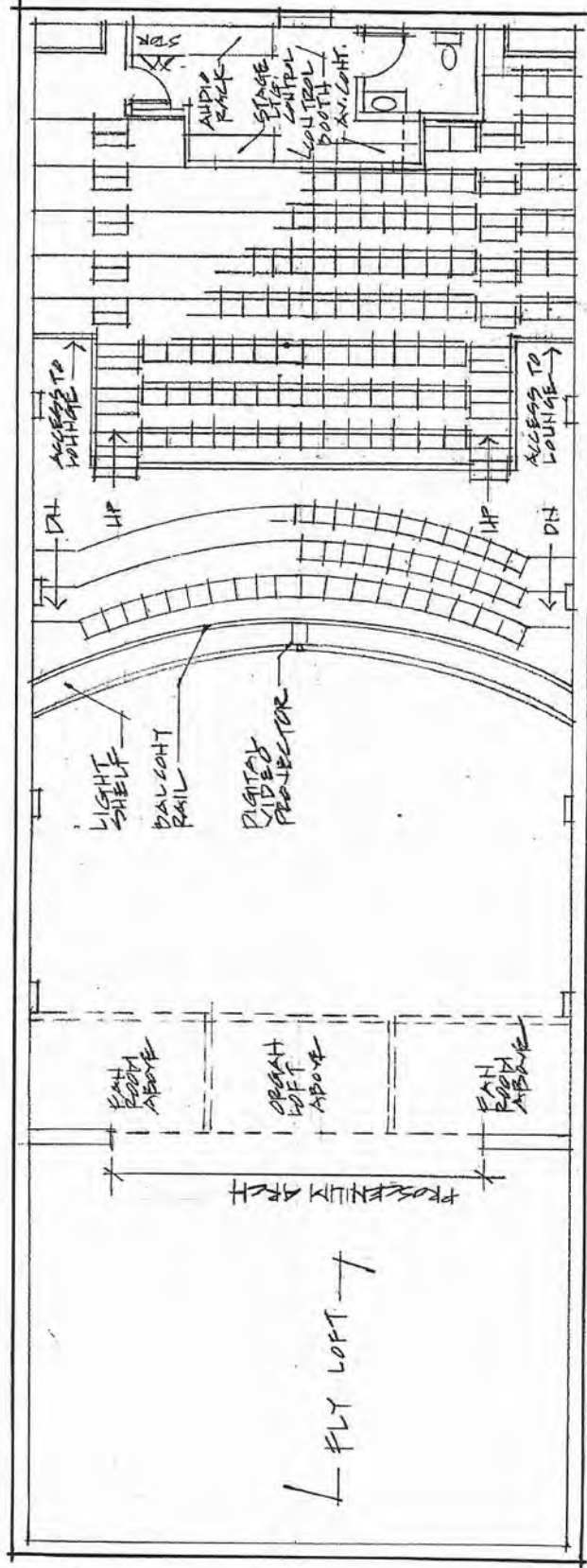
LOUNGE FLOOR PLAN



RESERVATION CONCEPT MASTER PLAN
 LIBERTY THEATRE
 LA GRANDE, OR
 1/8" = 1'-0" + + + + 16'


