FAIRMONT
Opera House

**Fairmont Opera House, Inc.**
45 Downtown Plaza
PO Box 226
Fairmont, MN 56031
www.fairmontoperahouse.org



# PRESERVE THE LEGACY
# ENRICH THE FUTURE

Fairmont Opera House
Repair and Rehabilitation
Capital Campaign
Case Statement






*Historic Building.* **MODERN ENTERTAINMENT.**

# CASE **STATEMENT**

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## FAIRMONT OPERA HOUSE

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Executive Director - Blake Potthoff

# OUR **MISSION**

**BY PROVIDING HIGH-QUALITY ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT, FAIRMONT OPERA HOUSE INC. STRIVES TO ADVANCE CULTURAL EXPERIENCE AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT WITHIN THE HISTORIC FAIRMONT OPERA HOUSE FACILITY AND THROUGHOUT THE REGION.**

# From the Director

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Fairmont Opera House,

For more than a century, the Fairmont Opera House has stood as a pillar of our community—a cherished cultural landmark where generations have gathered to share in the magic of live performances, celebrate milestones, and connect through the power of the arts. It has been a source of joy, a hub of inspiration, and a stage where countless dreams have come to life. Reflecting on this rich history, we find ourselves at a pivotal moment. The future of the Fairmont Opera House now rests on all of us coming together to preserve its legacy and ensure that it continues to enrich lives for years.

As Executive Director, I have had the distinct privilege of witnessing firsthand the impact this historic venue has on our community. I've watched children's eyes light up with wonder as they take their first bows on stage, I've seen families create lifelong memories together, and I've felt the powerful sense of belonging that comes from sharing experiences within these walls. The Fairmont Opera House is more than just a beautiful building; it is a gathering place, a source of pride, and a touchstone for the arts in our region. It holds the stories of our past and the promise of our future. But today, that promise is at risk.

The Fairmont Opera House is facing its most significant challenge in history, and we need your help to overcome it. Our Preserve the Legacy, Enrich the Future capital campaign is a bold and urgent initiative to raise $4 million by the end of 2025. These funds will go directly towards repairing and restoring our beloved venue to ensure it can safely reopen and continue serving as a vibrant cultural hub. With this critical investment, we can avoid the devastating reality that we may have to close our doors permanently. It is a thought that is difficult to imagine, but together, we have the power to change that outcome.

This campaign is about so much more than bricks and mortar. It is about preserving a legacy that has brought people together, fostered creativity, and fueled the cultural heartbeat of Fairmont for over a century. It is about investing in our community's future, ensuring that young people have a place to discover their talents, that families have a space to gather and share in the arts, and that we continue to celebrate what makes our city truly special. The Fairmont Opera House has always been a place where we come together as a community, and right now, our unity is needed more than ever.

Every contribution counts, and every act of generosity brings us one step closer to reopening the Fairmont Opera House and restoring its place as a cornerstone of our community life. Whether your gift is large or small, it will help us meet this ambitious goal and keep the doors open for future generations to enjoy. Your support is not just a donation; it is a statement of belief in the transformative power of the arts and the enduring strength of our community.



Please consider making a gift to the Preserve the Legacy, Enrich the Future capital campaign. Join us in ensuring that the Fairmont Opera House can continue inspiring, entertaining, and bringing us together for the next century and beyond. Together, we can preserve this vital piece of our heritage and enrich the future for everyone who calls Fairmont home.

With gratitude,

Blake Potthoff, Executive Director
Fairmont Opera House

# Executive Summary

**Overview:**

The Fairmont Opera House, a historic and cultural landmark in Fairmont and Minnesota's Oldest Continuously Operating Theater, has served the community and surrounding regions for over a century. With a mission to advance cultural experience and community involvement within the historic Fairmont Opera House facility and throughout the region by providing high-quality arts and entertainment, the Fairmont Opera House has long been a hub for performances, workshops, and youth programs. The facility's significance extends beyond Fairmont, drawing visitors and serving as a cultural center in Southern Minnesota and Northern Iowa.

To preserve this iconic venue and ensure it continues to serve future generations, the Fairmont Opera House has launched a $4 million capital campaign titled "Preserve the Legacy, Enrich the Future." This project focuses on addressing critical repairs and necessary restorations to the building, securing its structural integrity, and ensuring it can continue functioning as a vital regional arts and cultural institution.

**Project Goals:**

Preservation of Historic Structure: Over time, essential repairs will be made to the roof and other deteriorated structural elements. These repairs are critical to prevent further damage and ensure the Fairmont Opera House remains safe and operational.

**Cultural and Economic Impact:**

The Fairmont Opera House plays a significant role in the regional economy by attracting tourism and supporting local businesses. It also enriches the community by providing accessible cultural experiences and fostering social connections through the arts.

**Community Engagement and Education:**

The Fairmont Opera House serves as a critical resource for arts education in the region, hosting youth theater programs, workshops, and performances that inspire creativity and foster a love for the arts among younger generations.

**Need for the Project:**

The Fairmont Opera House will permanently close unless funding is secured by the end of 2025 and structural repairs are made. The building is currently unable to host events, significantly reducing the organization's ability to fulfill its mission and support the local economy; by the end of 2025, the organization will deplete cash reserves and dissolve without the required funding to complete the project. Addressing these repairs will allow the Fairmont Opera House to continue serving the community and region for decades.

**Impact of the Project:**

The successful completion of this project will preserve the Fairmont Opera House's physical structure and enhance its capacity to enrich the lives of people throughout the region. It will continue to provide cultural and educational programming, promote tourism, support local businesses, and serve as a hub for community engagement.

**Conclusion:**

The "Preserve the Legacy, Enrich the Future" capital campaign is a vital initiative to safeguard the future of the Fairmont Opera House. By addressing the facility's critical repair needs, we ensure that this historic venue continues to serve as a beacon of culture, education, and community for Southern Minnesota, Northern Iowa, and beyond.

# Project Justification and Description

Welcome to the Fairmont Opera House's "Preserve the Legacy, Enrich the Future" capital campaign—a rallying call to safeguard MN's Oldest Operating Theater, our cherished cultural gem, while propelling it into a vibrant future.

Central to the project is addressing critical roof and truss repairs, ensuring the structural integrity of the building, and safeguarding against potential safety hazards. Additionally, tuckpointing efforts will restore the Fairmont Opera House's historic masonry, preserving its architectural character and preventing further deterioration.

Stage rigging repairs are also essential to maintaining the functionality and safety of performance spaces. They allow for seamless productions and ensure the well-being of performers and crew. Plumbing and electrical repairs will modernize infrastructure systems, improving facility efficiency, reliability, and safety.

Funding for the Fairmont Opera House Repair and Rehabilitation project is paramount. This multi-generational community resource is in disrepair, unsafe, and unsuitable for hosting any event due to the invasive supports holding up the roof's trusses. Repair and rehabilitation ensure the continued operation of a vital cultural asset, providing a venue for artistic expression, community gatherings, and educational programs. By investing in preserving the Fairmont Opera House, stakeholders demonstrate their commitment to supporting the arts and enriching the community's cultural fabric.

