

# THE CIVIC SPOTLIGHT

JUNE TO AUG 2026

VOL. 03

## THE GROUNDBREAKING EDITION

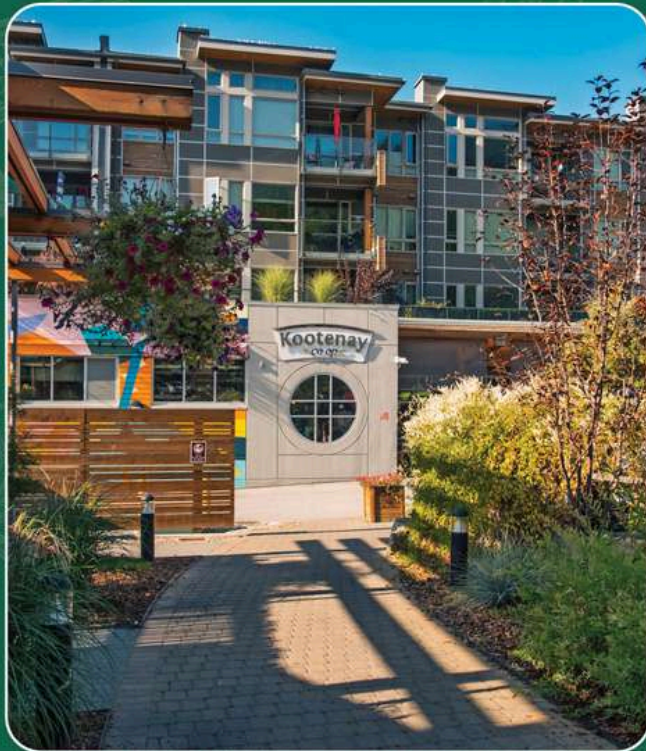
How The Civic Theatre finally broke ground.

## WHY WE CHOSE TO BECOME A CHARITY

## THE WEIRDEST MOVIE NIGHTS WE'VE EVER HOSTED



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# THE CIVIC SPOTLIGHT

PUBLISHED BY NELSON CIVIC THEATRE SOCIETY

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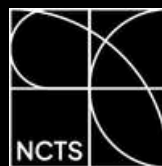
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# Welcome

## EDITOR'S NOTE

You know how people mark the beginning of something - a first kiss, a first apartment, the moment a relationship starts to feel real. For The Civic Theatre, it was the clap of a movie clapboard at our groundbreaking ceremony.

For years, people heard versions of "coming soon." Plans were drawn. Meetings were held. Progress happened in fits and starts. Through it all, people kept believing in this project.

This issue exists because something has finally shifted. The plans are complete. Accessibility certification has been secured. Construction is finalized. Funding momentum is real. For the first time in a long time, The Civic is no longer a future project. It's one people can see taking shape.

It's happening (!!!). Inside these pages, we wanted to capture both the excitement of the groundbreaking and the people who brought us here: the volunteers, supporters, artists, movie lovers, local businesses, and community members who kept showing up long before the construction fencing arrived.

This has always been more than renovating a building. It's about protecting a gathering place. A weird movie night place. A rainy day place. A place for first dates, family outings, volunteer shifts, and running into neighbours. A place where our community can mark the beginning of something.

Sincerely,

*The NCTS Team*

## COMMUNITY WORDS

It's a place where I can meet new people and old friends alike. The Civic is a happy place, which is socially important. People don't go to the movies because they're upset but because they want to share community, social connection or just take the family out for some fun.

---

If you're curious about what's going on, you're always welcome to stop by and ask. The doors at Reo's might be locked some days, but ...a hard knock usually does the trick.

You can also follow along for updates, share these stories, and tell us what you think.

-  [civictheatre.ca](http://civictheatre.ca)
-  [info@civictheatre.ca](mailto:info@civictheatre.ca)
-  [/nelsoncivictheatre](https://www.facebook.com/nelsoncivictheatre)
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A FUNDRAISER BY THE CIVIC THEATRE



SOMETIMES WE NEED A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS.  
.....AND THEIR FRIENDS.  
AND MAYBE SOME OF THEIR FRIENDS TOO.



