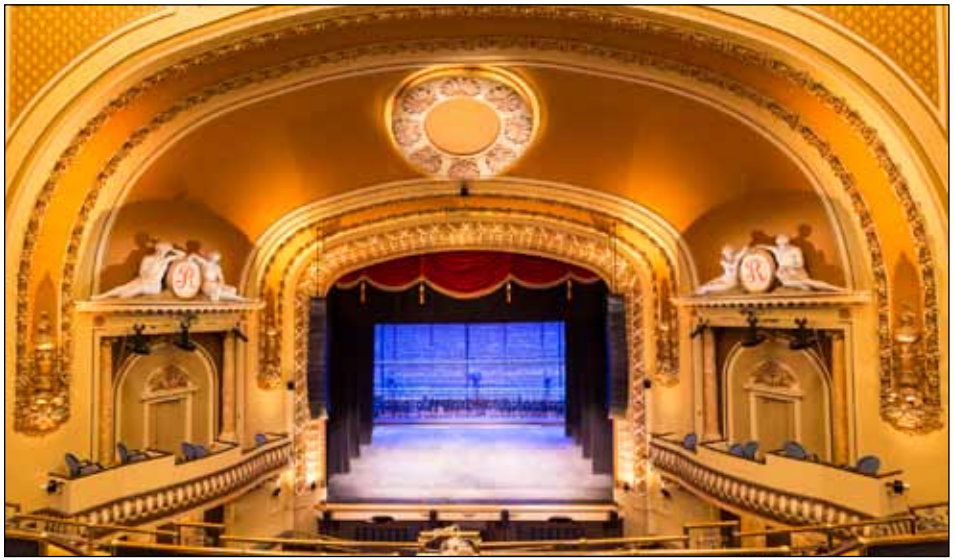
ROYAL & McPHERSON

FY 2020: ANNUAL REPORT

Early 2020 brought a dramatic disruption to the Royal Theatre and McPherson Playhouse's usual operations. We spent the remainder of 2020 focused on a variety of projects in anticipation of the day when we can gather again to witness all that arts and entertainment has to offer, creating enriching experiences and lasting memories!





MISSION STATEMENT

Enriching the quality of life in the region, through a sustainable and relevant performing arts centre.

VISION STATEMENT

To be the integral hub for performing arts of the region, recognized for diverse and valued performances, professional standards, and historic spaces.

BOARD PRESIDENT REPORT

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Royal and McPherson Theatres Society (RMTS), I am pleased to present the 2020 Annual Report. This past year, 2020, was an unprecedented year for our organization.

The year began with a busy few months of live performances at the Capital Regions' two historic theatres: the Royal Theatre and McPherson Playhouse. Between January and March 12, the two theatres combined welcomed 34,943 people to experience Broadway, dance, theatre, music, opera, comedy and lectures at 38 performances. However, as we know, the world changed for all of us after this date.

COVID-19 has had a significant and devastating impact on the performing arts and entertainment industry. This includes the many individuals who bring these experiences to life, our own employees and of course the many citizens who enjoy and have come to expect live performances in our region. On March 12th, 2020 the theatres instantly closed for public performances and continue to remain closed to the public. Managing through this time has been difficult for all of us and decisions that no one expected to be faced with, had to be made, in some cases, tough decisions where there was no good answer. Through financial stewardship, a dedicated staff, and support from the Federal Government, Victoria Foundation, individual donors, the civic owners and the Capital Regional District (CRD), the RMTS has been able to respond to the impacts of COVID. The Society has maintained critical operations, ensured we were available to our clients to support them with any needs, and conducted maintenance and improvements to these much-loved venues. Additionally, all ticket refunds for cancelled or postponed shows were processed quickly with no charge. Due to the fiscal prudence and good management of the Society, the two historic theatres will be ready to re-open once the pandemic is over.

Over the past year, the RMTS refreshed its strategic plan. The board identified and prioritized governance, strategic communications and relations, capital planning, operation and business planning, diversifying revenue and the introduction of the RMTS' first green plan as strategic objectives for coming years.