Moreover, the project yields significant local benefits. Restoration efforts create job opportunities for local contractors and artisans, stimulating economic activity and contributing to the community's revitalization. Additionally, a structurally sound and fully operational Fairmont Opera House enhances property values and attracts visitors, bolstering tourism and promoting local businesses.

Completing these repairs and replacements at the Fairmont Opera House is more than just fixing infrastructure; it's about literally and figuratively opening doors. These repairs ensure the venue's physical doors remain open for generations, safeguarding its structural integrity and safety. Moreover, we metaphorically unlock doors to future expansion initiatives by addressing these essential components. A repaired and rehabilitated facility becomes a magnet for increased usage, attracting diverse programming, larger audiences, and expanded community engagement. It sets the stage for the Fairmont Opera House to expand its impact as a cultural cornerstone and a dynamic hub for artistic expression, innovation, and growth. By investing in these repairs, we pave the way for an exciting future where the Fairmont Opera House continues to thrive and evolve as a vital asset to our community.



# Project Overview

## *"We stand at the most pivotal moment in our 125-year history."*

The Fairmont Opera House isn't merely a venue; it's essential to the lifeblood of our community. It has been a cherished beacon of culture, entertainment, and fellowship in our region for generations. However, the passage of time and wear have left their mark on this historic gem, and **$4 million** is urgently required for immediate repairs essential to safeguarding a legacy and propelling the future of our community forward.

## "Preserve the Legacy, Enrich the Future"

## Timeline: Immediate

## Required to Reopen*

- Roof Repairs
- Tuckpointing (Ext. Brick Repairs/Replacement)
- Plumbing and Electrical Repairs
- Restroom Repairs
- Basement-Level Repairs
- Balcony Repairs
- Stage Rigging Repairs/Replacement
- Stage Technology Repairs/ Replacement
- Reconstruction Cosmetic Repairs and Replacement
  - Seat Reinstallation
  - Carpet and Flooring
  - Decorative Plaster
  - Time-Period Appropriate Paint and Decor

***Repair and rehabilitation initiatives will begin on the receipt of funding.***

We cannot embark on this journey alone. We need your financial support to turn this vision into a reality. Your contribution won't just fund essential repairs; it will breathe new life into The Fairmont Opera House, ensuring it reopens as a place where all are welcome, countless memories are made, and the enduring magic of live performance continues to captivate hearts and minds.

*Will you help Preserve the Legacy of The Fairmont Opera House?*





SCAN HERE

TO DONATE!

# Project Budget

| | Shoring Design and Repairs Budget | Sub-Total | Totals |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | General Conditions | | $326,506.00 |
| 2 | Structural Repairs | | $1,137,949.00 |
| | *General Conditions* | *$441,803.00* | |
| | *Demolition, Earthwork* | *$102,929.00* | |
| | *Concrete, Masonry* | *$88,717.00* | |
| | *Metals* | *$236,217.00* | |
| | *Rough Carpentry* | *$184,283.00* | |
| | *Fire Suppression* | *$30,000.00* | |
| | *Plumbing, Electrical* | *$54,000.00* | |
| 3 | Masonry Repairs at Parapet | | $554,175.00 |
| 4 | Roofing Replacement and Flashing Repair | | $143,933.00 |
| 5 | Interior Repairs | | $494,806.00 |
| | *Finish Carpentry* | *$54,806.00* | |
| | *Finishes* | *$380,000.00* | |
| | *Plumbing, HVAC, Electrical* | *$60,000.00* | |
| 6 | Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment Relocation | | $25,000.00 |
| 7 | Contingency | | $268,235.00 |
| 8 | Building Permit by % of Cost | | $33,932.00 |
| 9 | Overhead and Profit (General Contractor) | | $149,226.00 |
| 10 | Architectural Design | | $134,000.00 |
| 11 | Stage Rigging Removal/Replacement | | $178,913.00 |
| | | | |
| | **SubTotal - Shoring Design and Repairs:** | | **$3,446,675.00** |
| | *Soft Costs (10% Estimation)* | | *$344,667.00* |
| | | | |
| | ***Total Estimated Project Budget:*** | | *$3,791,342.00* |
| | | | |
| | Ongoing Shoring Scaffolding Rental (Monthly) | | $10,680.00 |

# Project Impact

The "Preserve the Legacy, Enrich the Future" capital project at the Fairmont Opera House will have a transformative effect on the community. It will preserve a historic venue and promote community development, economic growth, and overall well-being. By restoring the Fairmont Opera House, this project ensures that it remains a vital hub for community theater, intergenerational connections, and cultural engagement while supporting the regional economy and enhancing the quality of life for residents.

**1. Community Development through Community Theater**

The Fairmont Opera House is a cornerstone for community theater, offering local actors, musicians, and creators opportunities to participate in the performing arts. Community theater fosters personal growth, creativity, and collaboration. The Fairmont Opera House brings together people of all ages and backgrounds, creating an inclusive environment where individuals can share experiences and build relationships through artistic expression.

Participating in and attending community theater productions also provides a space for intergenerational relationship-building. Young people learn from older, more experienced performers, creating a shared sense of purpose and connection across generations. Restoring the Fairmont Opera House will enable these opportunities to continue and expand, ensuring that people of all ages can come together to celebrate and engage in the arts.

**2. Economic Impact**

The Fairmont Opera House plays a critical role in driving regional economic activity. As a destination for cultural events and performances, it attracts visitors across Southern Minnesota and Northern Iowa, generating revenue for local businesses such as restaurants, hotels, and shops. By restoring this historic venue, the project will increase its ability to host larger and more frequent events, bringing more visitors to the region and further boosting the local economy.

The attached Economic Impact Study underscores this impact, demonstrating how each dollar spent at the Fairmont Opera House translates into additional revenue for the surrounding community. The restoration will create construction jobs in the short term and sustain ongoing economic benefits by revitalizing arts tourism and business growth in the area.

**3. Quality of Life, Health, and Wellbeing**

The Fairmont Opera House enhances the quality of life for residents by providing accessible arts and cultural experiences. Studies show that engaging in the arts positively impacts mental and emotional health, reducing stress, promoting social interaction, and fostering a sense of belonging. The Fairmont Opera House is a gathering space where community members can share meaningful experiences, support local talent, and strengthen social bonds.

Restoring the Fairmont Opera House will ensure that residents continue to access diverse cultural programming that promotes health and well-being. It will remain a place where individuals can find joy, inspiration, and connection, contributing to the community's overall vitality and resilience.

**4. Intergenerational Relationship Building**

The Fairmont Opera House is a rare institution that naturally bridges generational divides. Whether through participation in productions, volunteering, or attending events, the venue encourages interactions between young and old, creating mutual understanding and shared experiences. These intergenerational relationships strengthen the fabric of the community and contribute to the social cohesion that makes Fairmont and the surrounding region such a vibrant place to live.