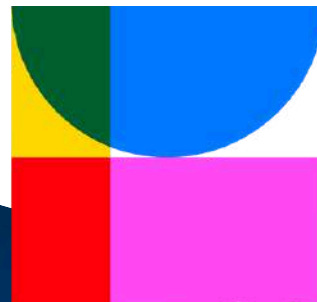
# Rising Strong 2

NO, THIS STILL ISN'T A FILM. BUT IT IS THE SEQUEL. TWO YEARS AGO, A FAILING ROOF THREATENED THE FUTURE OF THE CIVIC THEATRE. YOU HELPED US RISE STRONG. TODAY, THE ROOF IS REPAIRED, CONSTRUCTION IS UNDERWAY, AND FOR THE FIRST TIME WE CAN SEE THE FINISH LINE. BUT AFTER MORE THAN TWO YEARS WITHOUT OUR MAIN THEATRE, THE COST OF SURVIVAL REMAINS. WITH JUST ONE YEAR TO GO BEFORE REOPENING, WE NEED YOUR HELP FOR THE FINAL STRETCH TO ENSURE THE CIVIC THEATRE RETURNS AS A STABLE, SELF-FUNDING THREE-THEATRE VENUE FOR OUR COMMUNITY. HELP BRING THE CIVIC HOME. **DONATE TODAY AT [CIVICTHEATRE.CA/DONATE](http://CIVICTHEATRE.CA/DONATE).**

ON NOW



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# WHY THIS TIME FEELS DIFFERENT

BY ELEANOR STACEY

I've been thinking a lot about our groundbreaking ceremony on April 29, 2026, on the steps of The Civic Theatre. In the weeks leading up to it, we were focused on the details. Reflecting on it afterward, it became clear just how significant that moment was.

A groundbreaking is a strange kind of celebration. It isn't the achievement of being finished. It's the moment you acknowledge that you're finally getting started.

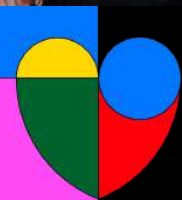
In early 2020, we had secured the support needed to move forward with the full three-screen redevelopment, and assumed construction would follow relatively quickly. Instead, the years that followed were spent solving problems we hadn't anticipated. The Civic Centre roof required extensive intervention before redevelopment could proceed, and construction costs rose dramatically.

There were moments when it would have been easy to scale back our ambitions. Each challenge forced us to ask the same question: does this community still need what we're trying to build?

Every time, the answer was yes.

People kept coming to films at The Civic, The Shoebox, and our summer drive-ins. Donors continued to support us. Volunteers stayed engaged. Staff and board members kept doing the often-unseen work of meetings, applications, and revisions. The community's belief in this project never wavered.

PHOTOS BY  
EMPTY CUP MEDIA - COLIN BURWELL



**Membership that matters. Community that lasts.**

Renew your NCTS membership and help write the next chapter for The Civic.



So when I stood on the steps of The Civic on April 29, what struck me most wasn't the speeches or the ceremonial photos. It was the people. Volunteers, donors, former board members, government partners, staff, and community members who have carried this project through its many chapters. For the first time in a long time, we weren't talking about what might happen someday. We were standing together in the middle of something actually happening.

And that's worth celebrating.

**"FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME, WE WEREN'T TALKING ABOUT WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN SOMEDAY. WE WERE STANDING TOGETHER IN THE MIDDLE OF SOMETHING ACTUALLY HAPPENING."**

But this milestone is not the finish line.

To fully realize the vision our community has imagined, including all three screens and the flexibility to serve our region for decades to come, we still need to raise approximately \$2.5 million. That means continuing to pursue funding opportunities, but it also means actively inviting our community in through major gifts, sponsorships, seat sales, charitable donations, and legacy giving.

The Civic Theatre exists today because people decided it was worth investing in. This next chapter will be built the same way.

The future we've been talking about for so long is finally taking shape. We're no longer imagining what The Civic could mean for our community. We're building it.

And there has never been a more important time to be part of that story.

# LOCAL LEGEND PICKS



**Lucas Myers** Arriving in the Nelson and Area in grade 4 after his mom took a Tai Chi/Rebirthing/Organic Gardening workshop (can't remember which one) and decided This Was The Place, Lucas returned years later to perform his one person show EAST (remount this fall!) and discovered there were folks here who shared his particular comedy sensibilities. Lucas realized when his own kids were imminent (Shout Out to Frances and Maeve!) that This Was Still The Place. After settling down in 2006, Lucas went on to perform his shows (DRESS, DECK, HELLO BABY, CAMPGROUND, ROOF, CROMOLI BROS, RANDY FROM CRESTON) locally and tour them across BC. He can be seen in Amy Bohigian's sketch comedy show Southern Interior, available for viewing on Youtube whenever the heck you want.