 DKA ARCHITECTURE
 700 N. VAN DYKE
 SUITE 100
 LA GRANDE, OREGON 97111
 A R C H I T E C T U R E
 D E S I G N

Nov 19, 2011



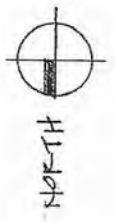
BALCONY FLOOR PLAN



Nov. 19, 2011

PRESERVATION CONCEPT MASTER PLAN
LIBERTY THEATRE
LA GRANDE, OR

1/8" = 1'-0" 0 4 8 161





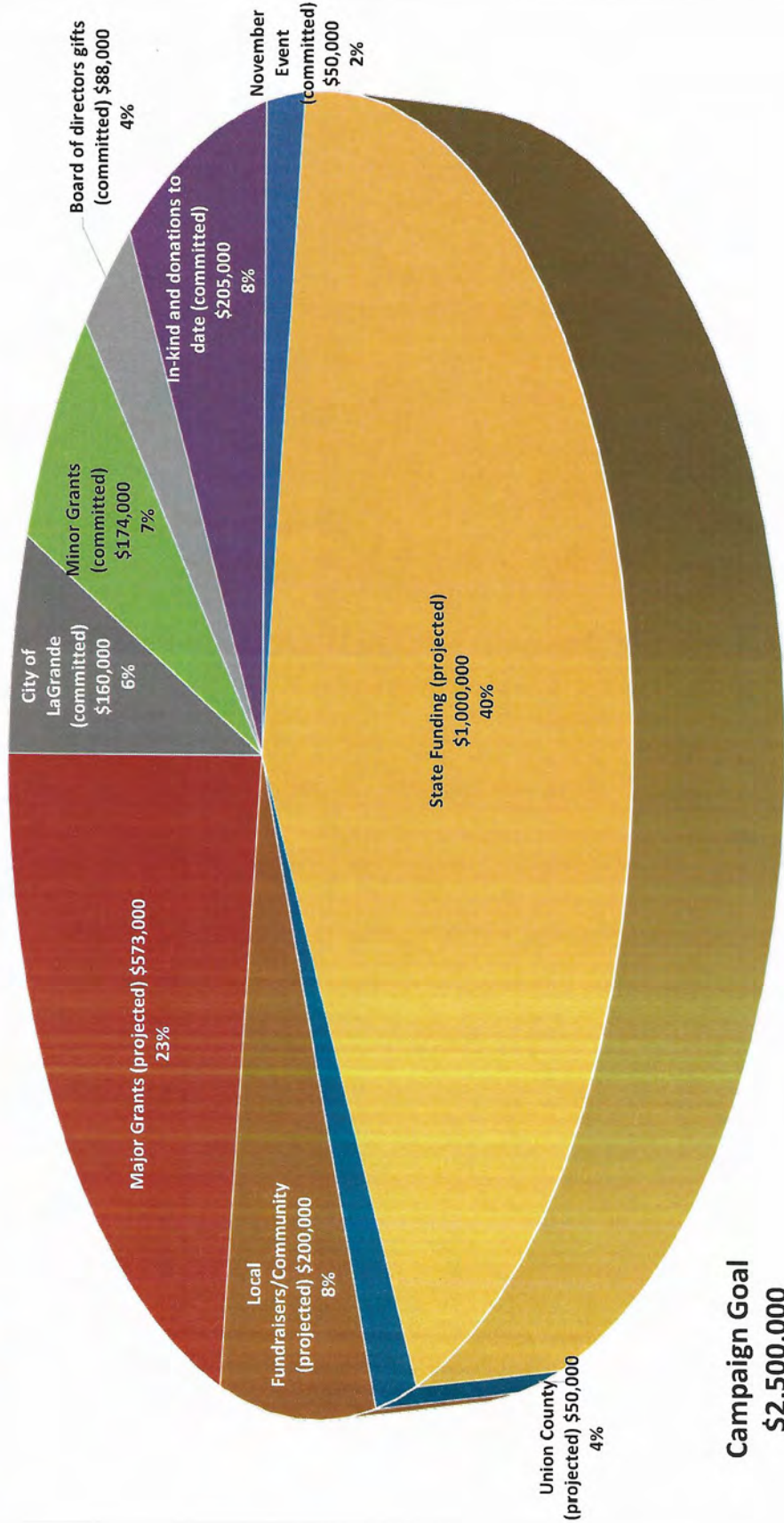
**Liberty Theatre Foundation
Capital Campaign
Funding Status as of May 4, 2017**

**The Gap:
\$1,823,000**



73%

■ Committed ■ Not Committed



**Campaign Goal
\$2,500,000**

\$	160,000	City of LaGrande (committed)	\$160,000
\$	174,000	Minor Grants (committed)	\$174,000
\$	88,000	Board of directors gifts (committed)	\$88,000
\$	205,000	In-kind and donations to date (committed)	\$205,000
\$	50,000	November Event (committed)	\$50,000
\$	1,000,000	State Funding (projected)	\$1,000,000
\$	50,000	Union County (projected)	\$50,000
\$	200,000	Local Fundraisers/Community (projected)	\$200,000
\$	573,000	Major Grants (projected)	\$573,000
\$	2,500,000		