# Donor Policy - Ways to Give

The Fairmont Opera House (FOH) profoundly values the generous contributions from our community, ensuring the preservation and enhancement of our historic venue. This policy outlines various ways to give, how FOH recognizes donations, how employer-matching gifts are credited, and the terms for making pledges.

1. **Ways to Give**
   a. FOH provides several ways for individuals and organizations to contribute to our mission:
      i. *One-Time Gifts*
         1. Donors can make one-time donations via cash, check, credit card, or our secure online donation portal. Contributions may be unrestricted or designated for specific purposes.
      ii. *Recurring Gifts*
         1. Recurring donations allow donors to give regularly—monthly, quarterly, or annually. These gifts provide consistent support for FOH programs and operations.
      iii. *Pledges*
         1. Donors can commit to a pledge over time. A pledge is a formal promise to donate a specified amount over a set period, typically up to three years. Once the agreement is finalized, pledges are recognized at their total amount.
      iv. *Planned Giving*
         1. Donors can include FOH in estate planning through bequests, charitable trusts, or other legacy gifts. These planned contributions ensure long-term support for the opera house.
      v. *Stock and Securities*
         1. FOH accepts gifts of publicly traded securities and stock. These donations may offer donors significant tax advantages while providing valuable support to the organization.
      vi. *Employer Matching Gifts*
         1. Many employers offer matching gift programs, which can significantly increase the impact of individual donations. Donors are encouraged to submit matching gift forms through their employer, and FOH will verify the original gift to facilitate the match.
      vii. *In-Kind Donations*
         1. FOH also accepts in-kind donations of goods and services. These contributions are recognized based on fair market value and must align with FOH's needs.

# We Need Your **SUPPORT**





# Donor Policy - Recognition

We extend our deepest gratitude to the donors who have supported the Fairmont Opera House this year. Your contributions are not just financial gifts; they are acts of faith in our mission and the future of this historic venue. In appreciation, we are committed to recognizing our donors in meaningful ways, from acknowledgment in our publications and donor walls to exclusive invitations for special events and behind-the-scenes experiences. Your generosity is the foundation upon which we are building a stronger, more vibrant future for the arts in our community.



1. **Donor Recognition**
    a. FOH is committed to acknowledging and celebrating the generosity of its supporters. Recognition will be provided in the following ways:
        i. *Public Acknowledgment*
            1. Significant donors (based on giving levels) will receive special mention in newsletters, event programs, and press releases.
            2. Capital campaign donors will be recognized in campaign materials and may also receive recognition within the opera house after completing the project.
        ii. *Naming Opportunities*
            1. Donors to capital campaigns or other significant projects may qualify for naming opportunities. These could include naming seats, rooms, or other spaces in the venue. Naming opportunities will be offered at various levels, subject to board approval.
    b. Donor Recognition Levels
        i. FOH will recognize donors based on cumulative giving. Giving levels include:
            1. Headliners - $1,000,000+
            2. In the Spotlight - $500,000-999,000
            3. At Center Stage - $250,000-499,000
            4. In the Front Row - $100,000-249,000
            5. Standing Ovation - $25,000-99,000
            6. Curtain Call - $5000-24,000
            7. Mezzanine Members - $1000-4999
            8. Patrons - $100-999
    c. Donor Events
        i. Donors may be invited to exclusive events such as private tours, receptions, or meet-and-greet opportunities with performers and staff. Special events may be offered based on giving levels.

# Donor Policy - Matching and Pledging

You can maximize your impact by taking advantage of employer matching programs and pledging your support to the Fairmont Opera House. Many companies offer matching gift programs that can double or even triple your donation, making your contribution go even further. Additionally, pledging allows you to spread your gift over time, providing a flexible and convenient way to support our restoration efforts. Together, these options make it easier than ever to help preserve the legacy and ensure the future of this beloved community landmark.

1. **Employer Matching Gift Recognition**
    a. Employer matching gifts provide significant additional support to FOH. However, matching gifts are treated differently for recognition purposes. The donor and their employer will be credited as follows:
        i. Donor Credit: The donor will be credited only for the original amount they contributed.
        ii. Employer Credit: The employer will receive credit for the matching amount provided. Since the company fulfills the match, they will be recognized separately for that portion of the donation.
        iii. Combined Recognition: FOH will recognize the donor and their employer in public listings (e.g., programs), with the specific amounts donated by each noted unless otherwise requested. This approach ensures proper recognition of the actual source of each contribution, maintaining transparency for both parties.
            1. If the employer does not wish to be recognized, only the donor will be credited and recognized for their original contribution.
    b. The donor may restrict their gift to a specific fund, program, or purpose; however, the employer match can only be restricted to a specific fund, program, or purpose by the employer.
        i. Any restrictions on employer match must be facilitated by the employee and the employer, not by FOH.
2. **Pledging Terms**
    a. FOH encourages pledges, which help sustain long-term projects and capital campaigns. The following terms apply to all pledges:
        i. *Duration*
            1. Pledges may be fulfilled over up to three years unless otherwise agreed upon.
            2. Donors will receive a written pledge agreement outlining the total pledge, payment schedule, and recognition details.
        ii. *Payment Schedule*
            1. Donors can arrange a payment schedule that works best for them, including monthly, quarterly, or annual installments. FOH will issue reminders according to the agreed-upon schedule.
        iii. *Default*
            1. If pledges are not fulfilled within the agreed-upon time frame, FOH will contact the donor to discuss alternatives or modifications to the pledge.
        iv. *Pledge Modifications*
            1. Donors may request changes to their pledge agreement in writing. The donor and FOH must mutually agree upon any modifications.
        v. *Anonymity*
            1. FOH respects the wishes of donors who prefer to remain anonymous. If requested, all details regarding the donor's gift will remain confidential and not publicly acknowledged.

# Donor Policy - Privacy and Review

At the Fairmont Opera House, we prioritize the privacy and security of our donors. We are committed to protecting personal information and ensuring it is used solely for its intended purposes. Our financial practices reflect the highest accountability standards, with regular reviews and transparent reporting to guarantee that funds are used effectively to support our mission. Additionally, we periodically review our donor policies to ensure they align with best practices and the evolving needs of our supporters, fostering trust and maintaining the integrity of our organization.

1. **Privacy**
   a. FOH is committed to protecting donor privacy. Personal and financial information shared with FOH will be used solely to process donations and will not be shared with third parties without the donor's consent.
2. **Financial Accountability**
   a. To ensure the highest standards of financial integrity, FOH is subject to regular financial reviews and audits per Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). These practices uphold transparency, accountability, and confidence among our supporters and ensure that donations are managed responsibly.
3. **Policy Review**
   a. This donor policy will be reviewed regularly to align with best practices in nonprofit fundraising and donor stewardship. Any changes to the policy will be communicated to donors promptly.