## JUNE PICK

### ***THE AUTEUR: PUNCH DRUNK LOVE***

It can rain a lot in June, and even if it doesn't, you don't need an excuse to re-watch (because please tell me you've watched it before) this highly original twist on the romance comedy with a Who Knew He Had It In Him performance by Adam Sandler and stellar supporting cast featuring Emily Mortimer and Philip Seymour Hoffman. Come for the harmonium, stay for the hilariously aggressive and heartfelt pillow talk.

# FEATURING *LUCAS MYERS*

Each issue, we feature someone who inspires our community and their three film picks. Want to suggest someone? **Visit [civictheatre.ca/contact](http://civictheatre.ca/contact)**



## JULY PICK

### ***THE SUMMER BLOCKBUSTER: MINORITY REPORT***

Summer is the time for blockbusters, I'm a sci fi sucker, and Spielberg knows how to spin up a good yarn. Crank up the AC and enjoy Tom Cruise doing his "Everything is Really Important" acting, but it's the bit parts that make this movie for me. Colin Farrell being effortlessly smooth (and apparently super hungover), Peter Stormare being reliably deeply freaky in the eye scene (IYKYK) and most of all Samantha Morton as the pre cog, bringing a level of depth and pathos to a big budget crowd pleaser that doesn't need to be there, but it's so great that it is. There's a twist, of course, which I can't remember, don't tell me because I'll watch it again!

## AUGUST PICK

### ***THE DEEP CUT/CAN CON : LÉOLO***

As the days of summer stretch into August and you start to lose track of what day of the week it is, it's the perfect time for this surreal coming of age story set in Montreal in the 50's. I saw this French Canadian film from 1992 written and directed by Jean-Claude Lauzon when I was at university and it has always stayed with me. Set in a rough and tumble Mile End, it's about a 12 year old boy who deals with his highly dysfunctional family by creating a vivid imaginative world for himself. Full of absurdity and visual beauty, it also features some really intense scenes and situations and isn't for everyone, so proceed with caution. For me, it's the concept of the imagination being a place to find solace and the way the movie represents this through the visual medium of film that really struck a chord with me.

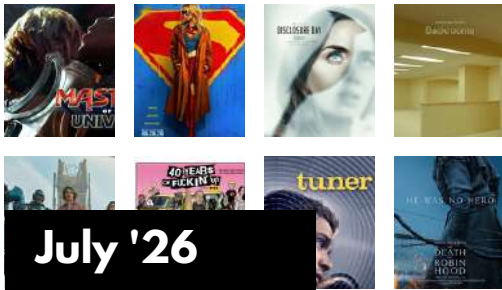
**HOT TIP: ALL OF LUCAS' SELECTIONS ARE AVAILABLE TO RENT AT REO'S!**

# NCTS PROGRAMMING



**SHOEBOX:** Big feet in little shoes - Blockbusting at the seams of The Shoebox. Tis the beginning of big summer movies. Look for 'Masters of the Universe' and Spielberg's 'Disclosure Day' with a peppering of indie hits 'Obsession', 'Tuner', and 'Backrooms'

**REO'S:** Celebrate Pride Month with a curated collection of LGBTQ2S+ films spanning beloved classics, groundbreaking documentaries, and contemporary favourites



**SHOEBOX:** A super month complete with hero, 'Super Girl', and A24's anti hero take on Robin Hood in 'Death of Robin Hood' as well as a journey with punk heroes/anti heroes NOFX in '40 Years of Fu\*\*n' Up'. 'Toy Story', 'Moana' and Chris Nolan's 'The Odyssey'? Pas mal.

**REO'S:** In recognition of Disability Pride Month, explore films created by and featuring people with disabilities, highlighting stories of creativity, resilience, and representation.



**SHOEBOX:** Wind down the summer with the help of some 'Minions & Monsters', 'Spider-Man: a Brand New Day', Sundance smash hit, 'The Invite', The Canadian indie that was a breakout at SXSW, 'The Snake', and maybe a few cuddles with the 'Paw Patrol: Dino Movie' if you're good.