Additionally, the RMTS commissioned the Royal Theatre expansion feasibility study to confirm the needs of venue users and viability of capital improvements to address those needs. The Royal Theatre has served this community well for more than 100 years. Looking forward, we want to understand what could be improved to provide a better overall experience for the citizens of this region along with supporting the presenters who have come to depend on the Royal Theatre for their shows. On February 19 of 2020, we held an information session for all stakeholders. Although the planned stakeholder consultations were postponed

BOARD PRESIDENT REPORT

because of the pandemic, they have now resumed and we are receiving valuable input. Thank you to the local philanthropic foundation for their generous support of this important initiative.

As I complete my term as President in May 2021, I want to thank my colleagues on the board, past and present and the staff for their dedication and thoughtful work. It has been a privilege to work with you. Thank you to the municipalities of Oak Bay, Saanich and Victoria for their commitment to arts, culture, and entertainment and of course to the RMTS staff and to the CRD staff for their support and collaboration.

On behalf of the Society, I thank Councillor Marianne Alto, Councillor Tara Ney, Bruce Cameron, Tiffany Gartner-Bouffard, and Raj Wirk who have completed their terms on the board.

Thank you to the artists, clients, audiences, individual donors, Victoria Foundation and the community for their continued enthusiasm and celebration of arts and entertainment.

Finally, I am proud of the accomplishments the Society achieved this year on behalf of the civic owners of the theatres and the citizens of the region. We welcomed Franz Lehrbass as the new executive director. We initiated strategic planning, worked to create greater awareness of the RMTS' role and value to arts in this region, continued to support the region's diversity of arts and entertainment experiences, have undertaken a longer-term review of the Royal Theatre's infrastructure, proactively responded to the impacts of the pandemic and have created a robust post-COVID re-opening plan for our audiences.

Our theatres and organization are well-positioned to welcome presenters and the community back when restrictions are lifted. I truly look forward to the day that we can all gather once again at the Royal Theatre and McPherson Playhouse to experience the thrill of live arts and entertainment.



Lorne DeLarge, *Board President*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Although 2020 began with a flurry of successful events, the news of a viral pandemic became more and more troubling. When theatre production ceased, our ability to earn revenue came to an abrupt halt. To secure the financial survival of the RMTS, we pursued many options, as described on page nine of this report. Despite these efforts, our projections clearly showed that more was required. We made the difficult decision to lay off six of our regular employees, and the earnings of those retained has been reduced. This combined approach is working. We have maintained vital client relationships, tackled core capital projects, and engaged in community consultations such as the Capital Regional District's Public Conversation about Performing Arts Facilities and meaningful discussions with the Victoria Symphony, Pacific Opera Victoria, and Dance Victoria.

Despite the struggles of 2020, I am grateful. The leadership of IATSE local 168 has worked with us to find solutions during difficult decision-making. The CRD's Manager of Arts Development – James Lam – has shared his keen analysis, institutional memory, wise counsel, humour and encouragement. The RMTS executive and board have invested considerable effort in this year of ongoing discussions and difficult decisions. Our board treasurer – Tiffany Gartner-Bouffard has thrown herself enthusiastically into extensive survival exercises in managerial accounting. Our board president Lorne DeLarge has applied himself tirelessly to the unenviable responsibility of leading the RMTS board and supporting RMTS staff through this year of extraordinary challenges. I have learned a great deal from Lorne's strong analysis, synthesis, and leadership skills, and above all, his humanity and guiding ethical principles.

Thanks most of all to the staff of the RMTS – both those retained and those laid off. This has been a year of struggle for us all. Each resolved challenge has been followed by a new complication. We have engaged in countless robust and at times agonizing conversations in reasoning through and implementing hundreds of decisions, often to be sent back to the drawing board by the pandemic. And yet, we are still standing, as a team. As we look to the end game of this pandemic, we set our minds once again to the complex and detailed planning necessary to re-launch the Royal Theatre and McPherson Playhouse in their service to the community.

Through struggle we adapt, survive, and evolve. Onward!



Franz Lehrbass, *Executive Director*

WELCOME TO THE THEATRES

THE PEOPLE, THE PLACE, THE EXPERIENCE

For over four decades, the Royal and McPherson Theatres Society (RMTS) has managed the theatres on behalf of their civic owners and, by extension, the region's citizens, visitors and community. The RMTS manages all aspects of the theatres, including the administration, production, box office, front of house, and historic building maintenance, in order to facilitate the use of approximately 75 groups per year. On average, the RMTS provides service to over 200,000 patrons annually, setting the stage for an exceptional customer service experience, from ticket purchase through to the final curtain.

