

# RAISE THE ROOF



Since its incorporation in 1946, the **Fargo/Moorhead Community Theatre** has been a place for people of all ages and backgrounds to create, learn, and gather. Generations of artists and art lovers have benefited from FMCT's mission of "enriching our greater community through engaging theatrical and educational opportunities." The generous support of countless businesses and individuals through the years has enabled FMCT to stay committed to and grow within their mission over the past 74 years. Today, in both the literal and figurative sense, support is needed more than ever.

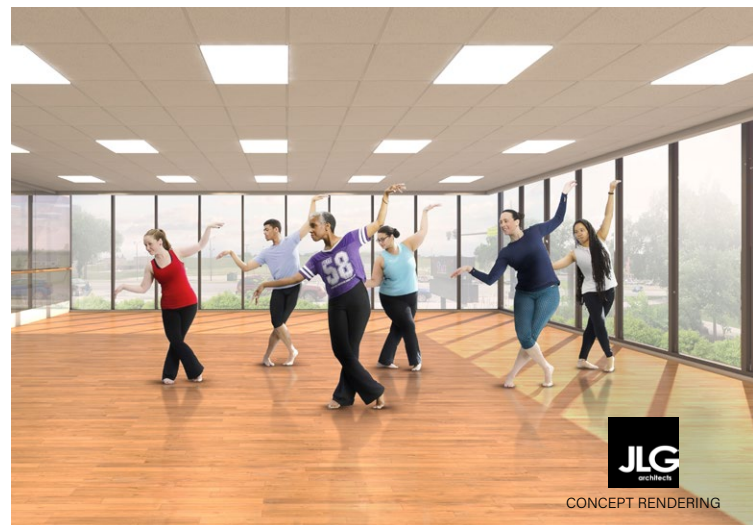
In December 2019, wooden beams spanning the 52-year-old auditorium were discovered to be damaged and the structural integrity of the facility was brought into question. The issues prompted the cancellation of the final performances of "A Christmas Carol" and the closure of the theatre. Despite best efforts to shore up the roof and relieve physical pressure on the remainder of the facility, the building has continued to deteriorate, and the scope of necessary repair work has greatly expanded.

FMCT leaders have been working with architects, contractors, and city-officials to put repair plans in place since the structural issues were first found. The situation has driven forward-thinking conversations about how FMCT can be an improved, more vital creative force while continuing to build upon the longevity and rich history of the organization. Through these discussions, a plan to not just repair what is broken in the building, but also expand and upgrade the facility has been proposed to better serve our growing community.

FMCT has faced adversity before and has always found ways to come back stronger in its mission. Right now, FMCT has an opportunity to expand its impact through a facility envisioned for the future. We are calling on our most dedicated supporters and community-minded partners to "Raise the Roof" by contributing to our theatre.

## Here is how you can help:

- 1.** Donate today. Any donation helps, and recurring gifts go even further. A recurring donation of \$50 per month for a year equals \$600.
- 2.** Contact us for more information about pledging a capital campaign gift to be paid over a multi-year period or about alternative methods for financial contributions.
- 3.** Spread the word! Share stories of how FMCT has impacted your life with friends, family, and neighbors.



**With your support, FMCT can continue to enhance our community through the arts and arts education for many generations to come. Can you help us raise the roof?**

Dear FMCT Family,

74 years of memories live within the walls of **Fargo Moorhead Community Theatre**. It all began when a small group of community members, believing that the FM area lacked opportunities to create and enjoy art, came together as a troupe of wandering thespians to perform in various settings about town. This small group grew in numbers with support from the community, making the dream of Fargo Moorhead Community Theatre a reality.

Our staff has received stories that truly speak to the soul of this organization. Memories of **Peter Schlicklie** acting on the stage, of **Dustin Hoffman** directing a performance, or of a young nurse who says that of all the adventures she has lived, her favorite was coming to the theatre 47 years ago. The first children to attend theatre education classes at FMCT are now adults—one of them **Adam Pankow**, now the Artistic Director at FMCT.

In reading the history of our theatre, it is clear that every board of directors has sought to find a permanent home for FMCT. In 1964, the board began talking with the Park District, who was thrilled to house the theatre in **Island Park**. After the build, their vision—of a place where theatre productions, children’s programming, and community gatherings could all thrive—came to fruition.