Committed	27%	\$ 677,000
Not Committed	73%	\$ 1,823,000
		\$ 2,500,000

Foundations

10,000	US Bank Foundation
50,000	Reser Family Foundation
150,000	Murdock Trust
150,000	Ford Family Foundation
40,000	Oregon Community Fdn.
20,000	Sunderland Foundation
153,000	Other Foundations
<u>\$ 573,000</u>	<u>Total</u>

Kelly Ducote • Liberty Theatre Foundation • May 19, 2017

Honorable Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey, and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction:

Good afternoon. My name is Kelly Ducote and I sit on the Board of Directors for the Liberty Theatre Foundation. Four years ago my family moved to La Grande from out of state. We came for a job; we stay because we see so much potential in La Grande, and the Liberty Theatre plays a major role in that.

La Grande is proud to be the home of its own Shakespeare Company; a number of great bands; talented youth who bring fantastic theatrical and musical performances and accolades to our valley; and even a film festival. Many of these groups have already used the theater in an interim state and look forward to a grand reopening, as you will note in the support letters provided.

We have raised nearly \$680,000 in cash, in-kind donations, and grant awards for the restoration of our facility. This includes a \$150,000 contribution from the La Grande Urban Renewal Agency. Our nearly complete major gift study suggests we can count on additional local support of up to \$200,000, including county funding of \$50,000. In addition, identified private foundation support that will become available with your favorable funding of this project will more than match the \$1 million we request before you today.

La Grande's largest employer, Grande Ronde Hospital, and the Union County Chamber of Commerce support this project as a major community amenity needed to retain quality professionals in La Grande and the greater Grande Ronde Valley. Our Urban Renewal Agency sees this project as one that will drive foot traffic and help revitalize La Grande's downtown core. Well positioned on the I-84 corridor, this venue will not only be a home for our local arts community but also a prime stop for performers traveling between Boise and the Portland metro areas.

As we presented to the Ways and Means Committee recently on Feb. 17 at Hermiston High School, we are requesting Honorary Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee for your support to fund our \$1 million request to restore and reopen the Liberty Theatre on Adams, next to City Hall, in La Grande as a regional economic driver, attraction for tourism and performing arts venue for local and travelling performances. We are confident in our ability to match this request and complete the project as a public asset to Eastern Oregon. Thank you for your consideration.

Honorable Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey, and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction:

Cities across America are restoring their historic downtowns in an effort to both preserve their past and ensure a vibrant future. At the core of these initiatives are the restoration of performing arts venues, primarily old theaters having been shuttered or repurposed from their former glory. Why are there so many cities investing in the performing arts as essential aspect of urban renewal?

Economists have demonstrated through case after case the impact of a restored theatre in a down town. Larger cities like Durham, NC (\$7-13M/year impact), Grand Rapids, MI (\$369M), Birmingham, AL (\$27M) have demonstrated significant economic impact in the community as result of a downtown transformation. Smaller towns as well show proportional impacts, Boone, NC (\$4.5M), Fort Pierce, FL (\$2.3M), and Shirlytown, VA (\$4.0M). These are just a few of the dozens of current projects that urban renewal districts and cities have taken on to directly impact the economic vitality of their regions.

In both small and large centers, how these numbers are determined is a matter of vetted impact models that economists use to determine both direct and indirect effects. The direct effects are immediate changes in jobs created through construction and restoration, jobs for performing artists, and jobs for all those who are involved in maintaining and managing the venue. The activity that a performing arts center offers has a tangible effect on area retail and service businesses as it increases visibility, sales, and land value in adjacent properties. Indirectly, a restored theatre serves as a catalyst in a community. It is a signal that the community has a cultural soul, a point of prosperity. Communities experience a revival, of sorts, as businesses and activities seem to add arithmetically around these developments.

La Grande is on the edge of such a revival. The community and region needs a trigger to stimulate the attention to the downtown, to focus investment in the community, and to attract new business and enterprises. Like many other cities who have experienced the same effects, we believe that supporting the rebuilding of the Liberty Theatre is not only an effort to preserve our legacy as a community and to impact the quality of life in the region, but it will also serve as an economic stimulus that will bring jobs and economic sustainability. The dollars that are invested in this project will be returned to the community many times over. It is not only a preservation of the past, but also an investment in the future.