See what's playing at The Civic



**SKETCH CAMP - AUGUST 4th - 14th:** Spend two creative weeks drawing, designing characters, telling stories, and learning illustration techniques with local artist Pete Ryan. Sketch Camp is designed for young artists looking to build skills, explore creativity, and have fun.

**Space is limited. Register at [civictheatre.ca](http://civictheatre.ca) or visit Reo's Video for details.**

Come in for a complimentary tasting.



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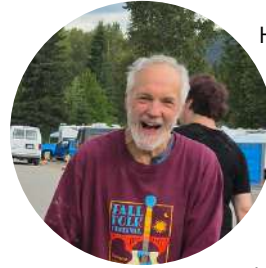
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# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT WITH



He attended one of the first public meetings about reopening The Civic and remembers the room packed with people who cared deeply about keeping movies alive in Nelson. From there, he jumped in wherever help was needed.

In those early days, volunteering meant doing a bit of everything. Jim helped clean the theatre, repaint floors, organize memberships, install concession equipment and speakers, assist with soundproofing, and reinstall hundreds of theatre seats by hand.

"We installed every one of those seats ourselves," he says.

Over the years, Jim became part of the fabric of the theatre. One of the biggest projects he worked on was helping build The Shoebox Theatre, from organizing materials to building risers and supports during what became a massive volunteer effort.

"It was a lot of work," he says. "But people came together and made it happen."

For Jim, what stands out most isn't just the work itself, but the people he did it alongside. He never needed much convincing that Nelson needed its theatre. He just showed up, and kept showing up.

Now, as the theatre moves into its next chapter, Jim says he's excited for one simple reason: making sure movies continue to exist in Nelson for future generations.

**"I just want people to keep being able to go to the movies," he says. "And I'll continue to do everything I can to help make that happen."**

## JIM DRAKE

For Jim Drake, moving to Nelson and supporting The Civic Theatre have always gone hand in hand.

After nearly 40 years living off grid on a remote island near Vancouver Island, Jim and his wife were ready for a change. When their daughter moved to Nelson in 2000, they came to help her settle in and quickly fell in love with the town. By 2005, they had officially moved.

One thing mattered to Jim when choosing where to live: it had to have a movie theatre.

At the time, The Civic was still open, but only a few years later he learned it was shutting down. Seeing the building sit empty was heartbreaking.

Then one morning, Jim opened the Nelson Star and saw a full page ad calling on the community to help save the theatre.

"That was the moment the candle got lit," he says.



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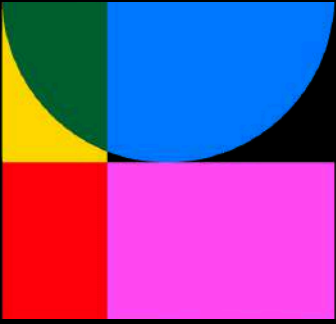
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A THEATRE THAT BELONGS TO NELSON

# Why We Chose to Become a Charity

When people think about movie theatres, they usually think about tickets, popcorn, and what's playing on Friday night. But The Civic Theatre has always been about something bigger than that.

After the theatre closed in 2010, the community stepped in to save it. Not because it was a profitable business opportunity, but because people believed Nelson simply needed a movie theatre. Volunteers cleaned the building, repaired seats, sold memberships, raised funds, and slowly brought it back to life. That spirit still shapes how we operate today.

As the organization grew, it became clear our work extended beyond operating a traditional movie theatre. We were supporting artists, creating educational opportunities, preserving a historic building, and strengthening community connection. We also never turned down a great costume party tied to a film. That playful love of storytelling has always been part of who we are. (If you've ever seen Civic ads by Programming Director Jason Asbell, where he scales a mountain, is transformed into a teenage girl by a video game, or acquires spice-blue eyes, you'll know exactly what I mean.)

Becoming a registered charity allowed our structure to better reflect that public purpose. Charitable status lets us access grants and offer tax receipts to donors, making it possible for people, businesses, foundations, and governments to invest in something they value.



Because we are community-governed, we make decisions based on what will benefit our community rather than maximize profit. That means accessible pricing, youth programs, local filmmakers, festivals, and uniquely local decisions like preserving Reo's Video. Income from popular films helps make the more local and niche programming possible.