Today, that building is broken. While we cannot be in the space that that board of directors brought to life in 1964, the theatre continues—weathering this storm as it has so many others. Now it is our time to come together as a community and rebuild and restore this space for future productions, children’s theatre education programming, and community events.

The FMCT board and staff humbly request that you join us on this journey of rebuilding a facility that the entire region can be proud to call their community theatre. Think back to your own memories of the Fargo Moorhead Community Theatre: the first time you stood beneath the spotlights, or the first production that made you believe in the magic of theatre. Together, we can ensure that future generations of artists can continue making memories like these for many years to come. Help make this happen by giving from the heart.

Sincerely,



**Eloise Breikjern**

Executive Director, Fargo Moorhead Community Theatre

## FMCT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Executive Director**

Eloise Breikjern

**Artistic Director**

Adam Pankow

**Education Director**

Judy Lewis

Jaime Aasen, President

Adam R. Montgomery, JD, Vice President

Caryn Hewitt, Secretary

Karin Rudd, Treasurer

Jay Nelson, Immediate Past President

Shelby Ellsworth

Daniel Damico

Shelby Cochran

Shanna Franzen

Mike LaMont

# CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PLEDGE FORM

I'm in! Count on me to be a supporter of the Fargo Moorhead Community Theatre's Capital Campaign. I understand that the total amount of my gift can be paid over a multi-year period.

I am proud to make a total pledge/contribution of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Pledge Period:**  1 Year  2 Years  3 Years  4 Years  5 Years

**Please send reminders:**  Semi-annually  Annually Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Donor Information:

**Business Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Check here if your employer offers a matching gift program

**Employer name:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Communication Preferences

FMCT recognizes that every donor likes to receive project updates and routine communications differently. Please circle all of the following ways that are OK for FMCT to keep you informed about how your gift is being put to use:

**Mail**

**Email**

**Phone**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Named Gift Opportunities** I/we would like to discuss a naming opportunity. Contact me.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Tribute Gift Information** Please make my/our donation in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Or in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

As a capital campaign donor, your name will appear in the donor honor rolls, annual reports, etc.

**Please print your name as you wish for it to appear:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Check here if you wish to be listed as an anonymous donor in publications

There are many ways to pay your pledge and support FMCT's Capital Campaign. Please indicate below which payment method works best for you.

*If you choose cash or check, then FMCT will send your pledge reminders per your instructions on the front side of this pledge form. If you choose the stock option, then someone from FMCT will contact you soon by phone and follow-up with additional instructions for your investment professional. If you wish to use the credit card or EFT options, please provide your information in the spaces below.*

Payment Method:  Check  Cash  Stock  Credit

**Credit Card Information:**

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Account #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CCV \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge my card: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  One Time  Annually  Monthly

**EFT Information**

Name on account: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name of financial institution: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Routing #: \_\_\_\_\_ Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

I authorize FMCT to deduct from my:  Checking Account  Savings Account

By signing this form, you authorize Northern Prairie Performing Arts, doing business as Fargo Moorhead Community Theatre, to instruct your financial institution to debit your account as directed. This deduction will remain in effect until you choose to cancel giving 15 days written notice or by submitting an updated EFT authorization form if any information changes. Your gift will appear on your bank statement automatically. Each January you will receive a statement from FMCT showing the amount you have donated through our EFT program during the calendar year (January-December). Save the statement for your documentation.

**Confirming your intent**

Your signature is confirmation that you have made this pledge to FMCT to support their capital campaign. Your signature not only verifies your intent to pledge, but it also authorizes FMCT to execute any payment instructions that you provided in the space above.

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You understand that your contribution will be used to underwrite costs associated with the capital campaign. This pledge agreement can be used as collateral assignment to FMCT.

Northern Prairie Performing Arts is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501 c 3 of the Internal Revenue Code and contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Our IRS tax identification number is 45-0233312. All contributions will be formally acknowledged.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## REMODEL AND ADDITION OF THE

# FMCT BUILDING

## Phase One

### Main Theatre

- Demo and replace the auditorium roof; raise the total roof height six feet.
- Replace catwalk system with redesigned layout.
- Improved lighting/sound/communication systems and equipment.
- Addition of a scenic fly loft above the center back of the stage.
- Increase the height of the stage proscenium.
- Rebuild the thrust stage permanently to one uniform height.
- Relocate the sound mixing position to the center of the auditorium.
- Increase the number of seats available in the theatre.
- Reconfigure the lower seating into five sections; add center upper seating section.
- Enhanced aisle and house lighting.
- Added handrails to lower seating sections.
- New, wider seats with cupholders.