The RMTS provides the care and expertise to operate and maintain the historic Royal Theatre and McPherson Playhouse. Both theatres are in their second century serving the Capital Region as the premier performing arts venues and play an integral role in enriching the cultural life of the community. We are proud of the diverse and valued performances that grace the stages of the Royal Theatre and McPherson Playhouse.


ROYAL THEATRE


McPHERSON PLAYHOUSE


ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

The Royal and McPherson Theatres Society acknowledges the Royal Theatre, McPherson Playhouse and Administration Office are on the ancestral, traditional and unceded territories of the Lekwungen peoples, now known as the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations.

OUR TEAM

The RMTS is comprised of a team of experienced, knowledgeable and dedicated arts professionals who manage all aspects of the Royal Theatre and McPherson Playhouse. Our staff takes pride in cultivating a vibrant cultural hub for our community.

The RMTS works closely with the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees & Moving Picture Technicians, Artists and Allied Crafts (IATSE) Local 168, who represent all RMTS employees outside of the Administration Office.

During regular operations, the RMTS is comprised of the following hard-working, dedicated full-time employees:

Jackie Adamthwaite *Front of House Manager*
Karen Ainey *Web & Software Application Manager*
Hilary Britton-Foster *Assistant Technical Director*
Warren Busby *Assistant Technical Director*
Derek Cooper *Box Office Administrator*
Nancy Downer *Finance Manager*
Sheelagh Drever *Finance Assistant*
Tom Heemskerk *Assistant Technical Director*
Derry Hunley *Box Office Supervisor*
Ainslee Jessiman *Programming & Communications*
Franz Lehrbass *Executive Director*
Darcy Lipsey *Finance & Communications*
Blair Morris *Technical Director*
Mandy Niddrie *Manager of Client Services*
Melissa O'Shea *Box Office Manager*
Robert Rawson *Assistant Front of House Manager*
Cameron Stewart *Assistant Technical Director*
Kathleen Stewart *Custodial Supervisor*

In 2019, and the first 2.5 months of 2020, our team consisted of 235 theatre professionals, creating:

- **41** Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Jobs

As a result of the pandemic, our team now consists of 14 theatre professionals, creating:

- **11.5** Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Jobs

OUR TEAM

The RMTS is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors consisting of three Municipal Councillors, six Elected Directors and five CRD Appointed Directors. The Board works to maintain, preserve and further develop the Royal Theatre and McPherson Playhouse by providing governance and strategic oversight of the organizations resources.

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lorne DeLarge, *President*
Christopher Devlin, *Vice President*
Tiffany Gartner-Bouffard, *Treasurer*
Judy Scott, *Secretary*
Byron Smith, *Past President*
Councillor Marianne Alto
Tom Burley
Bruce Cameron
Gregory Damant
Oxana Dexter
Marley Gibbons
Iain Hooey
Nathan Lampard
Councillor Tara Ney
Rick Schick
Councillor Ned Taylor
Raj Wirk

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Royal & McPherson Theatres Society, previously known as the McPherson Foundation, has been the steward of the Royal Theatre and McPherson Playhouse on behalf of their civic owners and the citizens of the region for over 43 years.
- In regular years, as a registered, not-for-profit charity, 85% of RMTS revenues are earned from theatre operations. The Royal Theatre and McPherson Playhouse receive municipal operating grants that cover 15% of the operating costs.
- During regular operations, the Society facilitates the use of approximately 75 groups per year and over 200,000 patrons annually.
- We are in the business of bringing people together at the historic Royal Theatre and McPherson Playhouse. These venues have served the community for over 100 years, providing a home for the Capital Region to gather and experience unforgettable local and touring arts and entertainment.

ROYAL & McPHERSON

OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS

As 2020 emerged, the early months of the year saw the Royal Theatre and McPherson Playhouse stage a variety of arts and entertainment in what was debuting to be another active and exciting year at the theatres.

