

SPOKANE CIVIC THEATRE®

SPOKANE CIVIC THEATRE AND THE DOWNTOWN STADIUM PROPOSAL

APRIL 16, 2021

Founded in 1947, Spokane Civic Theatre is a nonprofit community theatre that has been located at 1020 North Howard Street since 1967. Each year, Civic hosts more than 180 performances, created by more than 400 volunteer cast and crew members, serving approximately 50,000 audience members. Additionally, Civic is home to hundreds of young artists who participate in a variety of performing and technical arts classes and workshops. As an entertainment venue, per state mandates, Spokane Civic Theatre operations and productions have been paused due to the pandemic since March 16, 2020.

Spokane Civic Theatre learned details of the new Downtown Stadium proposal on March 2, 2021 following Downtown Spokane Partnerships's (DSP) press conference held at the Wonder Building. In December 2020, Spokane Civic Theatre was approached by DSP President Mark Richard with a request to explore potential relocation. No further context was provided at that time with regards to the nature of the request. After considering locations suggested by DSP, Civic determined that Mr. Richard's proposed sites would not adequately meet our mission and community's needs.

In response to the March 2, 2021 DSP presentation and the March 10, 2021 Spokane Public Schools (SPS) Board Meeting, Civic sent preliminary concerns to SPS Board Members on March 16, 2021 which included the following:

- Should the Downtown Stadium concept be realized, soundproofing Spokane Civic Theatre would be necessary to continue operations as is.
- The impact of simultaneous events at The Arena, The Podium and Civic remains to be seen and warrants a study that also takes into account any Downtown Stadium proposal.

Between the March 10, 2021 and April 14, 2021 SPS Board meetings, Spokane Civic Theatre met with Stephanie Curran, CEO of the Spokane Public Facilities District (PFD) on April 5 and Jerrall Haynes, SPS Board President, on April 13. In both occurrences, the topics discussed included potential parking mitigation should the project move forward, soundproofing needs that Civic would require to remain operational, and a request for the visibility of Civic and our community impact as a piece of the larger puzzle moving forward.

In conjunction with these meetings, Spokane Civic Theatre is collaborating with Performance Contracting Incorporated, Tremco, and other companies that regularly work with The Arena, The Podium and other public facilities buildings in Spokane to determine actual costs for sound infrastructure should the Downtown Stadium be realized. Additionally, to ensure Civic's ability to fully operate and honor our mission, we continue to explore all available options to enforce Civic's capacity to utilize its property and engage with its community.

As a fixture in the Spokane arts and culture community, Spokane Civic Theatre is excited by all prospects of growth and development, as well as the undeniable potential that Spokane possesses. We also recognize that should the Downtown Stadium move forward, Spokane Civic Theatre, one of the oldest and most awarded community theatres in the nation, a North Bank land owner, economic participant, and equitable entertainment provider, must be invited into the conversation as a key player and joint solution maker.

We look forward to the future of the North Bank and further conversations surrounding its development.