### Lobby

- New and relocated men's bathroom.

### Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning

- New HVAC mechanical and distribution systems throughout the building.

## Phase Two

### Education Center

- Demo east side of building (4th Street facing) for expanded square footage.
- Construction of three classrooms total:
  - Two, 500 square foot classrooms.
  - One, 1000 square foot dance studio equipped with sprung wood floors and mirrors.
- Additional space for storage and a small office/studio.
- Equip each space with audio/visual technologies for in-person and virtual learning.

### Lobby Area

- Renovate and improve concession and bar area.
- Renovate and secure box office space.
- Fully outfit existing pavilion to serve as a waiting lounge.
- Add a single occupant restroom to the east concourse.
- Construct a new west concourse and lobby area.
- Improve access and security at stage door entrance.
- Update interiors throughout the lobby concourse.

### Backstage

- Add new green room for additional cast/crew space during productions.
- Install elevator to provide access to second floor workspaces.
- Increase the size of the scene shop.
- Remodel the dressing rooms and backstage restrooms.

### Administration Offices

- Relocate to the north side of the facility using former classroom space and new construction.
- Provide space for all administrative offices and workspaces.
- Space also to be used for storage of archives and records.
- Addition of a large conference/board room.

# BENEFITS OF THE RENOVATION

## Main Theatre

- Current damaged wood roofing trusses are replaced with steel beams.
- Redesigned catwalk layout better positions lighting, sound, and video equipment and make above stage areas easier to access and maneuver through.
- Production quality is improved through new lighting, sound, and scenic enhancements.
- Ability to attract and train individuals interested technical theatre on unique and modern theatre technologies.
- Show production areas are more connected through improved communication systems.
- Additional roof and proscenium heights accommodates two-story scenery more easily.
- Reinforced and rebuilt stage increases the weight bearing load for heavier scenery pieces and equipment to be used.
- Sound technicians can more effectively mix microphones, music, and sound effects when positioned in the center of the auditorium.
- Increased seating allows for additional patrons to enjoy FMCT productions each year.
- Audience experience becomes more inviting, comfortable, and safe.

## Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning

- Increased capacity to circulate outside air in all spaces.
- Modern HVAC equipment will provide cost savings and a smaller equipment footprint.
- Properly heat and cool neglected areas of the theatre.

## Education Center

- Brings all education programming back to FMCT, keeping all programs in one location.
- Additional classroom space and technology expands ability to deliver new opportunities for participants of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities.
- Classrooms can double as rehearsal spaces to accommodate multiple shows/events in production
- Large windows in each space attracts awareness to the varied activity happening at FMCT and creates an inviting learning environment.

## Lobby Area

- Men's bathroom has additional toilets, urinals, and washing stations
- Concessions and bar will be able to serve patrons more efficiently with additional service lines and one-stop ordering.
- Point-of-sale stations will be added for food and bar sales making additional payment options possible in the future.
- Pavilion and lobby updates create a memorable welcome to FMCT productions and events.
- West concourse and lobby addition will provide access to seat patrons on each side of the auditorium, streamlining ingress/egress plans and reducing choke points.
- The west concourse connects backstage more easily to front-of-house and provides a new access point to the upper level control booth and catwalks.
- The addition of a single occupant restroom will be an inclusiven update for families and other individuals.
- Updates at stage door entrance provide a safer point of entry/exit for our staff and volunteers.

## Backstage

- Green room serves as a separate space to host special guests and speakers.
- Elevator will improve safety and accessibility to the costume shop and costume storage, as well as the catwalks and tech booth.
- Extra square footage for the scene shop provides additional build space, and new storage, electrical, and paint areas.
- Remodeled dressing rooms can accommodate larger casts more comfortably.
- New backstage bathroom configuration to include ADA compliant toilets and stalls.