ROYAL THEATRE: 27 PERFORMANCES

Broadway In Victoria's Beautiful, Celtic Illusion, Dance Victoria's Ballets Trockadero and Kidd Pivot, Half Moon Run, It's Just Drag, Legends of Motown, Pacific Opera Victoria's Flight, RMTS' National Geographic Live's Steve Winter, Simon and Garfunkel Story, Snowed In Comedy Tour, The Glorious Sons, The Strumbellas, Victoria Symphony presented Masterworks and Pops.



The Glorious Sons
Photo: Magmazing Music



Broadway In Victoria | Beautiful
Photo: Broadway Booking



Dance Victoria | Kidd Pivot | Revisor
Photo: Michael Slobodian



Half Moon Run
Photo: Magmazing Music

MCPHERSON PLAYHOUSE: 11 PERFORMANCES

Abbamania, BenDeLaCreme Variety Show, Kaleidoscope Theatre's House at Pooh Corner, Jim Cuddy Band, Music of Cream, St. Michael's University Senior School's Newsies, Patrick Watson.



Music of Cream
Photo: RMS Media



Kaleidoscope | House at Pooh Corner
Photo: Veronica Bonderud

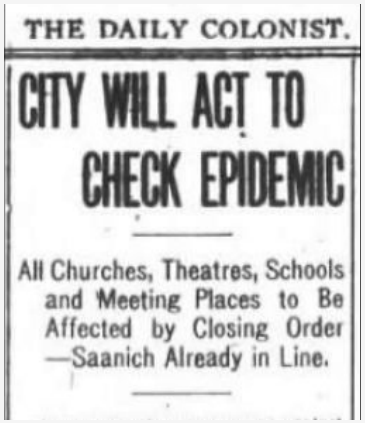


St. Michael's University Senior School
Newsies



Patrick Watson
Photo: Magmazing Music

OPERATING IMPACTS


THE DAILY COLONIST.

CITY WILL ACT TO CHECK EPIDEMIC

All Churches, Theatres, Schools and Meeting Places to Be Affected by Closing Order —Saanich Already in Line.

Public Health Order closes Victoria businesses during Spanish Flu October 1918 | The Daily Colonist

GLOBAL PANDEMIC SHUTTERS THE ROYAL THEATRE AND MCPHERSON PLAYHOUSE

March 12, 2020 marked the first unscheduled closure of the Royal Theatre and McPherson Playhouse since the Spanish Flu in 1918. Facing an uncertain future, the RMTS administration staff worked well into the evening to begin the overwhelming and uncertain process of closing the theatres. On March 14, 2020 the final load out took place at the Royal Theatre, as our stage crew loaded out Ballet BC's *Romeo and Juliet*, a Dance Victoria performance scheduled to take place that weekend which never happened.

In the months following, we rescheduled 14 shows, postponed 20, and cancelled 79; numbers that only account for shows which were already contracted and on sale through our box office in March 2020. As we close this unprecedented year, countless bookings and performances have been lost and the financial impact has been severe on our once thriving arts and entertainment community.

TURNING TICKET REFUNDS INTO DONATIONS

During the early months of the pandemic, the generosity of patrons was very heartwarming to experience, as the RMTS Box Office facilitated ticket buyers returning their tickets as donations to local arts groups in the amount of $151,700.



THANK YOU: We remain grateful to Europort Enterprises Ltd. and Richmond Property Group, landlords of our administration office, for collaborating with us to acquire the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance program.

ROYAL & McPHERSON

OPERATING IMPACTS

The Royal and McPherson Theatres Society experienced a dramatic financial impact from the closure of the theatres, forcing us to make complex, difficult decisions and implement changes to maintain financial stability.

The cancellation of all events and performances at the McPherson Playhouse and Royal Theatre from March 13, 2020 onwards and the subsequent loss of earned revenue resulted in the following:

- Processed ticket refunds amounting to over $1,223,000.
- 170 casual employees unscheduled to work since March 2020.
- Layoffs of 6 full time employees and reduced compensation to employees through the Work-Sharing program.
- Pursued government subsidies and programs resulting in support from:
  - Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)
  - Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA)
  - Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS)
- Pursued grant and foundation applications.
- Implemented development and fundraising campaigns.
- Reviewed expenditures to identify areas for cost savings and elimination of discretionary expenditures.
- The Society transferred funds from the McPherson Playhouse Operating Reserve Fund and the Royal Theatre Operating Reserve Fund to meet ongoing operational requirements during the Pandemic.