Dale Mammen • Liberty Theatre Foundation • May 19, 2017

Honorable Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey, and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction:

My name is Dale Mammen. I am Co-Chairman of the Liberty Theatre Foundation Board of Directors in La Grande.

The Liberty Theatre enhanced the life of La Grande from November 1910 when it opened as “one of the finest vaudeville houses in the northwest” until it went dark in May 1959 and was turned into commercial space.

In 1999 the City formed a Historic District and the theatre was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 2010 a group formed to explore the restoration of the Liberty and in 2012 the Liberty Theatre Foundation secured ownership.

La Grande’s need for such a theatre did not die in 1959. Since 2012 the Liberty has been transformed from commercial space to a bare bones form of its former self. During the last five years and the various states of demolition it has provided a home for the growing Eastern Oregon Film Festival, a temporary stage for an active new Shakespeare troupe, and a theatre lab for Eastern Oregon University students to direct and perform plays.

There is no other venue like this available in La Grande. Now is the time to preserve not only the historic fabric of the building, but to provide a fully functional theatre to again provide a significant contribution in which current and future generations can be creative, entertained, educated and inspired. Thank you.



207 Depot
La Grande, OR 97850
541-963-8588
www.unioncountychamber.org

May 8, 2017

RE: 1010 Adams Liberty Theatre Building

Dear Reviewer,

Thank you for considering awarding funds for our Liberty Theatre renovation project in Union County!

We are committed to the economic health of our community and we are taking serious steps to improve our overall economy; the Liberty Theatre project has the potential to revitalize our entire County.

Its location is on Adams Avenue, our main street, and we are on the I-84 corridor between Boise and Portland; once we complete the renovation it will remove an eyesore and add a much-needed venue that will add to the overall health of Eastern Oregon. From concerts to drama to opportunities for kids to learn and attend productions, the Liberty Theatre is a venue that will draw thousands of people to our Region.

We have the right plan, people, contractors, owners and community backing to ensure long-term success for this project.

In looking at similar projects in similar towns we believe the Liberty Theater has the potential to:

1. Bring over \$1.5 million from the construction phase.
2. Bring \$1 million from annual sales to local hotels, restaurants and local stores.
3. Bring 5,000 people into our region from concert and drama ticket sales.
4. Create a venue that does not exist in Union County. We do have other venues, but what sets the Liberty Theater apart is its ability to attract high profile artists to a high quality venue and its right of the freeway.
5. Will remove blight and uplift our down town area.
6. Create half a dozen jobs with potential for more in the next decade.

Lastly, as I am out in the business community, the support for the project is strong but our area lacks the funds needed to finish strong. On behalf of Union County, thank you for taking time to read my letter and thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely yours,

Bob K

Bob Kavanaugh
Executive Director

*"To promote and support the business environment through membership participation and leadership that fosters economic growth and community involvement."
Serving local business since 1932.*



ArtsEast

1 University Blvd.
PO Box 541
La Grande, OR 97850
www.artseast.org

April 26, 2016

Kelly Ducote
Executive Director
Liberty Theater Foundation
P.O. Box 3057
La Grande, OR 97850

Dear Kelly,

On behalf of Art Center East and its Board of Directors, I am pleased to stand behind and offer strong support to the Liberty Theater Foundation. The Liberty Theater Foundation is to be commended for undertaking a restoration project of this magnitude!

As an Executive Director of a small nonprofit arts service organization working in rural communities throughout eastern Oregon, I know first-hand how the energies and efforts we invest in bringing the arts, culture, and education programs to our rural communities have as much impact as possible. We were pleased have had the opportunity to collaborate with the Liberty Theater Foundation in our most recent community-wide event, *Arts for All*. Thanks to our collaboration, we successfully provided an interactive, hands-on, arts experience for 350+ children and 100+ parents in Union County.

Furthermore, we strongly believe that a regional performing and educational art center, such as the Liberty Theater, will not only have a substantial and meaningful impact on our communities' overall well-being, but it will also have a significant impact on the local and regional economy by bringing visitors, artists, and educators to the area.

