

WRIGHT ON!

Quarterly Newsletter WINTER 2017

WOW...WE DID IT!

WE MET THE GATES FOUNDATION CHALLENGE.

Your pledges totaling over \$1,000,000 for the Wright's Capital Funds Campaign by November 1, 2017 enabled us to receive the Gates Family Foundation's \$75,000 grant! We are thankful for all of you for enabling us to get this grant from this Colorado-based foundation, which was established by the Gates Rubber Company of Denver.

BIG, BIG THANKS to all our many donors: individuals, families, foundations, businesses, and other non-profits. Together, we are closer to completing the campaign to restore this historic gem and performing arts facility.

CAMPAIGN GOAL: \$1,500,000 RAISED AS OF NOVEMBER 1ST: \$1,009,000

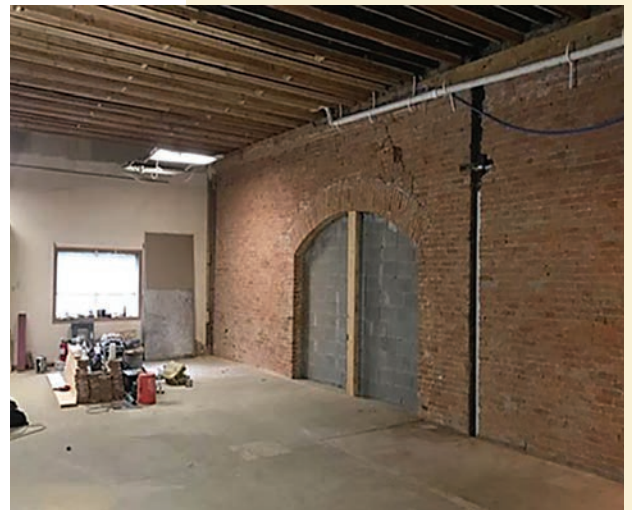
STATUS OF OUR RESTORATION PROJECT

The big project in progress is connecting the large new back area with the existing front lobby, thus the new temporary west lobby wall you will see which is itself very attractive.

As we stripped old wall coverings off, we have had a number of unwelcomed surprises we were not aware of and obviously have to be addressed. But, there was also one pleasant surprise. We uncovered an old brick arch over a recessed wall, and this will now be the backdrop for our new lower lobby bar-concession area.

COMPLETED PROJECTS THIS YEAR

- Foundation and masonry repairs of three exterior walls
- Interior brick work and cleaning
- Floor and ceiling joist reinforcements
- Electrical work including new service to the building from the alley, eight new breaker panels, and new theater and upstairs lobby lights
- Re-plumbing (with more to come)
- Framing out for the new spaces



New back area opened up to existing front lobby. Note the uncovered brick arch (middle) which will be the backdrop for the new concession area.

Our amazing volunteers

We have been blessed with an amazing number of volunteers, both with their time on a wide variety of needed tasks and with their in-kind donations, especially for our ongoing work. To date several dozens of volunteer have contributed over 1000 hours of their time to perform various tasks, from manning concessions to being general contractor for our major renovation work. This is truly amazing, and we thank each and every one of you. We could not do it without you and appreciate every contribution made towards restoring your Wright Opera House. **A BIG THANKS TO ALL OF YOU!**

WRIGHT
Opera House

EST. 1888 • OURAY, CO

EVENTS

2017 set a new record for number of events held at the Wright. We presented and/or hosted:

- 21 Ouray County Performing Arts Guild concerts
- 2 concerts of our own
- 50 feature films (including 12 Library children's movies) in partnership with the Ouray Public Library
- 21 theatrical productions
- 13 hosted "Evenings in History" presented by the Ouray County Historical Society
- 6 continuing education classes for adults
- 6 art shows



The Central City Opera in their September Performance

Throughout the year we also hosted a number of social events (including the combined Ouray-Ridgway high school prom), for a combined audience of approximately 8000 people. With such a wide variety of well-received events, we are realizing our goal of providing an important venue for both the performing and visual arts, education, and social life of our community.

As we join the new back of house renovations with the existing front part, there will be some necessary disruptions. However we hope to keep those to a minimum, and next year's high season (spring and summer 2018) should continue as before.

Please contact us to request a tour and to see first-hand the work being undertaken and to better understand the history of the theater. Those who have taken us up on the offer have been very impressed, as most of the work to date has been out-of-sight in the basement or behind the west lobby wall.

a Gift to the Community

A gift to the Wright is a gift to the communities of southwestern Colorado. The San Juan Mountains and the towns of Ridgway, Ouray, Silverton, Durango and Telluride are world-class destinations for anyone seeking natural beauty. Let's work together to make our cultural offerings rival what nature has provided.

TO MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFT, VISIT
thewrightoperahouse.org/support-our-capital-campaign

TO VOLUNTEER, VISIT
thewrightoperahouse.org/volunteer

THANK YOU FOR BEING A PART OF THE WRIGHT'S SUCCESS!

Also check the **EVENTS CALENDAR** on our website for a complete listing of upcoming performances, concerts, movies and lectures. A reminder: tickets can be purchased either on line or at the box office.

contact us
COMMENTS & QUESTIONS

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