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE CONTINUED SUPPORT FROM OUR MUNICIPAL FUNDING PARTNERS

Royal Theatre receives a $100,000 operating grant contributed by Oak Bay, Saanich and Victoria.
McPherson Playhouse receives a $350,000 operating grant from Victoria.
The Society also extends a thank you to the City of Victoria for providing a permissive tax exemption.

ROYAL THEATRE



The elegant 1416-seat Royal Theatre has graced the skyline of the Capital Region since 1913 and serves as Vancouver Island's largest premier venue for the performing arts. While preserving its original Rococo/Renaissance Revival style décor, the Royal Theatre elegantly fuses 19th century architecture with 21st century technology, enabling it to host a variety of arts and entertainment options, from Broadway tours to drag shows, dance to comedy, opera to jazz and symphony to rock concerts.

The Royal Theatre became a site of national historic significance in 1987. It was officially designated a National Historic Site of Canada on May 12, 1988. In 1990, the Royal Theatre received a commemorative plaque from the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

ROYAL THEATRE	2018	2019	2020
Total Box Office Ticket Sales	$4,356,527	$6,849,048	$1,613,112
Total Attendance	117,144	147,284	29,529
Total Performances	120	148	27

MCPHERSON PLAYHOUSE



Located in the heart of Old Town Victoria, the McPherson Playhouse has been the home of intimate theatre in Victoria since opening in 1914 as part of the Pantages chain of theatres found across North America. Evolving from its vaudevillian roots, the McPherson hosts a variety of professional, community and amateur events throughout the year.

The 772-seat theatre continues to be one of the most impeccably maintained and finest examples of theatres from its era still standing in Canada today.

The McPherson Playhouse was granted a heritage designation on October 25, 1995.

MCPHERSON PLAYHOUSE	2018	2019	2020
Total Box Office Ticket Sales	$1,438,520	$1,588,698	$167, 016
Total Attendance	50,533	56,460	5,414
Total Performances	102	107	11

ROYAL & McPHERSON CAPITAL PROJECTS

As in traditional years, capital projects and theatre upgrades were scheduled to take place at the Royal Theatre and McPherson Playhouse. After the closure of the theatres forced all remaining performances to cancel indefinitely, we refocused our efforts on capital projects.

Below is an overview of some of the projects our team undertook in 2020, with several continuing into 2021, in the ongoing effort to dramatically improve experiences at the theatres.

ROYAL THEATRE

- Replace theatre doors between lobby and audience chamber to improve the experience by soundproofing the theatre from the lobby cross over noise.
- Renovate the Green Room and Dressing Rooms with fresh paint, new LED lighting, and by adding touchless faucets in the washrooms.
- Installation of touchless water bottle filling stations backstage and in the lobby.
- Replace and add directional signage in the lobbies to improve safety, access, audience flow and crowd management.
- Upgrade bars to increase service and delivery to patrons.
- Replace House Light System and upgrade technology to LED to reduce energy consumption and continue to ensure patron safety.
- Building envelope study to ensure the 1913 structure remains stable and will reduce energy consumption.



Lobby Painting



Directional Signage



Touchless Water Bottle Filling Stations



Green Room Renovations



Stage Dimming Control Upgrade

CAPITAL PROJECTS

MCPHERSON PLAYHOUSE

- Replace outdated wireless microphones due to Canada's wireless spectrum auction.
- Replace House Light System and upgrade technology to LED to reduce energy consumption and continue to ensure patron safety.
- Renovate 1960's mezzanine washrooms to improve functionality, health, safety and comfort of patrons, with hands-free fixtures, improved LED lighting and water consumption will be reduced with low flow, energy efficient toilets.
- Building envelope study to ensure the 1914 structure remains stable and will reduce energy consumption.
- Replace old incandescent stage lighting with LED models to reduce energy consumption.
- Upgrade old stage dimmer rack brain to ensure proper operation of the entire lighting system.



Wireless Microphones



Wireless Microphones Rack



Dimmer Rack Brain Upgrade



Renovated Mezzanine Washrooms

CAPITAL FUNDS: Capital project funds to maintain and upgrade the Royal Theatre and McPherson Playhouse cannot be used for operational needs and are held and maintained by the Capital Regional District. RMTS also contributes to capital projects for the theatres, supplementing them through earned revenue.