## Disclaimer

The Fairmont Opera House is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and as such, contributions may qualify as tax-deductible under current IRS regulations. Donors should be aware that eligibility for tax deductions depends on individual financial circumstances and the extent to which a donation exceeds the fair market value of any goods or services received in return. While we are grateful for your generous support, we do not provide tax, legal, or accounting advice. We strongly recommend that donors consult with a qualified tax professional or financial advisor to discuss the potential tax benefits, implications, and documentation requirements for their donation.

Thank you for helping us preserve this historic community landmark.
Fairmont Opera House Federal Tax Identification Number: 41-1408912

# Giving Tiers

The Fairmont Opera House Capital Campaign offers various giving tiers to recognize the generosity of our supporters. From Headliners making transformative contributions of $1,000,000 and above to Patrons making impactful gifts of $100 to $999, each tier signifies a vital role in preserving and enhancing our historic landmark. Donors will be acknowledged according to their giving level, ensuring their support is celebrated and appreciated. Join us in making a lasting impact on the future of the Fairmont Opera House and our community's cultural legacy.

- **Headliners - $1,000,000+**
  - Headliners take center stage as the leading supporters of the Fairmont Opera House capital campaign. Their transformative contribution set the stage for the restoration and revitalization of our historic landmark, ensuring its prominence as a cultural beacon for generations to come. Their generosity leaves an indelible mark on our community, enriching lives and inspiring all who enter our doors.
- **In the Spotlight - $500,000-999,000**
  - Those "In the Spotlight" shine brightly as critical benefactors of the Fairmont Opera House capital campaign. Their generous support brings our restoration goals into focus, illuminating the path toward preserving our cherished heritage and enhancing the cultural vibrancy of our community. Their commitment ensures that the Fairmont Opera House remains a beloved destination for arts and entertainment.
- **At Center Stage - $250,000-499,000**
  - At Center Stage, donors are prominent in the Fairmont Opera House capital campaign, commanding attention with their generous contributions. Their support is pivotal in bringing our restoration vision to life, ensuring that our historic venue continues to captivate audiences and foster community engagement for years.
- **In the Front Row - $100,000-249,000**
  - Those "In the Front Row" enjoy prime seating as significant supporters of the Fairmont Opera House capital campaign. Their dedication to our cause places them front and center in our efforts to preserve and enhance our beloved venue. Their generous contributions ensure that the Fairmont Opera House remains a cornerstone of cultural enrichment in our community.
- **Standing Ovation - $25,000-99,000**
  - Donors receiving a "Standing Ovation" play a vital role in the Fairmont Opera House capital campaign and receive well-deserved applause for their generous support. Their contributions provide essential momentum toward our restoration goals, ensuring our historic venue inspires and delights audiences for years.
- **Curtain Call - $5000-24,000**
  - Those receiving a "Curtain Call" take a bow as valued supporters of the Fairmont Opera House capital campaign. Their generosity helps bring our restoration vision to fruition, ensuring that our historic landmark remains a cherished cultural asset in our community. With their support, we can continue showcasing live performance magic for generations.
- **Mezzanine Members - $1000-4999**
  - Mezzanine Members play a vital role in the Fairmont Opera House capital campaign, supporting our restoration efforts. Their contributions help ensure our historic venue thrives as a hub of cultural enrichment and community engagement.
- **Patrons - $100-999**
  - Patrons of the Fairmont Opera House capital campaign play an essential role in our fundraising efforts. Regardless of size, their support contributes to preserving and enhancing our beloved venue, ensuring it remains a vibrant center for arts and entertainment in our community.

# Capital Campaign Supporters

*includes a memorial or tribute donation

Donations as of 9/2/2025

## Headliners
$1,000,000+

## In the Spotlight
$500,000-999,999

## At Center Stage
$250,000-499,999

Marlin Milbrandt Estate

## In the Front Row
$100,000-249,999

Anonymous
Dr. Roger and Beth Neist
*Anonymous in memory of Dennis Turner

## Standing Ovation
$25,000-99,999

*Anonymous in memory of Dennis Turner

## Curtain Call
$5000-24,999

Deb and Fran Bebernes
Carol Cress
Mark & Rita Craven
Lynne Burgraff
Steve & Becky Guetter
Sue Ellen Schissel
Chris and Carol Nasby Family Foundation

## Mezzanine Members - $1000-4999

Arlene Saxton
Baarts Trucking Inc.
Barbara & Robert Duffey
BoeKett Building Supply Inc
Brad & Vonnie Cone
Bryan & Mary Beth Sweet
Bryan Unke
Chantill & Tom Kahler Royer
Curtis & Ellen Nelson
*Dale Engquist & Shori Fine
Dolores Gronewald
Dominick & Nancy Driano
Dr. Lynn & Beth Reeve
Elroy & Sandra Nuss
Eric & Catherine Johnson
Fairmont Area Chamber of Commerce
Fairmont Ford
Fairmont Lions Club
*HAVEN Church
Hubble & Samantha Werre
ITC Midwest
James & Carol Dick
Jane Reiman
Janet & Andy Ruth
*Jayson & David Engquist-Winkworth
Jesse Grantz & Katelyn Langwith
Joann & Charles Woodward
John & Patti Kasper
John Bisbee
Jon & Cheryl Rippke
Lee & Julie Baarts
Margaret Weaver
Marilyn & Duane Belseth
Marilyn Forstrom
Martin Luther High School Music Department
Mike & Christy Edman
Nancy Klemek
Roger & Carrol Voss
Ross & Amy Long
Tom & Jeanne Maday
Wayne & Char Kahler

