



# CRANBROOK COMMUNITY THEATRE

Since 1964

## Proposal for the RDEK Area C

November 1, 2019

### Request:

The Cranbrook Community Theatre Society (CCT) is requesting a grant from the Regional District of the East Kootenay in the amount of \$22,500, which is 15% of the proposed project (totaling \$150,000) called "the renovation and renewal of the historic building, the Studio/Stage Door, "The Theatre Proper"

### Background:

The Cranbrook Community Theatre Society (CCT) is a small society that is the steward of the historic building known as the "Studio/ Stage Door. This building is owned by the City of Cranbrook. For the past 45 years the CCT has maintained and improved the heritage building. We estimate that over those years we are well on the way to putting in over \$850,000. Our last years projects alone amounted to just under \$200,000.

Our last project the "Upper Lobby Project "was completed in early September of 2019 at a cost of just under \$100,000. This project was funded jointly by: the Columbia Basin Trust Fund and the CCT. During this project we completely renovated the upper lobby with new electrical, insulation, paint, period wallpaper and drywall and replaced 6 windows to bring this space up to 2019 standards. We also found a hidden gem behind the walls as we were able to restore an original brick chimney, built in 1908, which is now a feature wall in the lobby. Our green footprint has been significantly reduced and we are very proud that we have been able to renovate a heritage building instead of tearing it down, as some cities have done. We try to be leaders in our community when it comes to reducing our carbon footprint and to that end, we have also partnered with BC Hydro to change over all our lighting to LED. This improvement alone will save us money and reduce the amount of hydro we use.

This was our second major renovation project, with the first occurring in 2014, when a Government of Canada Initiative Project helped us completely renovate the downstairs entrance, washrooms, and lobby. We were able to add handicap accessible facilities at that time and tie those into our stair glide system for moving patrons up to the theatre level for viewings of musical events and plays. These improvements have helped us become more aware of the inclusion of all our patrons and their ability to access our whole building. We presently house more than 40 user groups in the building making it truly a community facility.

## **The Building:**

The building was originally built in 1909 as a Masonic Temple and was designed by Thomas Daltry Sedger (1860-1941), an English architect who lived in Esquimalt, B.C. for 49 years.

The Masons showed great faith in the future of Cranbrook and area by building an edifice suitable to meet the needs of the progress of the Masons. The cornerstone was laid November 1909 and the project was completed with a grand opening in June 1910.

By 1973 the Masons could no longer afford to heat the building and offered it for sale.

When the only prospective buyer wanted to demolish the building to put in a parking lot, the Cranbrook Community Theatre (CCT) lobbied the city to purchase the building. This was spearheaded by Bud Abbott and Cornel Sawchuk.

The city turned the building over to the Community Theatre group who have acted as stewards of the building ever since.

By actively preserving and renovating, the CCT was able to have the building deemed a heritage building in 1989.

## **Ownership and Management**

This building which is known as the Studio/Stage Door is a City of Cranbrook owned building that is leased to the Cranbrook Community Theatre Society and which has been stewarded by the CCT since 1973-74 when Bud Abbott, Cornel Sawchuk and others, petitioned the City to purchase the building rather than have it torn down for a parking lot for the then, Mt Baker Hotel. The city fathers in their wisdom, saw the potential for the building and this heritage building has been the domain of the CCT ever since. We have had hundreds of plays and musical events over the last 45 years and many user groups have benefitted from the use of both the Studio and the Stage Door. The City and the CCT have collaborated a lot over the last 5 years, with the city providing funds for the new roof, structural upgrades, help with soffit repair, and general council when it comes to projects. The CCT takes it upon themselves to fundraise for all our large projects and have been successful in gaining many partners in the last few years. The Columbia Basin Trust Fund, Heritage BC, BC Hydro, Kootenay Foundation of the Kootenay Rockies, Government of Canada and the Rotary are a few of the organizations we are presently partnering with.

## Our Organization

Cranbrook Community Theatre Society (CCT) has two responsibilities. First “to provide theatre **to** the community, **by** the community”. This includes theatrical productions, presenting workshops, training and mentorships. We have contributed to the community in this capacity for over 50 years. We offer the community three high quality productions and two/ three workshops per year. We have annual audiences of over 2000 and workshop attendance of around 50. We mentor high school and college students by training them in our theatre. We also provide a bursary for the local high school which is given to a “theatre arts” graduate.