## Administration Offices

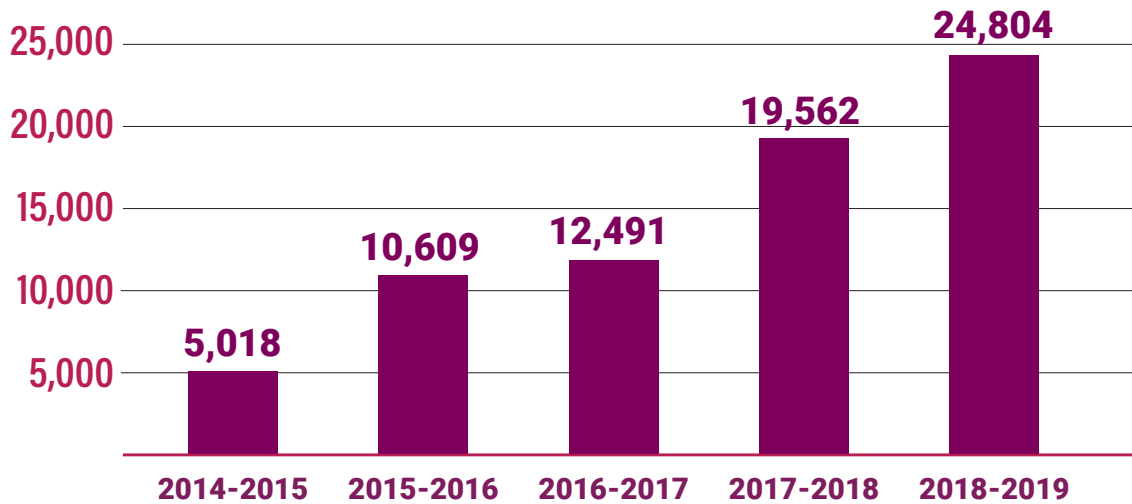
- Provides additional, secure office space with considerations for future employees and positions.
- Conference room space doubles as a volunteer center for those who work front-of-house or other production positions.

## Rentals

- Renovated and expanded facility will better accommodate corporate and theatrical rentals and make FMCT a first-class gathering place for our community and region.

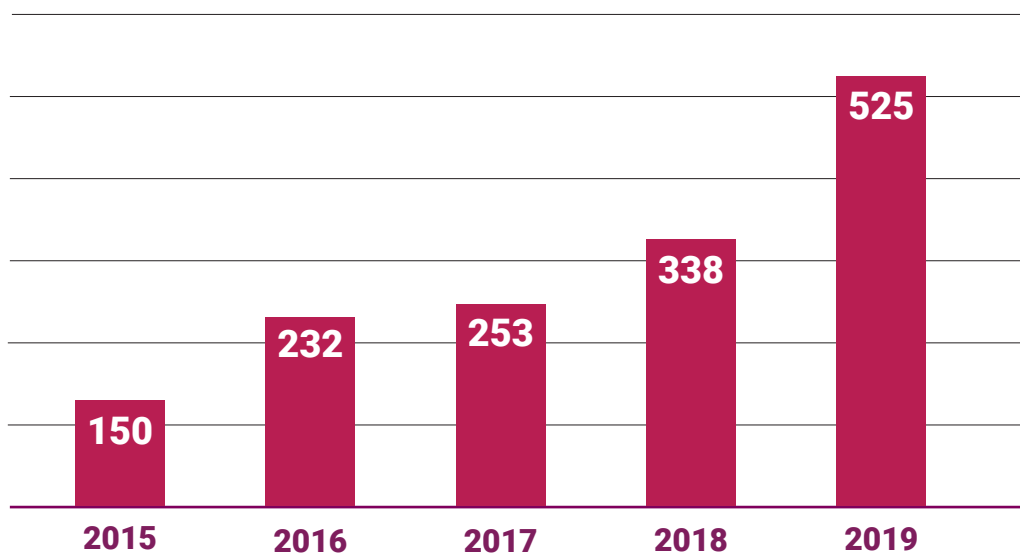
# GROWTH OF THE THEATRE

## FMCT Production Attendance Growth the Past Five Years



Over the past five years, FMCT has witnessed a consistent 5% increase in attendance to our productions. FMCT is also available for community rentals, with over 14,200 patrons attending rental events per season. In 2019, nearly 35,000 visitors passed through our facility doors.