# Capital Campaign Supporters

*includes a memorial or tribute donation

Donations as of 9/2/2025

## Patrons - $100-999

Adam & Kaitlin Bormann
Adam Klesh
Addie Lintelman
Al & Angie Wohlrabe
Alice Barnes
Amanda Forstrom
Andrea Carstensen
Austin Fisher
Avery Weigh-Tronix ITW via Blackbaud Giving fund match via Jane Reiman and Greta Lintelman
Barb Swenson
Beth Fleming
Bob & Diane Luedtke
Bonnie Johnson
Brandon & Sara Edmundson
Brenda Anderson
Brian & Deb Roggow
Brian & Louise Hendricks
Bruce & Coleen Ehlert
Carol & Dennis Madsen
Carol Carlson
Carol Christianson
Carol Green
Celia Simpson
Charles & Joell Schaefer
Chevron via Blackbaud Giving Fund match from Hugh Fraser's donation
CherylnN & Harry Brumbaugh
Collin & Lorie Cunning
Connie Erickson
Cynthia Corey
D & S Trophies & Embroidery
Darwin & Bev Anthony
David & Beth Kloeckner
David & Mary Segar
Deb & Rod Laue
Debra & David Alm
Debra Johnson
Dennis & Karen Trushenski
Devon Zarling
Dolores M Wolff
Donald & Kathryn Wilkening
Donald & Rhonda
Duane & Jan Rieland
Emily Hansen
Evalynne Hoppe
Fairmont Brewing Company
Fairmont Uptown Kiwanis Club
Gertrude Paschke
Gina Pytleski
Holly Hegdal
Hugh & Joie Fraser
Isaac Landsteiner
James & Barbara Bock
Jay Schmidt
Jean Kanten
Jeff & Deb Eversman
Jeff & Dona Paris
Jeremy & Abby Gibson
Jim & Ronda Cone
Joann Cahill
JoAnn Gilbaugh
John & Connie Pederson
John and Sherry Larson
Joseph & Kim Kreiss
Joy Rachuy
Judy & Tyler Berkland
Julaine Markquart
*Julie Hill
Karen Engstrom
Karen Mussmann
Kevin & Kathy Smith
Kids Just Wanna Have Fun
Larry R. & Donna Maday
*Laura Spitzer
Laurence Vogel
Leslie Curry
Lillian Robinson
Linda and Thomas Sparks
Lisa Tonne
Lisa Wohlhuter
Lois Kesler & Perry Berhow
Lora Alexander
Lori Chirpich
Marcia Gertner Johnson & Van A. Johnson
Mark & Alison Wagner
Mark & Jeanne Atkinson
Mark & Sue Anderson
Martin Luther High School Theater Department
Mary Broviak
Mary Jo Moltzen
Mary Kerns
Mary Normandin
Merlin & Diane Oddan
Millicent Hanson
Nancy Backer
Nancy Johnson
Nancy Thiesse
Neal & Dawn Potthoff
Neil & Barbara Iverson
Nicole Gries
*Nora Whiteman
P.T. Booker
Paige Blomgren
Pamela Carlson
Pampered Chef
Patty Brandts
Pauline Erickson
Phyllis Surprenant
Rachel Maday
Rick Borchardt
Rick and Kaari Nelson
Robert & Constance Katzenberger
Robert Nolte
Roslyn Gunderson
Roxanne Scholl
Russ & Sandee Nelson
Safety Solutions, Inc.
*Samantha Chukuske
Sara Pierce-Moore
Scott and Cheri Drever
Seth & Amy Becker
Shella Franz
Siri Kabrick
Steven & Donna Mcmurtry
Steven & Sharon Glidden
Sue Oliver
Susan Keck Andersen
Susan Sanders
Susan Wilken
Susanne Whitman
Suzanne Schermerhorn
Sweet Financial Services
*Tari Riley
Ted & Marcia Schaefer
Theodore and Jaacqueline Fisher
Thomas & Darla Lytle
Tom Motl
Tim & Kay Campe
Tom & Kate Hawkins
Trace & Stephanie Tumbleson
Trenna Kusick-Morgan
Troy Gies
Troy Nemmers
Val & Perry Berhow
Vernette Buckmeier-Turner
*Vince Small, CPA Mankato, Mn.
Wayne Haysek
William & Darci Bentz
William Schrader & Beth Murray

# Capital Campaign Supporters

*includes a memorial or tribute donation

Donations as of 9/2/2025

## Donors - Under $100

Alma Barber
Arvin & Joanne Soma
Amber & Jeremy Hansen
Ann Hartmann
Anna Tonne
Arvin & Joanne Soma
Barbara Abram
Becky Detert
Becky Rogness
Benji Inniger
Beverly K & Rod Haeckel
Bonnie Russ
Breanna Thate
Brian Grantz
Callie Wille
Candi & Wes Schafer
*Carrie Schuller
Danielle Devlin
Darcy Graif
Erin Betlock
Evelyn Kue
Emma Larson
Gretchen Hoppe
Jaime Bleess
Jaime Firman
Jake Schwalbach
Jane Griffiths
Jarrett Anderson
Jeffrey Sauer
Jeanne Poppe
Joel & Becky Detert
Julie Small
Karen Munsch
Kathleen Mathiason
Kathleen Tenney
Katie Hoaglund
Kay Steffen
Kim Nelson
Laura Douglas
Luanne Fondell
Marlyn & Mary Ann Hagen
Marlys Rodgers
Marsha Peterson
*Mary Louise Sanders
Megan Cook
Melissa Hollom
Michael Core
Morgan Melton
Neal & Dawn Becker
Nicole McCarthick
Rachel & Hailee Greeley
Rolf Erdahl
Sammie Moeller
Sandy Beckendorf
Shannon Deer
Southern MN Home Creative
Stacy Dollen
Tim Perry
Timothy & Sandra Soelter
Timothy Lombardo
William Rosa

## In tribute to or memory of

Dennis Turner
Don & Vi Small
Emmalynes Family
Fern Hand
Henry & Mary Whiteman
Joan Engquist
Lawson Harris
Lois Handevidt
Monica Chukuske
Neil Devries
Pat Cochran

Tribute and memorial gifts to the Preserve the Legacy, Enrich the Future capital campaign offer a beautiful way to honor loved ones while supporting a cause that enriches our entire community. Whether celebrating a special milestone, remembering someone dear, or recognizing a legacy of giving, your gift becomes part of a lasting tribute. These contributions not only preserve the historic Fairmont Opera House but also create opportunities for future generations to experience the transformative power of the arts. Your gesture is a timeless expression of love, honor, and hope for the future.

# Capital Campaign Supporters

*includes a memorial or tribute donation

Donations as of 9/2/2025

## Busienss Sponsors

Vince Small, CPA Mankato, Mn.
Fairmont Brewing Company
Chevron via Blackbaud Giving Fund match from Hugh Fraser's donation
D & S Trophies & Embroidery
Fairmont Uptown Kiwanis Club
Safety Solutions, Inc.
Pampered Chef
Martin Luther High School Theater Department
Avery Weigh-Tronix ITW via Blackbaud Giving fund match via Jane Reiman
Baarts Trucking Inc.
BoeKett Building Supply Inc
Martin Luther High School Music Department
Fairmont Lions Club
Fairmont Ford
HAVEN Church
Southern MN Home Creative
Sweet Financial Services
ITC Midwest
Kids Just Wanna Have Fun (Project 1590 inc.)
Fairmont Area Chamber of Commerce
Dairy Freeze



**Becoming a business sponsor of the Preserve the Legacy, Enrich the Future capital campaign is a powerful way to invest in the cultural and economic vitality of our community. By partnering with the Fairmont Opera House, your business will help restore this historic landmark, ensuring it continues to inspire and engage generations to come. Sponsorship provides a unique opportunity to showcase your commitment to the arts, education, and community development while gaining valuable recognition among the thousands of patrons who cherish this iconic venue. Together, we can build a legacy that uplifts our region and strengthens our shared future**

# Capital Campaign Supporters

## To our Generous Donors and Sponsors:

Thank You!
We are deeply grateful for the incredible support we've received thus far for the Preserve the Legacy, Enrich the Future capital campaign. Each donation and sponsorship represents a shared belief in the power of the arts to inspire, connect, and enrich lives. Your generosity brings us closer to restoring the historic Fairmont Opera House and ensuring its legacy as a cultural and community hub for generations to come.

To Our Donors:
Your contributions, no matter the size, are a testament to the value you place on preserving history and creating a vibrant future for Martin County. You are the heart of this campaign, and your commitment fuels our progress every step of the way.