Art Center East wholeheartedly supports the Liberty Theater Foundation's continued efforts to restore the historic Liberty Theater in downtown La Grande. We look forward to continuing in developing a strong and stable collaborative partnership in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Mika Morton
Executive Director

☞ Board of Directors ☞

Linda Schreiner ♦ Nancy Knowles ♦ Mav Beltran ♦ Renee Wells ♦ Jamie Jacobson ♦ Suzanne Campbell ♦ Aaron Thornburg



To Whom It May Concern:

Eastern Oregon Film Festival and the Liberty Theatre Foundation have an ongoing history of collaboration in regards to both programming and planning for the future of our organizations.

Over the past four years, the Foundation has hosted EOFF programming in its temporary performance space, the Stage Door Theater. This collaborative effort has allowed EOFF to diversify its festival venues while enabling the Foundation to showcase the restoration effort to a whole new audience.

Despite ongoing changes to the theater space, the Foundation and EOFF will maintain this partnership into the future, and upon completion EOFF will have a permanent home in the restored theater.

Over the next two years, EOFF will provide guidance and input on the overall design of the theater and work with the Foundation to identify areas and aspects of the space that can be used in ways that will make EOFF an exciting and engaging event. EOFF will also continue an ongoing dialogue with the Foundation to address the arts and culture needs of the La Grande and Eastern Oregon community.

The respective boards of directors of EOFF and the Liberty Theatre Foundation seek to support each other's missions and ongoing efforts to provide arts opportunities for the citizens of our region.

Respectfully,

Christopher Jennings
Festival Director
Eastern Oregon Film Festival
1119 Washington Ave.
La Grande, OR 97850

May 11, 2017

Oregon State Legislature
Salem, Oregon

Honorable Committee Members,

As a long-time citizen and community leader in my hometown of La Grande, I am writing in support of the Liberty Theater restoration project and their request for funding to proceed with this important undertaking. I have had an interest since the outset of this effort for both personal and professional reasons.

My father came to this locale shortly after World War II to begin his career in radio broadcasting at the local radio station. As part of his duties, he would emcee various activities that took place on the stage of the old Liberty Theater during intermissions in the programming. It is a powerful and poignant feeling to know that far-sighted individuals are restoring this location.

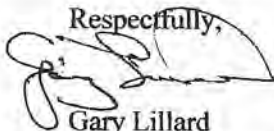
More important than personal feelings are the benefits that this project could bring to our rural community. As you well know, economic development is a very challenging thing in rural towns, particularly downtown areas. The Liberty Theater is located downtown in an area of recent Urban Renewal activity including the ongoing development of a bowling alley, another building being readied for retail and housing activity, a new grocery store, and another location suited for multiple retail activities. A functioning arts venue in this area would be very helpful in bringing more people to our downtown and would add to the positive economic dynamic that is being created in this portion of the community.

The Liberty Theater also meets our urban renewal expectations in that it will restore a blighted building, making it useful, again.

Receipt of funding from the State of Oregon will also be helpful in attracting the attention of major foundations and donors who will see this commitment and understand the value in supporting such a worthwhile endeavor.

Thank you for your consideration of this very important project and its significance to economic development and the arts in our rural setting.

Respectfully,



Gary Lillard
1102 Cedar Street
La Grande, Oregon 97850
541-663-6403



GRANDE RONDE HOSPITAL

900 Sunset Drive P.O. Box 3290
La Grande OR 97850

541-963-8421 FAX 541-963-1476
www.grh.org OR myhealth.grh.org

May 10, 2016

Kelly Ducote, Executive Director
Liberty Theatre Foundation
PO Box 3057
La Grande, OR 97850

Dear Ms. Ducote:

On behalf of Grande Ronde Hospital, Inc., I am writing to add our support to the Liberty Theatre Foundation in its mission to restore the Liberty Theater building.

The recent restoration, installation and lighting of the theater sign was a particularly proud moment for the Foundation and its efforts over the last five years. We applaud those efforts. Your mission to promote and sustain theater and arts in our community supports our efforts to attract quality health care providers to the area, as well as the needed medical technicians and professional staff who work with them.