**THE GOAL HAS NEVER BEEN SIMPLY TO RUN A MOVIE THEATRE. IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO BUILD A CULTURAL HOME.**

That philosophy won't change. A three-screen Civic Theatre will allow us to offer more choice, more programming, and more opportunities for people to gather. It will also make us more financially resilient.

The goal has never been simply to run a movie theatre. It has always been to build a cultural home that belongs to the people who use it. **The future of The Civic Theatre is also the future of Nelson, and its success won't be measured simply by box office receipts, but by the vibrancy and connectedness of the community it helps sustain.**

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# Building The NEW Civic Theatre

Nearly \$5 million has already been secured through public funding and community support. Construction is now underway on Phase 1.



## Why Three Screens?

One screen limits what a community theatre can offer.

- Films must run for fixed periods, regardless of demand
- New releases are often missed
- Different audiences cannot be served at the same time
- Community use is restricted by scheduling conflicts

It can support day-to-day operations, but not long-term stability.



## The Benefits

With three screens, The Civic can:

- Create space for more films, events, and local programming
- Serve multiple audiences at the same time
- Expand access for community and cultural use
- Build a more stable and sustainable future for The Civic



## What This Makes Possible

Projected annual screen revenue:

**\$985,000**

Vs. \$296,000 with one screen.

Projected operating surplus:

**approx. \$425,000**

**As a charitable organization, this surplus is not profit. It is reinvested into programming, community access, and the long term sustainability of The Civic Theatre.**

## The Gap:

\$2.5 million is still needed to fully complete the new Civic Theatre. The next phase will happen through continued community support, partnerships, and fundraising.

# BE PART OF WHAT'S NEXT



A great way to support NCTS is by volunteering. Volunteers are vital. Many hands make light work. Together, we're creating a vibrant cultural hub where stories, artists, and audiences thrive.



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteering at The Civic is a fun, meaningful way to support local arts and connect with your community. Whether you love greeting guests, organizing, or pitching in wherever needed, there's a spot for you here.

# SUPPORTERS WHO MAKE THIS POSSIBLE

**NELSON HOME HARDWARE BUILDING CENTRE** is proud to support NCTS and The Civic Theatre. As a locally owned business, we're committed to strengthening the region and helping make Nelson a vibrant place to live, work, and create. Thank you for supporting local businesses and community spaces.

**NATASHA EDMUNDS ENGAGEMENT** proudly supports NCTS and The Civic Theatre. Natasha's work focuses on transforming conflict into dialogue, helping teams, leaders, and individuals navigate challenges with clarity and compassion. Through mediation, facilitation, and coaching, she supports stronger communication, healthier relationships, and shared agreements that last. Connect for a free discovery call: [www.natashaedmunds.com](http://www.natashaedmunds.com)

**KC RESTAURANT** is proud to support NCTS and The Civic Theatre, reflecting our deep roots in the community and commitment to local culture. The Mah family has served Nelson since 1970, beginning with traditional Chinese cuisine and expanding over the years to include Japanese and Thai favourites. Explore our newest menu at [thekcrestarant.com!](http://thekcrestarant.com!)

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City of  
**NELSON**

# THE WEIRDEST MOVIE NIGHTS WE'VE EVER HOSTED

BY JASON ASBELL

## THE NIGHT WE SERVED ROMULAN ALE

JUNE 14, 2013

Our first booking with our brand new digital cinema system for The Nelson Civic Theatre Society began with the second film in the rebooted original crew Star Trek series. A milestone that can only be marked with a wee dram of Romulan Ale, and so it was. With Nelson showing up to the premier as aliens, or Star Fleet crew members for a licensed kick off, one lucky person got to go home with a local artisan blown glass carafe based off the Romulan Ale bottle from the original series filled with enough blue liquid to even get a Vulcan drunk.



## THE NIGHT A BLACK CAT HAUNTED THE CONJURING

AUGUST 9, 2013



The horror, the horror. The Civic Theatre may not have gone in for a fancy 3D system, but we sure brought a whole new dimension to the Friday night opening of 'The Conjuring'. Back in those days we didn't have a dimmer control in the booth, so we had to kill the house lights from the stage and run back up to the booth in the darkness to start the movie. To mitigate the awkwardness of this, we would give a welcome intro for the night from the stage before turning off the lights. On this summer night before we had an AC unit installed, a black cat had wandered into the theatre through the open doors. We failed to find the cat prior to showtime. My address from the stage that night warned viewers that beyond the frights from the film, they may feel something brush up against their legs. "Please don't kick it."