ROYAL & McPHERSON

A NEW DIGITAL EXPERIENCE

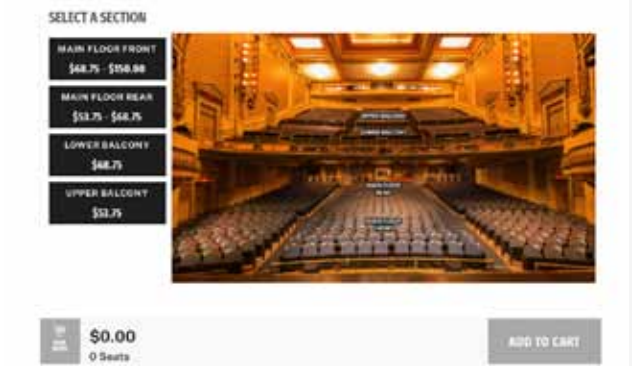
It all started with an email from Tessitura, our ticketing software provider, with an announcement they would be ending support of the SOAP API, which is how we integrated our purchase path on our old website. Giving us plenty of notice to plan and prepare, we considered all our options for website providers and Tessitura integrations.

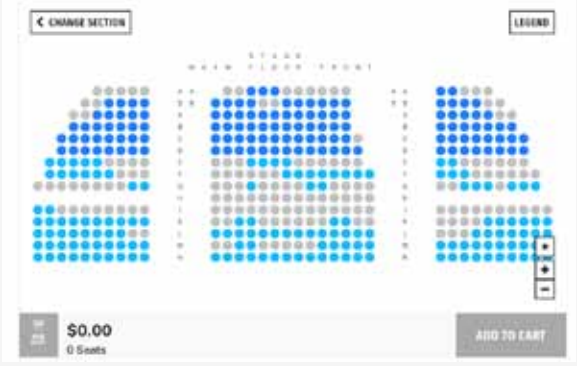


PROJECT GOALS:

- Implement a flexible and robust content management system that had shared session capabilities with the REST API purchase path integration.
- Continuously updating our purchase path as newer technology rolls out.
- Be at the forefront of technology offerings as the ticketing world changes rapidly, which is essential for our clients and customers.
- Capability of handling high volume sale conditions so the customer purchase experience remains smooth.

INTUITIVE PURCHASE PATH:







TECHNOLOGY PARTNERS:

tessitura NETWORK Adage

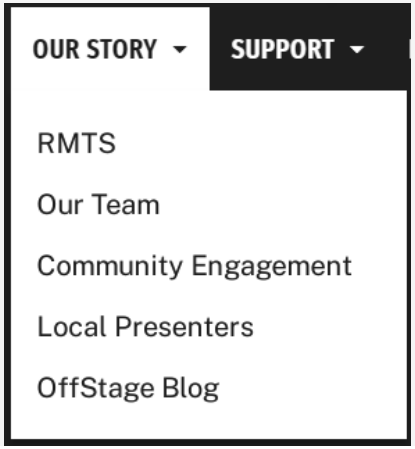
Offering vast experience with arts organizations and product offerings that reflect this expertise, Adage Technologies and TN Express Web (Tessitura) were selected as our technology partners for this robust project.

ROYAL & McPHERSON
A NEW DIGITAL EXPERIENCE

Project planning compelled us to commit an extensive amount of time reviewing existing information and to creating new content to better speak to who we are at the RMTS and what we offer at the Royal Theatre and McPherson Playhouse. To communicate the Society's mission and the role these venues play in our community, new tools and features for engagement were thoughtfully created.

NEW TOOLS AND FEATURES FOR ENGAGEMENT





The launch of our OffStage Blog creates a new engagement tool that simultaneously complements our social media channels and OnStage E-Newsletter, helping us better achieve our goal of connecting and communicating directly with our community.

EXPLORE OUR RICH HISTORY

In addition, we are proud to now have a history section for the Royal Theatre and McPherson Playhouse that tells the story of how these buildings came to be and the role they have played in our community for well over a century.



CLIENT AND CUSTOMER SERVICE

NEW SOFTWARE SYSTEMS TO FACILITATE BETTER CLIENT AND CUSTOMER SERVICE

The implementation of two new software systems in our administration office occurred, improving our capacity to better serve client and customer needs with innovative and robust venue booking and digital marketing management systems.