Second is the ongoing stewardship of the historical building known as “The Studio/Staged Door”, which was turned over to the CCT in 1974.

Our membership presently stands at 192 with many coming from outside of Cranbrook including: Moyie, Wasa, Wycliffe and the Gold Creek area.

Our non-profit charitable number is: 886487198-RR0001

Our BC Registry incorporation/Business Number is 0756296 and our BC Registered Society number is S22246

## The Project:

The next phase of renewing our Heritage building is what we will call: “The Theatre Proper”

This project will concentrate on renewing the theatre seating area or auditorium. This part of the building has not seen much attention since the CCT took over the stewardship in 1974.

Other than some basic maintenance and paint done over the years, this project will see the complete removal of the cracking interior walls and ceilings which are presently lathe and plaster, removal and upgrades to all electrical, new electrical upgrades to the fire alarm system as per the fire departments recommendation, new flooring, window replacement, some work around the stage and possibly new stage floor, insulation and poly, new drywall, new paint, period trim and crown molding, hand railings for accessibility issues, and the installation of new theatre lights that were purchased in 2019.

This will be an extensive renovation that will take 3-4 months and completely renovate and restore the heritage space back to the period: circa 1908.

We have received quotes from local contractors for this project and the figures are estimated at \$150,000 including contingency, GST and administration.



## **Project Timelines**

Our timeline is determined by our success at partnering with several organizations. We previously have had success with the Columbia Basin Trust Fund (CBT), Community Foundation of the Kootenay Rockies (CFKR) and Heritage BC. We expect that there will be funding available, with the opening date for writing the grant starting in the fall of 2020. If successful, we would begin June/July 2021. With all that being said.... we have a good relationship with the CBT and perhaps we could go to them and ask if there is something "outside the box" that we could apply for. So... if we were successful in this application to the RDEK, we would have 35% of the funds needed and if the contractor could be secured and if the CBT had funding earlier, we could start in the summer of 2020.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to ask for this funding

Peter Schalk

President

Cranbrook Community Theatre Society



# CRANBROOK COMMUNITY THEATRE

Since 1964

## Studio/Stage Door User Groups in the past 24 months

USER GROUP	STAGE DOOR – SD STUDIO - ST	FREQUENCY
Rocky Mountain Baptist Church	ST	Year round
Fresh Life Church	SD	Year round
The Repertoire Theatre	SD	Year round
DJ Bailey Children's Music Classes	ST	Seasonal
Locals Coffee House	SD	Sept-March
Suenos Tango	ST	3x8 week programs
Shimmy Sistas	ST	3x8 week programs
Schell Tap Dance	ST	3x6 week programs
Kimato Qigong	ST	3x8 week programs
Let's Talk Dog	ST	2x8 week programs
Mt Life Hot Yoga	ST	2x10 week programs
Saule Tap Dance	ST	1x4 week program
Belles & Whistles	ST	2x8 week programs
Emergency Services Training	ST	Select dates
Aspire Dance Academy - June adjudication	ST	Select dates
Jubenville Recital	SD	Select dates
R.E.A.L.M.	SD	Select dates
Get Creative – Children's Art Program	ST	Select dates
School District 5 – multiple programs	ST	Select dates
College of the Rockies	SD	1x12 week program
Key City Theatre – multiple users	ST	Select dates
Cod Gone Wild	SD	Annual show
Anadil Belly Dance	ST	2x8 week programs
One Love Hot Yoga	ST	3x8 week programs
Violet Femme Holistic Healing	ST	Select dates
Book Club	ST	1x8 week program
Qi Harmony	ST	2x10 week programs
Hypno Birthing	ST	Select dates
Creative Monkeys	SD	Select dates
Shaw Communications	SD	Select dates
Columbia Basin Trust	ST	Select dates
Celtara	SD	Select dates
World Financial Group	SD	Select dates
Fin de Fiesta Flamenco	SD	Select dates
Third Beach Records	SD	Select dates
Cranbrook Boys & Girls Club	Tour SD & ST	Select dates
Cranbrook Toast Masters	ST	Select dates
Chakra Dance	ST	Select dates
Ki-Flo Holistic Healing	ST	2x10 week programs
Kimberley/Cranbrook Highland Dance Assc.	ST	Select dates
2018-19 Individual users for private celebrations	ST	19 private celebrations
CCT rehearsals for 3 productions/year	SD	72 days/year
CCT set building & tech days (average)	SD	63 days/year
CCT shows + community programs	SD & ST	37/year