To Our Sponsors:
Your partnership reflects a dedication to community growth and development. Your support strengthens the arts and ensures access to world-class entertainment, educational opportunities, and cultural experiences right here in our region.

We are especially inspired to see the community rally behind this effort, just as it has many times before to save this historic facility. The shared dedication and passion of our neighbors have been the cornerstone of preserving the Fairmont Opera House for over a century.

Together, we are building something truly extraordinary. Thank you for your trust, belief, and investment in the Fairmont Opera House. You are making a lasting impact, and we can't do it without you.

Keep on giving! We can make this happen.

With heartfelt appreciation,
The Fairmont Opera House Team

# Naming Rights Opportunities

The Fairmont Opera House is embarking on a transformative capital project to preserve and rehabilitate MN's Oldest Operating Theater. As part of this endeavor, we are excited to offer Naming Rights Opportunities, providing a unique chance for individuals, businesses, or organizations to leave a lasting legacy and be prominently recognized in connection with our iconic venue.

**Naming Rights Categories:**

- *Main Auditorium:*
  - Unparalleled Visibility: Your name or the name of your business/organization is prominently displayed in the Main Auditorium.
  - Legacy Impact: Associate your brand with the heart of our performances and events.
- *Stage*
  - Showcased Visibility: Your name or the name of your business/organization is prominently displayed on the stage
  - Generational Impact: Associate your brand with generations of local, regional, national, and international culture and entertainment
- *Lobby:*
  - Grand Entrance Recognition: Your name is prominently featured in the lobby, making a grand statement for all who enter.
  - Community Gathering Space: Be associated with the central hub that fosters community engagement.
- *Balcony:*
  - Elevated Visibility: Your name is featured prominently on the balcony, offering an elevated view of performances.
  - Exclusive Entertainment Space: Associate your brand with the unique experience of balcony seating.
- *Lounge:*
  - Stylish and Inviting: Your name is associated with the venue's lounge, creating a stylish and inviting space for patrons.
  - Social Hub: Be recognized as a supporter of our venue's social and community aspects.
- *Mezzanine:*
  - Artistic Perspective: Your name is showcased in the mezzanine, offering a unique vantage point for patrons.
  - Cultural Appreciation: Align your brand with the cultural and artistic significance of the Fairmont Opera House.
- *Dressing Rooms:*
  - Behind-the-Scenes Support: Your name is linked to the essential backstage area, supporting the performers in their preparation.
  - Artistic Preparation: Be acknowledged as a crucial supporter of the artists' creative process.

*Terms and Conditions:*

- These Naming Rights opportunities need to be approved and are negotiable, pending approval from the Fairmont Opera House Board of Directors.
- These Naming Rights do not encompass the full scope of potential rights.
- These Naming Rights only encompass part of the scope of potential donor recognition initiatives.
- We are open to discussions regarding the duration of naming rights and offer options for both short-term and long-term agreements.
- The negotiation process will include considerations for the level of recognition, promotional benefits, and any specific requests from the donor.

How to Inquire:

If you are interested in exploring Naming Rights Opportunities or want more information, please contact Blake Potthoff at director@fairmontoperahouse.org or 507-238-4900. We welcome the opportunity to discuss how your support can align with our vision for the Fairmont Opera House's future.

All Naming Rights agreements are subject to final approval and will be handled with the utmost care and consideration. We look forward to the potential of working together to create a lasting impact on our historic venue.

Thank you for your continued support of the Fairmont Opera House.

# The Future of the Fairmont Opera House

Here at the Fairmont Opera House, we also eagerly look forward to what lies ahead for the future. Our vision is clear: a repaired, vibrant, and inclusive space where the arts and community unite in new and exciting ways. However, this vision can only become a reality with the continued support of the people who love and cherish this historic venue.

The Fairmont Opera House has stood for over a century as a testament to our shared values of creativity, culture, and community. Generations of families have gathered here to experience the magic of live theater, concerts, and community events. It is a place where memories are made, local talent is showcased, and the arts come alive for young and old alike.

But now, more than ever, the future of this treasured institution is in your hands. As we move forward with our “Preserve the Legacy, Enrich the Future” capital campaign, we are calling on our community to help us reach our goal of $4 million to restore and reopen the doors of the Fairmont Opera House. This is more than a financial goal—it is a collective effort to preserve a vital part of our cultural heritage.

Why is this important?

Because the Fairmont Opera House is more than just a building—it’s the heart of our community. It’s where local children first experience the thrill of being on stage, neighbors come together to share stories, and the power of live performance unites us all. Without your help, the doors of this cherished venue may remain closed, and an irreplaceable part of our town’s identity could be lost forever.

We are deeply committed to ensuring that this doesn't happen. We believe in the power of the arts to bring people together, inspire, heal, and transform lives. We believe in the importance of keeping this space alive, not just for ourselves but also for our children and grandchildren. We believe in the future of the Fairmont Opera House, but we can’t do it alone.

How can you help?

You can help by continuing to spread the word, volunteering your time, and donating to the capital campaign. Every contribution, large or small, brings us one step closer to reopening the doors and creating a brighter, more vibrant future for our community.

As we look ahead, we are filled with hope, determination, and gratitude. Together, we can preserve the legacy of the Fairmont Opera House and enrich our town's cultural life for generations to come. Your support is not just an investment in a building—it’s an investment in our community’s future.



Thank you for standing with us, believing in the power of the arts, and being part of this journey. The future of the Fairmont Opera House depends on all of us.

Let’s make it brighter together.

Samantha Werre, Secretary
Fairmont Opera House Board of Directors

# How You Can Help

***There's no question about it—giving feels good.***

There are many different ways to give when it comes to time, talent, or treasure. Throughout history, philanthropists have changed the course of our communities, our country, and the world.

You might think, "I don't have much money to give, so how can I make a difference?" The good news is that philanthropy isn't just about writing a big check - It's about finding creative ways to support a cause you care about. Regarding the Fairmont Opera House's Capital Campaign, there are countless ways to contribute that don't require a large financial donation.




One of the most valuable gifts you can offer is your time, and advocating for us with your time can make a huge impact. Talk about the importance of the Opera House with your neighbors, co-workers, and local businesses. Share why preserving this historic venue matters to you and the community. Use social media to rally others to the cause, share campaign updates, and encourage others to get involved.

For those who are looking to get more involved, we invite you to join our Community Engagement Committee. This group is dedicated to helping create and organize local fundraisers. By joining the committee, you can collaborate with like-minded individuals who share a passion for our Fairmont Opera House. It's an excellent opportunity to contribute your time and talents in meaningful ways that support our mission. This group meets on the first Wednesday of every month at noon at our offices in the Behind the Scenes building behind the Fairmont Opera House. Send us an email to info@fairmontoperahouse.org to join and receive emails about upcoming meetings.