DIGITAL MARKETING SOFTWARE

Our team implemented WordFly, a digital marketing product built just for arts, entertainment, culture and sports organizations. WordFly offers email marketing, SMS, forms, surveys, landing pages and RSVP for events, and is integrated with our ticketing software system, Tessitura. It is an innovative, robust and intuitive digital marketing system.

VENUE MANAGEMENT & BOOKING SOFTWARE

Our team implemented VenueOps, a premier software tool for venue management and booking, intelligently designed for convention centres, stadiums, arenas, theatres, fairgrounds, and performing arts centres. Easily combining CRM/Sales, live entertainment booking, event management, resource tracking and more into one stream-lined, web-based platform, VenueOps is a robust and extremely intuitive booking system.

ROYAL & McPHERSON

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Royal and McPherson Theatres Society strives to find opportunities throughout the year to collaborate with local organizations to engage the community in new ways and 2020 certainly presented some different opportunities.



GALLERY AT THE MAC - RMTS STAFF SHOW

Adding a splash of colour to the walls, the RMTS Staff Show opened on December 12, 2019. This Gallery at the Mac exhibit showcased a variety of art from theatre staff and was displayed until February 24, 2020. It was a highlight of the early part of the year and we enjoyed witnessing the various talents of our dedicated staff.



GREATER VICTORIA REGIONAL ARTS AWARDS

On October 3, 2020, a variety of arts facilities across Victoria participated in the Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards live-stream broadcast. We were honoured to present the PARC Retirement Living Mid-Career Artist Award to Krystal Cook during this live-stream broadcast from the stage of the Royal Theatre.



VIDEO STREAMING EQUIPMENT

RMTS acquired state of the art streaming equipment for the Royal Theatre, creating a valuable engagement tool for clients to broadcast and record performances for their audience while our doors are closed. Upon re-opening, our clients will have the opportunity to enhance the patron experience by offering virtual streaming content on their digital platforms.

BUILDING IMPORTANT RELATIONSHIPS IN THE COMMUNITY

Since January 2020, discussions and negotiations have taken place between the RMTS, the Victoria Symphony, Pacific Opera Victoria and Dance Victoria. In November 2020, a two-year memorandum of understanding was signed, providing interim stability for all parties while discussions about longer-term arrangements continue.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

DAY OF VISIBILITY

March 12, 2020 marked the day live events cancelled instantly around North America due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with many live event workers experiencing their livelihood disappear overnight. Born from a successful movement already making waves around the world, an advocacy grouped called the Live Event Community was formed in Canada in order to raise awareness of the devastation sweeping through our industry.

On September 22, 2020, over 600 venues and landmarks across Canada took part in a Day of Visibility with #LightUpLive. Buildings and marquees lit up in red to raise awareness for an industry forced to go dark indefinitely. Together, our technical and social media team members participated in this event featuring both the Royal Theatre and McPherson Playhouse in an effort to support our industry, and most importantly our co-workers and colleagues, so devastated by this pandemic.







TOTAL EMPLOYMENT INCOME:

2018	2019	2020
$2,351,000	$2,494,000	$1,537,000

ROYAL & McPHERSON

SUPPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY

THANK YOU, SUPPORTERS!

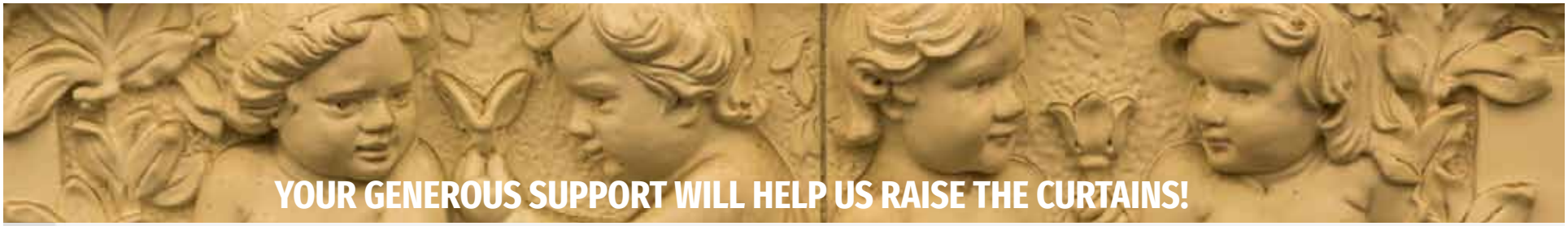
We would like to gratefully acknowledge the local support we have received during this unprecedented devastation to our industry. The Royal Theatre and McPherson Playhouse play a vital role in the arts and culture in our community and your support has allowed us to take care of these important historical venues in our region during this time.