As the leading healthcare services provider for the people of Union County since 1907, we also value our heritage, while looking firmly to the future and the importance of the positive roles we can all play for a mutually beneficial thriving Union County. A restored Liberty Theatre, along with future possibilities for an arts and conference "complex", is a great enhancement to the quality of life in our community.

Sincerely,

James A. Mattes
President and CEO

MISSION: We will ensure access to high-quality, cost-effective health care in a safe, customer-friendly environment for all those in need of our services.

May 2, 2017

Dear Sir or Madam,

I write to you as a theatre practitioner, an arts patron, and as a small business owner in downtown La Grande. From all three of these perspectives can I share with you the value of a venue like the Liberty Theatre to our community.

The first perspective is probably the easiest to explain. As a theatre practitioner, the idea of an edifice like the Liberty in La Grande means working theatre jobs for myself, my acting company, and for many of the young theatre graduates from EOU. College is great, but there is no better way to hone the craft than in the professional world, and a space like the Liberty intends to be, would be a beautiful, historic, and yet state of the art stage, to fine tune one's skills.

As a patron of the arts, the venue promises to be not only a local, but a regional, artistic hub. It would provide artistic opportunities for the local community while also being a space for regional and national guest artists to perform. The best way for La Grande to grow as an artistic community is to have a wide variety of outside artists to inform and inspire our own art. The more exposure the better.

As a small business owner, the value of having an artistic venue anchor the downtown corridor is a no-brainer. Not only would it bring in more people from the outskirts of the county, it would be a tourist attraction for the whole region. People would be shopping, dining and spending money in the town above and beyond our current traditional hours. Fridays and weekends would be busier, businesses could stay open later, and a genuine night life would begin to develop in this town which traditionally closes up and falls asleep by 5.

So to me, the value is clear. The Liberty Theatre will create jobs, grow our economy, and expand our cultural horizon. I hope you will give this proposal the due that it deserves.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Grant Turner

Owner - Looking Glass Books

Artistic Director - La Grande Shakespeare Company

La Grande Main Street Downtown

118 Depot St.

La Grande, Oregon

97850

To: Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction

La Grande Main Street Downtown would like to express our support of the Liberty Theater. This downtown theater would serve as a hub for culture and entertainment in our community, while saving an important historic icon. There is a great need for a venue of this size in our downtown. As our community grows the demand for a downtown venue that features musical and theatrical performances as well as a host of other entertainment options would not only provide a great deal of joy to our community, but would also help our downtown flourish and thrive.

We urge you to please consider funding the Liberty Theater. By funding this project you will impart lasting benefit that will cascade through our downtown and community. Thank you for your time and support of this project.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Taylor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "J".

Thomas J. Taylor

Executive Director LGMSD

May 19, 2017

Honorable Chair Girod, Honorable Co-chair Holvey and Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means on Capital Construction:

I apologize I cannot be physically present for the hearing today. So, in writing, I present myself to you as a citizen and leader from the City of La Grande, and as a supporter of the efforts to restore the historic Liberty Theater. While these efforts have been local to date, it is time for a financial boost to push the project to the next levels; the funding request before you is that boost.

The theater restoration project is an important piece of economic development in downtown La Grande for visual appeal and sustainable business activity. Until the restoration project began, the theater building was partitioned into two retail spaces and the façade no more distinct than other structures along Adams Avenue. Pedestrians passing these spaces knew little to nothing of the history or potential behind the retail offerings. With the incredible efforts of volunteers and private donations, the rudimentary features of the theater are now visible, including a full view from sidewalk to stage, remnants of past wall coverings, and a lighted marquee sign. These simple, yet important visual changes, have generated curiosity and hope about the offerings the theater will bring to downtown.

There is no venue in La Grande, other than a dedicated movie theater, as close to restaurants, pubs and retail shops as the Liberty. Evidence from communities throughout Oregon and the Pacific Northwest indicates events held at multi-purpose theaters have a multiplier effect on local businesses. People coming to and leaving daytime and evening events at the Liberty will frequent nearby businesses and increase foot traffic along Adams Avenue. In a rural community like La Grande, sustainability is built on diversifying the economy, and a restored and operational Liberty Theater will add to that diversity. An investment by the State of Oregon in the Liberty Theater will go a long way to improving the economic sustainability and quality of life La Grande needs to continue growing and serving as the business and public hub of Northeast Oregon.

