

Renovate and Increase Access to the Clayoquot Sound Theatre in Tofino, BC

The Clayoquot Sound Theatre will soon be 40 years old and in need of vital renovations. The renovations include: removing the current interiors; adding in a neoprene and plywood sprung floor; retractable risers; windows for natural light; black-out fire safe curtains; professional LED lighting; wider emergency exits with an accessibility ramp at the rear. These renovations will help achieve increased capacity, number of bookings, job opportunities, diversified art forms and level of professional artists presented, a more accessible space for those with reduced mobility and a healthier space, free of allergens for all. Builders are currently in high demand and have set realistic expectations that it may take up to 12 months to begin construction. This is factored into the timeline. The project has been structured in a way that it could be done in stages and returned to a point of functionality between each stage if securing funding is a risk. The CSCTA has 25% of the project funds secured and we are awaiting responses from federal grants.

Within the last decade, Tofino has transitioned from its small resource based community roots to a thriving tourist destination. And while the people and organizations of this community have evolved, our space has not. Important updates to the theatre would allow the CSCTA to support more diversity and flexibility in programming that would in turn increase capacity and revenue both directly and indirectly into the community. Tourism Tofino is working towards diversifying visitor offerings and arts and culture is the next area set to be developed. This work has been identified through the 2018 Economic Impact of Tourism in Tofino study and aligns with their annual strategic goals. The Clayoquot Sound Theatre is a vital arts and culture venue for the Pacific Rim region, Tofino, Ucluelet and surrounding First Nations Communities as the sole purposely built professional arts space. The next nearest professional theatre space is over 125 km away in Port Alberni.

This project aims to reduce barriers and increase accessibility to the Theatre. Once renovations are complete audience members with mobility devices will be able to sit directly in the front row or perform on stage without the assistance of others. Both the front row & stage will be on grade allowing greater access for all. Both emergency exits will have easy push, steel doors installed and existing exterior drops will be mitigated through the addition of ramps. All proposed updates will be reviewed against the BC Building Code to ensure the project meets the needs of all. Pam Frazee, a local doctor and paraplegic, sums up the improvements perfectly. “The initiative for upgrading and improving our theatre is timely and much needed...I will be able to sit with my fellow audience, or my fellow altos in choir, with a clear view of the performance, or choirmaster. I will be able to move onto the stage without needing a lift up. I will not be impeding the egress of others.”

The Clayoquot Sound Community Theatre Association (CSCTA) is a registered non-profit formed in 1987 to oversee the management of the Clayoquot Sound Theatre. The CSCTA Board is volunteer run, & in 2008, a part time managerial position was created to take bookings, assist clients with setup, & monitor social media/email. The Manager reports to the board monthly & is a key figure in decision-making. Both work together to plan events including: plays, concerts, movies, book launches & conferences. The CSCTA has partnered up with the Tofino Community Enrichment Society (a registered charity : 880902705RR0001) for the fundraising campaign. A memorandum of understanding has been signed between the CSCTA and the TCES and all the funds collected by the TCES within the next year will be given to the CSCTA to go towards the renovation project.

In January 2021, CSCTA renewed their lease agreement to occupy the space with the District of Tofino for the next 10 years. The District of Tofino will be partnering with the CSCTA on the project to provide additional oversight, financial and in-kind support on the project. April Froment, Manager of Public spaces, Cultural and Visitor Initiatives and Cindy Hutchison, Culture and Event Programmer will provide professional project

management guidance on the project where required and in-kind support to Sophie L'Homme, Theatre manager & Project Lead. Sophie will be overseeing the project through to its completion. The CSCTA and the District of Tofino are in communications frequently to ensure the project is on track and moving forward.

THE TEAM :

Sophie L'Homme - Project Lead - Clayoquot Sound Theatre Manager and Director of the CSCTA Board. Sophie has led many projects in our community, from the Tofino Jazz Festival through to the ultra successful concerts of the Tofino and Ucluelet choir, Sophie has shown very efficient leadership and commitment to her creative projects.

Scott Windsor - Senior Theatre Design Consultant, Production Manager and Event Coordinator working in the performing arts and related fields for over thirty years. Scott has worked with architects and engineers providing design consulting services for professional, college and high school theatres and for distance learning and video conferencing facilities. He is providing guidance and advice to help develop the preliminary designs and cost estimates.

Cindy Hutchison - Culture and Events Programmer District of Tofino - Offering staff support and liaison between the District of Tofino and CSCTA Board/Project Lead. Has 8 years of professional event and project management experience.

April Froment - Manager of Public Spaces, Cultural and Visitor Initiatives District of Tofino - PMP certified to provide guidance on the project as needed.

BKC Contracting - contractor engaged to complete Renovations.

Timeline : We are expecting the renovation to start in June 2022 and to be done by the end of the year.

HOW TO HELP WITH THIS PROJECT :

- **Sponsor a full row of seats for \$10 000 :**

A row will be named after you or the name of your company.

- **Sponsor the front row for \$20 000 :**

The front row will proudly be name after you or the name of your company.

- **Sponsor a new seat for \$1000 :**

A plate will be hung in the entrance of the Theatre featuring the names of the people and the companies who have sponsored a new seat.

- **Sponsor a new LED spotlight for \$250 :**

A plate will be hung in the entrance of the Theatre featuring the names of the people and the companies who have sponsored a new spotlight.

HOW TO MAKE A DONATION :

Personal donations can be made through the Tofino Community Enrichment Society that will issue a charitable receipt that is tax deductible. All funds collected by the Enrichment Society will be given back to the Theatre. Donations can be made by cheques in the name of the Tofino Community Enrichment Society and mailed to the Theatre or done online through our website that will redirect you to the Canada Helps page of the Tofino Enrichment Society : www.tofinotheatre.com

Corporate donations can be made by cheque directly to the Clayoquot Sound Community Theatre Association and mailed us. A receipt will be mailed back to you. Please contact us for you also need an invoice.

For more information please contact **Sophie L'Homme** at tofinotheatre@gmail.com

Clayoquot Sound Community Theatre Association : P.O Box 653, Tofino BC VOR 2Z0