

SPOKANE CIVIC THEATRE®

SPOKANE CIVIC THEATRE AND THE DOWNTOWN STADIUM

MAY 14, 2021

Dear Civic Community,

What a year it has been! Between a global pandemic that has caused Civic to “pause” since March 2020 and news of our new neighbor, the Downtown Stadium, we know that many of you have questions about the future. So, let’s dive in.

What does this mean for Civic? What does this mean for the arts?

Over the last two months, Civic has engaged in conversations with community members, the Spokane Public Schools (SPS) Board and the Public Facilities District (PFD) to ensure that our voice is heard while we reimagine the future of the North Bank. These conversations have opened an opportunity for a genuine partnership between all entities to support the arts while also supporting a growing Spokane.

Okay, but what about the noise concerns?

1020 North Howard Street is, and has been, our home since 1967. We love our building, but with the addition of our new neighbor it is clear that we are due for a facelift in the soundproofing department. While additional soundproofing poses challenges in the short term, we recognize that this added infrastructure will only benefit Civic in the long run as our downtown expands and becomes more vibrant.

That sounds great, but who is going to pay for it?

Oh, the million dollar question. (Quite literally.) While we acknowledge the long-term benefits of soundproofing our building, we also recognize the multimillion dollar price tag that comes along with it. Your Civic team has been actively engaged by and engaging with local, county, and state officials to secure base funding to kick off a capital campaign to support our infrastructure needs tied to the Downtown Stadium. More on this later.

What about the “P” word, parking?

The Civic community knows that parking by the theatre can be tricky at times, especially when other events are occurring nearby. With this in mind, we are actively working with the PFD to coordinate our parking needs on event nights while also identifying areas close to the theatre for Civic patrons to park. Additionally, we are exploring all options surrounding transportation to and from the theatre to best serve you, our community.

So, we are engaging in a capital campaign?

In order to secure the funding necessary for soundproofing as we look to the next 50 years and beyond, we need to think big. The time for a capital campaign is here, and we are diligently working to lay the foundation for its rollout. However, we are not alone in our efforts. In addition to the support we have gathered and are gathering from our local, county, and state officials, we also have worked to outline terms with SPS and the Downtown Spokane Partnership that allow these organizations to assist in planning, promoting, and securing funds for our campaign as permitted by law.

What happens next?

Civic has continued to actively engage with SPS and the PFD in their efforts to build the Downtown Stadium. We will continue to collaborate whenever possible with both entities as we work to protect Civic’s interests in both the short and long term, while also embracing the growth of our city.

From the very bottom of our hearts, we want to thank you, our community, for your care, engagement, and advocacy for Civic during this time. Civic could not exist without your support. To make sure you are up to date on all Civic news, be sure to subscribe to our newsletter at the link below. (Don’t wait to sign up - we have a BIG announcement coming soon!)

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