## FMCT Education Enrollment Growth the Past Five Years

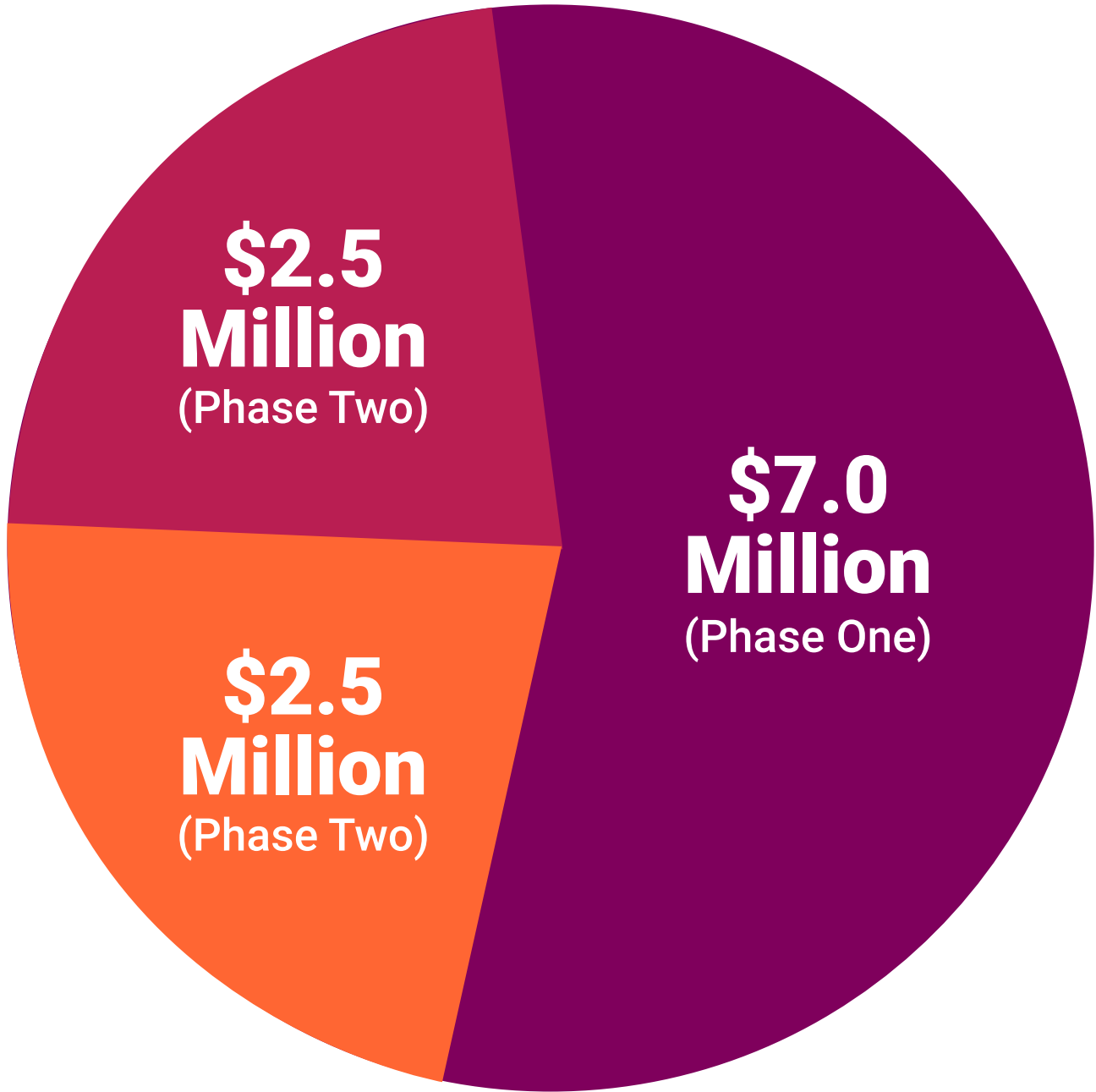


In the past five years FMCT Ed has grown over 350%. From 17-18 to 18-19 the number of children in the programs increased by 55%. Due to the amazing growth of the education programs, additional space is currently being rented at 6 Broadway to fill the need for education classroom space. Our desire is to bring our education programs back to the theatre, keeping all activities at FMCT.

# PROJECTED COST OF RENOVATION

Estimated Breakdown of  
Construction Costs by  
McGough dated August 6, 2020

**Total: \$12,000,000**



**THEATRE**

**EDUCATION WING**

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND PUBLIC AREAS**