

For immediate release:

On Saturday May 14, 2022, the Homestake Opera House staff and board of directors announced the Jewel of the Black Hills Campaign, an \$8M fundraising effort for the restoration and renovation of the historic facility in Lead, SD.

Efforts toward this goal began in earnest, though in a quiet phase, in 2020 with staff, board members, and volunteers cultivating and soliciting generous start-up gifts from donors. Progress was slowed by the pandemic, but the team pressed on under the belief that the only organizations who would thrive through challenging times were those who continued to work toward their goals.

On Saturday, Executive Director Thomas Golden shared the results of these efforts with the board of directors and members of the public.

“We are excited to announce this campaign publicly and share that we have raised \$3.2M toward this goal. That is 40% of our goal achieved with hard work through hard times. I could not be prouder of our board, staff, and campaign leaders who have stayed with the effort, and we are excited to take the effort public,” Golden said.

The restoration plans for the Homestake Opera House include many infrastructure pieces including fire suppression and alarm systems, HVAC and ADA accessibility issues. The project will also address upgrades to production technology, dressing rooms, rehearsal space, restoration of the original plaster work and murals as well as exterior projects including a service elevator addition.

“With all of these pieces in place, there will be almost no limit on the scope and size of show we can bring to Lead, making the Opera House a destination for entertainment for the entire Black Hills and beyond,” Golden added.

The economic impact of a fully functional performing arts center in Lead cannot be overstated.

“Imagine a Saturday night where the streets of Lead are filled with happy visitors and community members all preparing to have a shared theater experience at our fully restored Homestake Opera House. The magic of their evening spills into homes and businesses all across the Black Hills. When the Opera House is restored, it will positively affect all areas of life in the Black Hills including strengthening our economy, improving visitor experience, and uniting families with shared artistic experiences,” said Development Director Christine Allen.

“The Homestake Opera House renovation will bring back the eloquent beauty of one of the most magnificent buildings in South Dakota. Rehabilitating the Opera House is critically important to the community because it will allow for air-conditioned summer concerts and entertainment and it will bring in new performers year-round who require more "high tech" functionality than we can currently provide,” added Board President and longtime supporter Linda Wiley.

Allen concluded, “We invite you to help us bridge the past and the future of the Homestake Opera House by donating to our capital campaign.”

For more information on this exciting project please contact
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