***"What's meaningful to you? If it's $5 or $5 million–it's meaningful to us."***

**- Blake Potthoff, Executive Director of Fairmont Opera House**

Do you have a skill or talent that could help the campaign? Maybe you're a great writer, artist, vendor, or event planner. Use your talents to write about your experiences at the Fairmont Opera House and why they matter, or organize a class to teach others about one of your favorite art styles. You can also sell your art/cutting boards/lemonade/baked goods and donate a percentage of your profits.




Host a garage sale, bake sale, or car wash with proceeds going to the campaign. Or, if you're part of a group or club, consider organizing a benefit event where all funds raised go to the Opera House. Your unique abilities and connections can make a big impact. These grassroots efforts not only raise funds but also engage the community and create a sense of shared purpose. Your efforts might even inspire others to give!




Remember, philanthropy is about more than just money. It's about caring for our community and making a difference in whatever way we can. By getting involved in the Fairmont Opera House's Capital Campaign, you're helping to ensure that this historic venue continues to be a place where memories are made for years to come.

Whether you give your time, talent, or voice, your contribution is valuable, and together, we can re-open the doors of our beloved Fairmont Opera House.

# Community Support

“As the executive director of the Minnesota State Arts Board, I have witnessed firsthand the invaluable contributions that the Fairmont Opera House makes to our state’s cultural landscape…strong public and private support are needed to ensure that the Fairmont Opera House continues to inspire and enrich the lives of Minnesotans for generations to come.”
*Sue Gens, Executive Director*
*MN State Arts Board*

“The Fairmont Opera House has for many decades been the center of cultural activity in the greater Fairmont area. Alongside a unique courthouse and near the retail business district, this venue has been a community gathering place for cultural and artistic programs and presentations. It would be a huge economic loss to the city if this wonderful facility were to fail due to a lack of upkeep. The local community - through individual support, as well as support from local government and the business sector - are ready and willing to invest in the upgrades needed to make this project happen.”
*Tim Penny, President and CEO*
*Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation*

“The proposed improvements align with industry best practices and standards, reflecting a commitment to quality craftsmanship and attention to detail. By investing in these necessary repairs and renovations, the Fairmont Opera House will preserve its historic character and create a safer environment for patrons, performers, and staff. I’ve personally volunteered my time in support of this project due to the social importance of the availability [of] quality cultural entertainment for the aging population of this small rural community.”
*Brian Ruschy, Construction Consultant and Project Manager*
*BR Construction & Consulting, LLC*

“Investing in the capital repair project is not only a matter of preserving the Fairmont Opera House’s structural integrity and cultural significance for future generations. It also represents a significant opportunity to boost our local economy, support local businesses, and draw visitors to our area.”
*Joshua Schuetz, Community and Business Development Specialist*
*Martin County EDA*

“My daughter has danced on the stage of the [Fairmont] Opera House since she was three years old; she is now 15, and I would love nothing more than to assure [her] that her senior solo is on that same stage.”
*Amber Pitcher*
*Community Member*

“Being new to the Fairmont community, the FOH [Fairmont Opera House] community theater helped my family make new friendships that have helped Fairmont seem more and more like home.”
*Ellen Germain, Performer and Director*
*Fairmont Area Community Theater*

“By investing in the repair and rehabilitation of the Fairmont Opera House, we can ensure that it remains a vibrant cultural destination for visitors and continues to drive tourism in Martin County for years. Completing the capital repair project will enhance the visitor experience, strengthen our local economy, and support job creation in our community.”
*Brittany Hartman, Executive Director*
*Visit Fairmont (Fairmont Convention & Visitors Bureau)*

# Economic Data
## 2021-2023

**Overview:**

Much of Minnesota has recovered from the pandemic, but the arts industry is still struggling. The economic downturn of 2020-2023 hit arts organizations harder than almost any other part of Minnesota. It caused a revenue loss of $2.2 billion, and more than 62,000 people lost their jobs. Theaters, museums, live music venues, and other organizations had to lay off 57% of their employees.

However, the Fairmont Opera House has continued its commitment to the community and has positively impacted it culturally and economically for the past two challenging years.

**Data of Note:**

- According to the Federal Reserve, the combined economic impact of the arts and culture economy across the state is $12.2 billion. Minnesota's creative sector directly supports 108,000 jobs, resulting in $6.7 billion in compensation for its workforce. It falls behind only retail and construction for economic impact. For every $1 spent on a ticket, another $12 is generated in economic activity.
- On average, the Fairmont Opera House generates an additional $19.71 in economic activity over the ticket cost.

**Fairmont Opera House Data:**

- In 2021, nearly 8500 attendees visited the Fairmont Opera House, **including over 1100 students** from local school districts.
- The Fairmont Opera House had a budget of **$400,000+**.
- In 2022, 7200 attendees visited the Fairmont Opera House, **including over 1300 students** from local school districts.
- The Fairmont Opera House had a budget of **$400,000+**.

**Conclusion:**

Due to this data, it can be inferred that the Fairmont Opera House had a **$563,000 impact on the community in 2021** and a **$542,000 impact on the community in 2022**.



# Creative Minnesota Economic Study
2019-2020

## Fairmont Opera House Creative Minnesota Study
## Executive Summary

### Overview:

- Creative Minnesota, Minnesota Citizens for the Arts, and Fairmont Opera House released a new study indicating that the arts significantly impact Martin County.
- The Martin County study is one of seven local studies Creative Minnesota released in 2021.

### Data of Note:

- The study found that the combined economic impact of nonprofit arts organizations and their audiences is nearly $1.6 Million annually. This includes $947,405 spent by nonprofit arts organizations and $605,176 spent by 30,704 attendees. In the county, direct spending of artists in their communities on things such as art supplies and studio rental is $434,907, and revenues from creative industries are over $24 Million.

### Fairmont Opera House Data:

- In 2019, over **17,000 attendees** visited the Fairmont Opera House, i**ncluding over 3000 students** from local school districts.
- Of the $947,405, the Fairmont Opera House had a budget of **$600,000+.**

### Conclusion:

- The Fairmont Opera House represented approximately **49% of the total attendees in Martin County** among the participating organizations and **63% of the total spending** by organizations surveyed in Martin County.
- Due to this data, of the **$1.6 Million impact, approximately 56% or $896,000** can be attributed to the work of Fairmont Opera House.



