

September 12, 2024

Hey everyone!

We're excited to share that the Concrete Theatre has been awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Washington State Historic Theater Capital Grant program! This funding is going to help us make some much-needed upgrades, making it more fun and comfortable for you to attend our events.

The Historic Theater Capital Grant program was set up by the Washington State Legislature in 2021 to help preserve historic theaters like ours. It's managed by the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation, and we're thrilled to be one of 12 recipients in Washington for this funding cycle!

So, what are we going to do with this grant? We'll be installing a brand-new HVAC unit, replacing the emergency exit door at the back of the stage, and upgrading our stage lighting.

1. You'll be warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer.
2. There'll be a safer, more accessible back door in case of an emergency.
3. Our live shows will be a lot more fun to watch! Right now, we're working with outdated portable lights that are a hassle to set up and don't really do justice to our performances. With the new lighting system, we'll be able to create a more professional atmosphere that makes every show a memorable experience.

These improvements mean we can host more live performances, and comes just as we're gearing up for a 2025 initiative to kick off an annual drama camp for youth! We want to inspire the next generation of artists and give them a chance to shine on our stage.

The Concrete Theatre is all about community. We host events like the annual Concrete Ghost Walk in October, where local storytellers share their tales. We've teamed up with the Skagit County Boys and Girls Club and Concrete Elementary School for theatrical productions and children's operas, and we partner with Shakespeare Northwest to bring classic plays to life.

Speaking of upcoming events, don't miss "Moments in Time" on September 28! It's going to feature songs and monologues performed by 13 amazing local talents, directed by Gretchen Hewitt and accompanied by pianist Cheri Cook-Blodgett. It's a perfect example of how we're committed to showcasing local talent of all ages.

We're incredibly grateful for the support from the Washington State Legislature and the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation. However, we do need a 25% match for the grant, so we'll be reaching out to our community for a little extra help to make this project a success. Together, we can invest in our young performers and the future of the theatre!

With over 80 historic theaters across Washington, many in small towns like ours, these venues play a crucial role in supporting local economies and cultural tourism. By enhancing the Concrete Theatre, we can attract visitors looking for authentic cultural experiences, which is a win-win for everyone.

As we gear up for these exciting upgrades, we're dedicated to preserving this cherished community space for generations to come. For more info about the Concrete Theatre and what's coming up, check out our website at www.Concrete-Theatre.com.

Can't wait to see you at the theatre!

Thanks,
Valerie Stafford and Fred West

P.S. If you'd like to contribute to our newest project that provides comfort, safety, and excitement to the Concrete Theatre, please get in touch:

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