## THE NIGHT FORTY VW BUSES TOOK OVER DOWNTOWN

JULY 30, 2014

In 2012, at the same time of being deep into our grass roots push to preserve the historic Civic Theatre as a movie venue, I also owned a 1986 Volkswagen Vanagon Westalia. In both instances, there was a lot of love and hate for the persistent challenges, but even greater rewards they both offered. Having to move from rental to rental over our first few years in Nelson, our purchase of the well worn camper van a few years earlier became our first consistent home in Nelson, and this is how I came to feel about The Civic Theatre.

With a little kismet energy, a documentary, 'The Bus', about the history, evolution and cultural significance of the VW Bus was made by Missoula Montana filmmaker Damon Ristau. Of course, some local Nelson Westfalians would know him and before you knew it, we had a screening scheduled, which included a call out for a pre-show Westfalia boot party in the parking lot across the street. Over forty VW buses and Vanagon Westfalias, many driven up from the coast and including the director and two other buses from Montana, showed up and lined the lot side by side overflowing into parking spaces on the street. A shared potluck of curries, chillies, barbecued hot dogs, soups, salads and more added to the ambiance of a truly Nelson event, which gouged into The Civic's popcorn sales a bit.



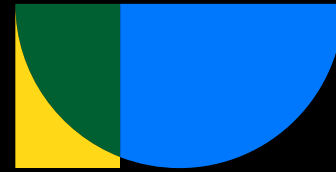
## THE NIGHT YOU COULD ADOPT A KITTEN IN THE LOBBY

JUNE 24, 2015

Name me another screening where you could get a real live kitten along with your popcorn, drink and candy combo. Well, on June 24, 2015, such a screening took place as The Civic Theatre presented a fundraising screening of the 'The Just For Cats 2015 Internet Cat Video Festival' for the SPCA. Along with a DJ set from Meow Mix and dance number from the Showcats and a curated program of internet cat videos, adoptions of kittens could be made in the lobby from the SPCA's Kitty Corral. Another cat story? **More unique screenings to come.**

# You Are Part of the Next Chapter

**Campaign Progress:**  
62% Funded  
38% To Go



The Civic Theatre's redevelopment is already underway thanks to the support of community members, businesses, foundations, and government partners. Together, we've brought the project this far. The next chapter will be built the same way. There's still room for you.

## Ways to Get Involved:

### Make a Gift

Every contribution helps move the redevelopment forward. Whether it's \$25 or \$25,000, your support helps fund the next phase of construction, accessibility improvements, and the completion of the three-screen vision.

Visit [civictheatre.ca/donate](http://civictheatre.ca/donate) to make a gift today.

### Tell Someone Why You Care

Many of our supporters first became involved because a friend, family member, or colleague shared why The Civic Theatre mattered to them.

Share your favourite Civic Theatre memory with a friend, family member, or colleague this week.

### Come See the Vision

Curious about what's next? Stop by the Reo's Video office to view project renderings, learn more about the redevelopment, and see how the new Civic Theatre is taking shape.

Ask a staff member which part of the redevelopment they're most excited about.

### Ask Questions

Community projects are strongest when people are informed and engaged. We're happy to talk about timelines, budgets, programming plans, accessibility features, and what's still ahead.

Visit Reo's Video or email [info@civictheatre.ca](mailto:info@civictheatre.ca) with your questions.

### Consider a Larger Contribution

Major gifts, sponsorships, naming opportunities, and legacy donations can help bring the full vision for The Civic Theatre to life.

If you'd like to play a larger role in this project, contact Executive Director Eleanor Stacey at [eleanor@civictheatre.ca](mailto:eleanor@civictheatre.ca) for a confidential conversation.



Scan here to  
donate online  
today.

# The Big Screen Is Still Bright

BY ELEANOR STACEY & JASON ASBELL

Last month, we attended ShowCanada, the annual gathering of cinema owners, studios, film distributors, and industry leaders from across the country. The overall message was encouraging: the movie theatre experience is strong, growing, and continuing to evolve.

There was widespread optimism about the future of theatrical exhibition. Industry leaders pointed to strong upcoming film slates, renewed support for theatrical release windows, and audiences' increasing desire for memorable, shared experiences outside the home.