As the Mayor of La Grande, my sights are set not so much on what happens today, but where the community is headed. I see the Liberty Theater as a focal point of community activity, a place residents can boast about to friends and family in other areas of the state and region. I see the Theater not as a single event stage, but as part of annual festivals of music, drama, and dance, building on the energies and talents of the Eastern Oregon Film Festival, the La Grande Arts Commission, and the faculty and students at Eastern Oregon University. Simply put, the Liberty Theater will fill a need for cultural events that enhance existing offerings in the community.

I urge you to support the funding request before you. The money received will leverage additional grants and private donations that will raise the curtain on the final act of restoration.

Respectfully

Steve Clements, Mayor of La Grande





UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Steve McClure Commissioner
Jack Howard, Commissioner
Donna Beverage, Commissioner

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer

1106 K Avenue

La Grande, OR 97850

PHONE (541)963-1001

FAX (541)963-1079

TTY 1-800-735-2900

May 1, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

The Union County Board of Commissioners are in support of the Liberty Theatre Foundation Capital Campaign to reclaim, restore and refurbish the theatre building located at 1010 Adams Avenue, La Grande. We support the Foundation's goal of downtown revitalization through a venue promoting art, culture, and entertainment. Union County needs attractions such as the Liberty Theatre to engage tourists and allow our economy to benefit from the revenues that industry can provide.

The recent funding request from the Liberty Theatre Foundation came to Union County midway through our fiscal year 2016-17 budget, so the Board was unable to make a specific funding allocation at this time. We did commit to include the request for funding support, contingent upon the Legislature approving a \$1 million request, into the fiscal year 2017-18 budget process.

As we work on economic recovery in Union County, with your support the Liberty Theatre can be a contributing factor in that recovery.

Sincerely,

Steve McClure
Chairman

Jack Howard
Commissioner

Donna Beverage
Commissioner

Jan. 1, 2017

Liberty Theatre Foundation
P.O. Box 3057
La Grande, OR 97850

Greetings,

The Union County Museum Society Board of Directors would like to take this opportunity to enthusiastically endorse the Liberty Theatre Renovation Project. This project is consistent with the Museum Society's purpose of preserving objects which illustrate the story of Union County, Oregon.

As a nonprofit organization in the community we understand the limited nature of funding and volunteer efforts. We would be happy to consider opportunities to work with you in promoting our concurrent efforts of historic preservation. We would like to offer our newsletter as a venue for getting out information about volunteer opportunities and fundraising. You may contact our newsletter editor Merle Miller, (mpmiller@eoni.com) for information about submissions and publication dates.

Additionally, you may make reference to our support in your communications and grant applications.

Sincerely,

Linda Bond, secretary
Union County Museum Society
PO Box 90
Union, OR



1000 Adams Ave.; PO Box 670; La Grande, OR 97850; 541-962-1307; rstrope@cityoflagrande.org

May 9, 2017

The Honorable Co-Chair Fred Girod
The Honorable Co-Chair Paul Holvey
Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means on Capital Construction
900 Court St. NE H-384
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Girod, Representative Holvey, and Members of the Joint Committee,

On behalf of the City of La Grande Urban Renewal Agency, it is my pleasure to write in support of the Liberty Theatre Foundation's request for funding to restore the Liberty Theatre. The Agency has been committed to this restoration project since the beginning, providing the initial funding for the project in the form of a loan of \$150,000 to purchase the building. The Agency has since provided additional funds for facade improvements as the project has progressed.

The Agency wants to assist in the Foundation's effort to receive this vital State funding to help make this project a reality. Therefore, at their April, 2017, meeting, the Agency unanimously voted to forgive the \$150,000 loan, including interest, contingent upon the State Legislature approving their request for \$1 million.

The Agency believes the restoration of this historic theater will be of significant benefit to the immediate downtown core as well as the broader region. It is our hope that the restoration will prompt interest in preserving other contributing buildings in our Historic Commercial District, resulting in more private investment, and the corresponding increase in property values.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Strobe
District Manager