VICTORIA FOUNDATION

CONNECTING PEOPLE WHO CARE WITH CAUSES THAT MATTER®

The Victoria Foundation generously granted the RMTS $20,000 from their Community Recovery Program in the fall of 2020, financially contributing to our general operating funds in response to the social and economic impacts COVID-19 has had on our organization. This grant has been an instrumental support to the society in the following ways:

- Help to retain staff to manage the society, theatres and ensure a succesful re-opening.
- Continue the day-to-day operations and maintenance of these valued historic venues.
- Maintain continuous service and support to the local arts community.
- Proceed with planned projects vital to ensuring a relatively quick and effective recovery.



YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT WILL HELP US RAISE THE CURTAINS!

Prompted by a 100% loss of earned revenue, we embarked on a new venture to include individual fundraising into the RMTS revenue stream. Our first individual fundraising campaign launched in September 2020 with a humble request to our community to help us *Raise The Curtains*. Far exceeding our expectations, we are grateful for the support from each individual and business who generously donated; helping us sustain theatre operations during such an arduous and uncertain time.

The collaborative partnership between venues, performers and audiences means that supporting your local theatres in turn supports the ecosystem of the arts, culture and entertainment community within your region.

LOCAL PRESENTERS

Proudly welcoming local organizations, the Royal and McPherson Theatres Society facilitates the use of the Royal Theatre and McPherson Playhouse for the following non-profit groups. We look forward to welcoming each organization back to the stages and acknowledge the tremendous hardships our industry has faced during this uncertain time.

Allegro

Ballet Victoria

bostondance

Canadian College of Performing Arts

Community Living Victoria

Dance Unlimited

Dance Victoria – The World's Best Dance

dansko studios

Kaleidoscope Theatre for Young People

Opera Pacific Opera Victoria

Passion & Performance Arts Inc.

Pearson College UWC

Raino Dance

Royal Roads University

The Salvation Army

Shawnigan Lake School

Shriners Variety Show

St. Michaels University School

VIATEC BETA

Victoria Academy of Ballet

Victoria Flamenco Festival

The Victoria Jazz Society

VOS celebrating 75 years – Musical Theatre Community Impact

Victoria Symphony – Christian Kluxen, Music Director

WonderHeads

LOOKING AHEAD



HEALTH AND SAFETY

The health and safety of our staff, clients, and visitors is of the utmost importance to us. We diligently follow updates and recommendations from the Public Health Office and WorkSafe BC to ensure we continue to meet all current standards.

Born from the pandemic is our comprehensive and regularly updated COVID-19 Safety Plan for employees, contractors and clients. The plan ensures protocols and policies are in place to keep workers safe. Our Re-Opening plan guides us towards a phased approach to re-opening when public health orders allow us to do so.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU BACK!

Recognizing that health, well-being and community cohesion thrive in societies with rich cultural and creative industries, the Royal and McPherson Theatres Society is committed to the successful recovery of the arts and entertainment industry in our region.

We feel optimistic that re-opening is on the horizon and look forward to welcoming everyone back to the Royal Theatre and McPherson Playhouse to gather again and delight in the collective experience of live performance, entertaining, educating and inspiring future generations!



Until we are able to open our doors again, our team will be doing all they can to ensure we can safely welcome you back when the time comes. While we wait for that time, in the words of our Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry: “be kind, be calm and be safe”.



the
ROYAL & McPHERSON
theatres society

ROYAL THEATRE
805 Broughton Street
Victoria, BC V8W 1E5

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
#302 - 1005 Broad Street
Victoria, BC V8W 2A1

250.361.0800
Box Office: 250.386.6121

MCPHERSON PLAYHOUSE
3 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC V8W 1P5

www.rmts.bc.ca