

Your Capitol Theatre

Capitol Theatre Committee
Capital Campaign

"The Capitol Theatre stands in Yakima as a monument to a prosperous and inspired past. Remarkably, this theatre thrives today as the rare artifact that enjoys continuous use as a hub of culture and the arts in Yakima. The drive to invest in the preservation and modernization of this asset reflects the same hopes and dreams for the community that our ancestors had on the first opening night May 5, 1920. Please join us as we reach our goals!"

– Susie Temple, Capital Campaign Committee Chair

A message from the Capitol Theatre Team

The Capitol Theatre is the premier performing arts venue in Central Washington - the artistic heart of the Yakima Valley and home to three vibrant nonprofit organizations that bring a diverse array of performances and events to our community. As the region's largest and most technically capable stage, the Capitol Theatre plays a vital role in enriching lives, inspiring creativity, and driving cultural and economic vitality.

To preserve this legacy and ensure it meets the evolving needs of both artists and audiences, the Capitol Theatre must undergo a series of essential upgrades. These improvements will address aging infrastructure and modernize the facility to meet the technical expectations of world-class performances, enhance audience comfort, and provide an exceptional experience for generations to come. Please join with us to restore Yakima's Jewel.

Sincerely,
Charlie Robin, CEO and
Sierra Hutton, Development Director





Rendering of the Capitol Theatre with new seat configuration
Courtesy of Graham Baba Architects

Improvements on both sides of the curtain

Audience Improvements

- Modernize & upgrade seats
- Reconfigure seating layout
- Accessibility improvements including
  - o New accessible aisles and seating sections
  - o Fully replace elevator from lobby to lower level
  - o New ADA compliant family restroom on lower level
- New LED lighting throughout the building and on the facade

Artist Improvements

- Add backstage artist space in 4th Street Theatre
- Upgrade theatrical systems with modernized audio/visual and lighting systems
- Create a balcony rail to accommodate additional lighting and projection positions
- Increase access and safety for technicians

Theatre Preservation

- Repair roof leaks
- Clean and repair plaster including decorative elements
- Refresh and reimagine wall paint
- Replace carpets in lobbies and auditorium
- Restore poster windows on the facade
- Repair stained glass windows

Rendering of the remodeled Capitol Theatre Main Lobby
Image courtesy of Graham Baba Architects



"The Capitol Theatre is more than a historic landmark—it is a cornerstone of economic vitality and cultural life in the Yakima Valley. Investing in its future means supporting local jobs, strengthening our regional economy, and ensuring that communities across Central Washington continue to have access to world-class performances. This project is a meaningful step toward preserving a vital public asset for generations to come."

– Senator Curtis King

Timeline & Budget

Your Capitol Theatre Fundraising Campaign

August 11, 2025
The Night the Curtain Fell: A Golden Commemoration
Marking the 50th anniversary of the fire that nearly destroyed the Capitol Theatre on August 11, 1975.

June, 2027
Construction Begins in the Capitol Theatre
Performances continue exclusively in the 4th Street Theatre

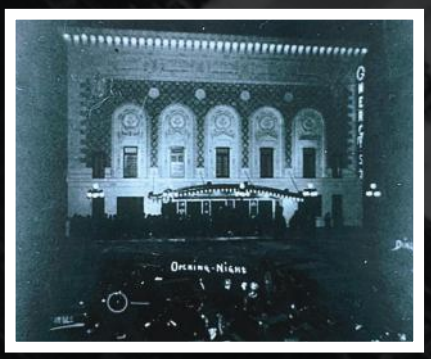
November, 2028
Capitol Theatre Grand Reopening
The Historic Capitol Theatre reopens, 50 years after the first Grand Reopening on November 4, 1978.

Our Fundraising Goal

$16 Million

[$5 million government + $11 million community]

Capitol Theatre History



April 5, 1920

Frederick Mercy Sr.'s vision of a grand vaudeville theatre located in downtown Yakima is realized with the Grand Opening of the Mercy Theatre; soon to be renamed the Capitol Theatre.

August 11, 1975

A fire raced through the theatre and, in a matter of hours, Central Washington's only performing arts facility – and a precious part of its cultural heritage – was all but destroyed.



April 11, 1973

After decades as a vaudeville and movie house, the Capitol Theatre was purchased by the City of Yakima in the 1970s and added to the National Register of Historic Places.



November 4, 1978

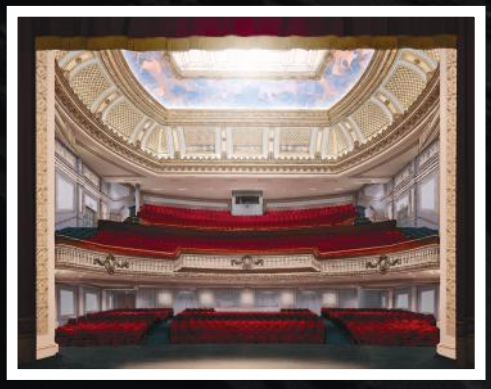
After massive community support and just 733 days from the start of reconstruction, the Capitol Theatre reopened her doors to the public.

April 15, 2011

The newly added Production Center and 4th Street Theatre opened, a result of the commitment of the community to the Capitol Theatre.







We are asking the community to once again reinvest in this treasured landmark and commit to Your Capitol Theatre and helping us to restore Yakima's Jewel.



Image courtesy of Graham Baba Architects

Your Capitol Theatre

"I think that it is something that is so essential to Yakima and it is something that is so rare to have a theatre of this size and capacity and history – rich history – here in the valley"

– Devin S., Capitol Theatre Patron

Restoring Yakima's Jewel

CAPITOL THEATRE YAKIMA

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