***For us, these conversations felt particularly relevant.***

The past six years have challenged cinemas everywhere. The pandemic, shifting studio strategies, Hollywood strikes, and changing audience habits created uncertainty throughout the industry. Like many theatres, we adapted by finding new ways to connect with audiences, from drive-ins and outdoor events to expanded community programming.

The last six years have also offered a pretty formidable data set, and despite occasional conjecture to the contrary, what we have learned is simple: people still want to experience stories together.

At ShowCanada, some of the discussion focused on the growing importance of premium experiences. While larger theatres may define that through luxury seating or expanded food service, for us at The Civic Theatre, the premium experience continues to be the true feeling of community. It is discovering a great film, attending a festival or eventized screening, seeing friends in the lobby, and sharing an unforgettable collective experience together.

What was particularly encouraging was how closely these conversations reflected our own experience in Nelson. Audiences increasingly expect choice, flexibility, and experiences that cannot be replicated at home. Our plans for The Civic Theatre are rooted in that reality, creating more opportunities for discovery, connection, and shared experiences.

If ShowCanada left us with one clear takeaway, it is this: the future of cinema remains bright. We are excited to be part of the work of ensuring communities continue to gather around stories for generations to come.



# OUR COMMUNITY OF SUPPORTERS

On April 19, 2024, The Civic Theatre closed for renovations. Since that day, our community has shown up in extraordinary ways. The individuals, families, businesses, foundations, and public partners listed below have sustained NCTS through this period of transition, supporting both our ongoing operations and the long-term transformation of our space.

Your generosity ensures that film, connection, and culture continue in Nelson, and that The Civic Theatre will reopen stronger than ever. We are deeply grateful. To make a gift today please visit [civictheatre.ca/donate](http://civictheatre.ca/donate)

## \$250,000+

- City of Nelson
- Enabling Accessibility Program (Government of Canada)
- Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program
- Province of British Columbia

## \$10,000 – \$249,000

- Anonymous
- Chinook Scaffolding\*
- Columbia Basin Trust
- Creative BC
- Telefilm Canada
- West Kootenay Regional Arts Council
- Jim Sevigny

## \$5,000 – \$9,999

- Kootenay Lake Electric (KLE)\*
- Jan McLean
- Tony Maglio\*
- Martin Hotel Group
- Osprey Community Foundation
- Rona Maglio Building Centre

## \$1,000 – \$4,999

- Anonymous
- The Adventure Hotel\*
- Andex Rentals & Sales\*
- Capitol Theatre\*
- Judy Cameron
- Chandos
- Joanne Chimenti
- Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance
- Columbia Power Corporation
- Cover Architectural Collaborative
- Sarah Dobell
- Cathy Fuss
- Fortis BC
- Hall Printing\*
- Hamber Foundation
- Bruce Hunter
- Kari Kroker
- Kathy Loxam
- David Martin
- Sheila & Dave Martin
- Marilyn Mint
- Ken Muth
- Nelson & District Arts Council
- Nelson Brewing Company
- Nelson Kootenay Lake Tourism
- Nelson Olive Oil Co.\*
- Neighbours United
- Regional District of Central Kootenay
- Remedy's Pharmacy
- Phil & Patricia Scott
- SMT Law

- Margaret Stacey
- Stirling All Suite Hotel\*
- Western Auto Parts & Towing\*

## \$500 – \$999

- Alan Burch
- David & Lori Buss
- Laurie Carr
- Dorothy Dalba
- Darrell Devries
- Jim Drake & Lily Mayall
- Pat Glackin
- Sharon Lee
- Stefan Lehmann
- JoAnn Lowell
- Nelson Rotary Club
- Nelson Stitch Lab
- Provincial Employees Community Services Fund (PECSF)
- Roger Pratt
- Selkirk College
- Selkirk: Community Education & Workplace Training Nelson
- Terra Therma
- The Building Tree
- Edward Weaver
- Michael Wicks