# Creative Minnesota Economic Study
2019-2020

## Martin County

Regional Arts Council 9

## NONPROFIT ARTS & CULTURE ORGANIZATIONS & THEIR AUDIENCES

TOTAL SPENT BY NONPROFIT ARTS AND CULTURE ORGANIZATIONS
**$947,405**

TOTAL SPENT BY ARTS AND CULTURE ATTENDEES
**$605,176**

TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT FROM **NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR AUDIENCES IS ALMOST**
**$1.6 MILLION**

NONPROFIT ARTS AND CULTURE IN MARTIN COUNTY
**PACKS A POWERFUL $1.6 MILLION PUNCH**

## PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

### BY DISCIPLINE

5 Performing arts
Arts multipurpose
6 History and historical preservation
Other
Visual arts and architecture
Media and communications
Literary arts
Humanities

### BY BUDGET SIZE

6 Under $25K
3 $25K – $100K
1 $100K – $250K
1 $250K – $1M
$1M – $5M
Over $5M

### TOTAL ATTENDEES

| | |
|---|---|
| TOTAL ATTENDEES | 30,704 |
| NUMBER OF STUDENTS SERVED | 5,876 |
| IN THIS REGION: AVERAGE AMOUNT ATTENDEES SPEND PER PERSON ABOVE THE COST OF THEIR TICKET | $19.71 |
| Total FTEs Supported by Organizations & Audience Spending | 42 |

## STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVENUES

GOVERNMENT REVENUE (TAXES & FEES) **GENERATED BY ARTS AND CULTURE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS & THEIR AUDIENCES**
**$147,832**

# Creative Minnesota Economic Study
2019-2020



## MARTIN COUNTY

Regional Arts Council 9

| | |
|---|---|
| ESTIMATED NUMBER OF **FULL-TIME ARTISTS AND CREATIVE WORKERS** | **41** |
| ESTIMATED NUMBER OF **PART-TIME ARTISTS AND CREATIVE WORKERS** | **84** |
| TOTAL NUMBER OF **ARTISTS AND CREATIVE WORKERS** | **125** |

*Includes creative workers employed full or part time by others, as well as self employed. Does not include student, retired or hobbyist artists.*

### TOP 3 CREATIVE JOBS

**Broadcasters/DJs | Marketing | Graphics**

AVERAGE **HOURLY WAGE FOR CREATIVE WORKERS** **$26.61**

*This is $6.48 above the average for all workers in this area*

### ARTISTS & CREATIVE WORKERS



| | |
|---|---|
| SPENDING BY FULL-TIME ARTISTS AND CREATIVE WORKERS | **$196,431** |
| SPENDING BY PART-TIME ARTISTS AND CREATIVE WORKERS | **$238,476** |
| TOTAL **ECONOMIC IMPACT FROM ARTISTS AND CREATIVE WORKERS** | **$434,907** |
| GOVERNMENT REVENUE **GENERATED BY SPENDING OF ARTISTS AND CREATIVE WORKERS** | **$43,154** |

**THE ARTS AND CULTURE ARE AT THE HEART OF THIS CREATIVE VITALITY.**

TOTAL CREATIVE INDUSTRY **REVENUES**
**$24 MILLION**

TOP CREATIVE INDUSTRY **REVENUES:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Wired Telecom | **$5.7 Million** |
| Radio Stations | **$4.9 Million** |

**PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS**

Fairmont Concert Association Inc, Fairmont Opera House, Granada Huntley-East Chain Schools, Heritage Acres/South Central MN Interpretive Center and Heritage Trails, Inc, Interlaken Heritage Days, Martin County Historical Society, Red Rock Center for the Arts/Martin County Preservation Association, Rural Advantage, Truman Historical Museum/Truman Historical Association, Truman Public Schools, Welcome Historical Society

*Creative Minnesota is a collaborative effort to fill the gaps in available information about Minnesota's cultural field and to improve our understanding of its importance to our quality of life and economy. It is part of a long term endeavor to collect and report data on the creative sector every two years for analysis, education and advocacy. We hope that arts advocates, legislators, local government officials and arts and cultural organizations will use this report to find new ways to improve their lives and economies with arts and culture. Creative Minnesota's statewide and eleven regional studies have included: • The economic impact of Minnesota's nonprofit arts and culture organizations and their audiences • An analysis of the impact of artists and creative workers on our economy • Public opinion polling about the arts • Local studies of the economic impact of the arts in Minnesota communities • Analysis of the availability of arts education in Minnesota's schools Our team includes Minnesota Citizens for the Arts, McKnight Foundation, Minnesota State Arts Board, Forum of Regional Arts Councils of Minnesota, Target, Jerome Foundation, Mardag Foundation, Bush Foundation, Perpich Center for Arts Education, Springboard for the Arts and Minnesota Music Educators Association with inkind support from the Minnesota Historical Society. City of Minneapolis, Ideas that Kick, the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) at the University of Minnesota, Minnesota Compass, and others.*

**FIND MORE AT:**
creativemn.org

ARTS GIVE BACK

creative MN

MCA MINNESOTA CITIZENS FOR THE ARTS

**Minnesota Citizens for the Arts**
661 LaSalle Street #220
St. Paul, MN 55114
651-251-0868
artsMN.org
staff@artsMN.org
@MNCitizen

# From the Chair of the Board

As I sit down to write this letter, I can't help but think about all the memories we've shared within the walls of the Fairmont Opera House. Whether it's the joy of seeing your favorite play, the magic of your child's first performance, or simply gathering with neighbors for a shared experience, this place holds a special significance for each of us.

But right now, we are facing a tough challenge. As much as we've loved celebrating the arts together, the Fairmont Opera House is in jeopardy. The path ahead requires us to unite, just as we always have, to save this historic space. That's why I'm reaching out to you—I know how much this building represents and means to you, too.

While our commitment to arts, culture, and entertainment is unwavering, our current and most pressing task is to collect the funds necessary to repair, restore, and reopen the Fairmont Opera House. We must raise $4 million by the end of 2025, or we will be forced to close permanently. Your support is crucial to achieving that.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who has supported the Fairmont Opera House throughout the year. Your commitment to our organization shows how much the Fairmont Opera House means to all of us. This building has been a touchstone for the arts in our community for over a century. Now, we face the biggest challenge in its history — and to overcome it, we need your help.

We must recognize the urgent reality: **the Fairmont Opera House is at risk of being lost forever**. Our beloved historic venue desperately needs repair and restoration to reopen. It's not just a building—it's a symbol of our community's heritage and a place where memories have been made for generations.

Every day, our costs keep mounting. We're pouring thousands of dollars each month into equipment rentals, the most glaring of which is the scaffolding to support the roof. These expenses and our regular operating costs make it increasingly challenging to keep this dream alive. With each passing day, the financial burden becomes heavier, and the road to recovery is steeper. We cannot afford to wait any longer.

Can you imagine a Fairmont without the Opera House? I can't.

Imagine no more community gatherings in our historic space. Imagine no home for Fairmont Area Community Theater, the very existence of which is very much in jeopardy without a permanent home. It's a reality we're working hard to prevent. We need each of you—your generosity and your commitment to repair, restore, and reopen the Fairmont Opera House.

Together, we can accomplish our goals.



Regards,

Robert Luedtke, Chair
Fairmont Opera House Board of Directors








FAIRMONT
Opera House

**FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!**

# The Fairmont Opera House

**Box Office and Administration**
The Behind the Scenes Building
112 E. Blue Earth Ave

**Theater**: 45 Downtown Plaza
**Mailing**: PO Box 226
Fairmont, MN 56031
Website: www.fairmontoperahouse.org

Box Office Hours:
Tuesday-Friday
9:00 AM - 2:30 PM and 1 Hour Prior to Event
*Doors Open 1 Hour Before Event, House Opens 30 Minutes Before Event