## Up to \$499

- Anonymous
- Ainsworth Hot Springs
- Carlo Alcos
- Aileen Anderson
- Aron Ashman
- Antonia Banyard
- Jennie Barron
- Laura Barkwell
- Karen Bond
- Vivien E. Bowers
- Jeanette Boyd
- Diane Burt
- Holly Cammidge
- Kathleen Cauley
- Birgit Vierheilig Chart
- Chris Chart
- Laurence Cheng
- Saoirse Christopherson
- Laura Clyde
- Michelle Colley
- Deryn Collier
- Carolee F. Colter
- Linda Crosfield
- Danielle D'Aleo
- Anne DeGrace
- Nolah Docherty
- Mark Dodsworth
- Robert Driscoll
- Joshua Drozda
- Dianna Ducs
- Grant Elliot
- Empty Cup Media
- Sandra England
- Mona Evans
- Kevin Fairbairn
- Susan Faye
- Lily Feedback
- Natalia Fisher
- Susan Forster
- Rachel Fournier
- Ruth Fraser
- Stephanie Frioud
- Allison A. Girvan
- Robert Goertz
- Gregory Marrast
- John & Maryann Gwilliam
- Christine Halleran
- Pat Henman
- Nicole Hildebrand
- Dale E. Holmes
- Suzi Holmes
- Stuart Horn
- Linda Hoskin
- Christopher Huestis
- Craig Huff
- David Ingraham
- Sharon Inkpen
- Donna James
- Sarah James
- Chris Jury
- Patricia Kelly
- Tommy Laflamme
- Chris Lalonde
- Laurie Langille
- Fée Lapalme-Leblanc
- Kendrick Lawless
- Marilyn Lawrence
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- Tandi Wilkinson
- Greg Utzig
- Vicki Valks
- Bob Wilson
- Akiko Yamaguchi
- Evan Zaleschuk
- Ed Zych

\* In-kind Gift

Error or omission?  
Please email us at  
[info@civictheatre.ca](mailto:info@civictheatre.ca)

For the purpose of this list, donor contributions have been summarized for an 25-month period (covering our closure).



JOIN OUR LIST OF  
SUPPORTERS TODAY!

# CLOSING LETTER

An essay by  
ITSUKI TAKAHASHI



When the Civic Theatre was left gutted and abandoned in 2010, with wires hanging from the ceiling and tools scattered about, what the operator at the time also left behind was a community that refused to let its cinema go dark.

A petition with nearly 5000 names and one non-profit society later, I asked the unstoppable President of the Board at the time Anne Degrace how I could help, and she told me they needed a Volunteer Coordinator. A volunteer Volunteer Coordinator to be exact, and even though I had never done anything like that, Nelsonites made it easy. I had almost 400 people on my volunteer roster, everyone wanted to pitch in. For more than a year people showed up with tools, ladders, paintbrushes, opinions, snacks, trucks, muscles, and a phenomenal degree of faith. Seats were installed, walls painted, soundproofing went up, equipment was installed, dump runs were made, hundreds of thousands of dollars were raised, and eventually popcorn was popped and our first tickets were sold.

Not a single inch of that theatre escaped being loved into usefulness by a volunteer's hands.

And then there were the parties. Our finest restaurants donated gorgeous appetizers, circus performers hung from the ceiling, DJs filled the space with sound, costumes were donned and prizes given. One time, for the 2013 premiere of *Star Trek: Into the Darkness*, the theatre swarmed with extraterrestrial life forms and a unique alien-blue cocktail was created especially for the occasion.

Another time, for a cat-themed event, folks of all ages arrived in whiskers and ears to watch internet cat videos and cuddle an adoptable kindle of kittens. By the end of the night every kitten had found a home.

Community groups used the theatre to host fundraisers and panel conversations on important topics, film festivals happened -- honestly, if this isn't community development, I don't know what is.

The Civic Theatre has always been more than just a place to watch movies. It is proof that joy can be organized, and belonging can be built when we have the will to do it.

Now the theatre is being called on to become something new again: three screens, with a stronger future and a renewed place for us all to gather in the dark and laugh with neighbours and strangers alike.

This next act needs all hands on deck once again, but luckily, when Nelsonites want something, they make it happen.

## See you at the movies!



**Anna Purcell**  
Retired NCTS Volunteer  
Volunteer Coordinator

# SAVE OUR CIVIC



**THE CIVIC THEATRE IS A  
CHERISHED COMMUNITY ASSET  
THAT WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE.**



**HUME**  
HOTEL & SPA



**MARTIN**  
HOSPITALITY  
GROUP

**MARZANO**  
PIZZA • VINO

