

Mt Crested Butte Performing Arts Center

Newsletter :Summer 2014



President's Report

With a new year, we now have a new name: the **Biery-Witt Center at Mt. Crested Butte** which will provide a spectacular boost to the arts scene in the entire Greater East River Valley. Equally important, it will bring new money to our area. This infusion of cash to our beloved community's economy will help **preserve the present and promote the future**. In short, both from an artistic and an economic viewpoint, the Biery-Witt Center will **Boost the Butte!!**

Cash, pledges and land donations have now reached almost \$18 million and we have begun the design and construction process. Geotechnical borings of the site are underway to determine soil conditions. Once construction documents are completed, we plan on breaking ground early next summer.

It is extraordinary that we have been able to obtain the services of a design team comprised of the finest talent available anywhere in the US. We anticipated receiving proposals from five or six design teams but instead got more than 20 submissions. It appears that everyone wants to work in our gorgeous area! The winning team is led by Pete Ed Garrett of Studio Red Architects from Houston and will be aided by our community's very own Gary Hartman of Sunlit Architecture. Theatre planner Robert Long of Theater Consultants Collaborative and acoustician Robert Mahoney will be integral to the theatre's design and functionality. There is no dispute that these talented gentlemen stand at the pinnacle of their respective professions. Read more about our dream team on page 3.

OK, this dream project is now a reality.....what next? Well, we still need to raise an additional \$5.5 million dollars to achieve our core desired project. We would like to include much-needed space to accommodate Crested Butte Music Festival's growing needs as well as those of other local arts organizations. The Biery-Witt Center will also be a magnet for weddings, receptions, dinners and special events, not to mention conventions and be able to accommodate big name entertainment.

Every contribution from this point forward is a pivotal one to the very design of the facility. We can only build what contributions pay for! There's no place like our greater Crested Butte community and the Biery-Witt Center will preserve the present and promote the future. **Please show your support for the economy and for the arts by giving as generously as you can. Boost the Butte!!** —Tom Seymour, President

USDA Pre-Application Approval

The Mt Crested Butte Performing Arts Center has been looking into financing options with regard to the construction of the Biery Witt Center in order to bridge the phased inflow of pledge commitments and thus be able to start construction sooner. As one option, we made a preliminary application for funding to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Program. Following submittal of preliminary information, we have recently been approved to submit a formal application. The formal submission involves considerably more information than the pre-approval process. That work is currently ongoing. We expect timing of the submission to be in the early fall. —Bill Ronai, Building Finance Chair

Board of Directors:

William Buck, Chair
Tom Seymour, President
Joe Fitzpatrick, Vice President
Gary Keiser, Treasurer
Allen Cox
Tim Fretthold
Scott King
Tim Mueller
Bill Ronai
Donna Witt
Don Haver, ex officio
Jim Hogue, ex officio
Paul Witt, ex officio

We're proud to have the
support of our partners!



CRESTED BUTTE
COLORADO

CRESTED BUTTE
MUSIC FESTIVAL
IS PARADISE

REGION
10
Leveraging Resources for
Stronger Communities

Now accepting contributions
via credit card!

Call us for processing at
970.349.4769



A Note from Jim Hogue, Capital Campaign Chair

2013 was an exciting and successful year for the Mt Crested Butte Performing Arts Center. A naming gift was received from Tom and Linda Biery and Donna and Paul Witt and now our new name will be the **Biery-Witt Center at Mt Crested Butte**. Building on last year's energetic and successful fundraising momentum, we expect 2014 to be even more important and productive. We have added new leadership to the Campaign effort to achieve a broader reach in the community. Accordingly, I would like to introduce Donna Seligman as the new Vice-Chair of the Capital Campaign.

The level of success achieved last year has enabled the project to engage a Design Team and move forward with the final plans for our Center. I personally would like to thank the many donors who have invested in our success to-date. All current contributors over \$10,000 are recognized in this Newsletter. There already are 78 at this level and nearly 100 generous gifts below it. However, our job is not done. We need many more participants to achieve our goals and deliver the best facility we can for our community.

As Tom mentioned, we still have \$5.5 million to raise in order to reach our original goal of \$23.5 million. While it is certain that we will design and construct a much needed facility, raising the balance of our goal will ensure that it will be one that will completely serve our community's needs. It is no longer "if" we will build; now it is "what" we will build. We need a community gathering place that will be both relevant and accessible to the entire Gunnison Valley by providing not only a performing arts facility but also includes multiple, flexible spaces. Those spaces will house community and corporate special events and will be able to support breakout and educational activities and events for the young people of our community. The desired Center will provide another layer of cultural quality-of-life not currently available for residents, visitors, families and guests.

If you are already a contributor, a hearty thank you. If you have not yet made an investment by way of a contribution to the many amenities, both cultural and economic that this facility will bring to our community, please give us a call and join the Campaign.

Executive Director's Report

The MCBPAC is entering a new phase with many pieces coming together for the organization. The excitement of selecting an architect design team and the possibility of some very attractive financing to develop the project have made the Center a reality. As we enter this new phase, I have decided to step down as Executive Director and allow the Board of Directors to choose a new person who has significant experience in the development and operational aspects of this type of facility. I am proud to have been a part of the growth from the initial commitments of our lead donors, Crested Butte Music Festival, Mt Crested Butte Downtown Development Authority and Crested Butte Mountain Resort, to commitments that now total almost \$18 million. This is a significant achievement and I will always wish the organization all the best going forward.

One of the highlights during the past two and one-half years has been rekindling old and establishing new relationships with so many of you. Your support and advice has been instrumental in our success and we could not have done it without each and every one of you. You guys rock!

I continue to ask each of you to join our friends and myself in supporting the Center and what it will bring to the community. I firmly believe that the new Biery Witt Center at Mt Crested Butte will become an important education, economic prosperity and cultural legacy cornerstone of the community for years to come. — **Woody Sherwood, Executive Director**

Mt. Crested Butte DDA Increased Commitment

The Mt Crested Butte Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and town council have modified the funding commitment to MCBPAC in consideration of DDA cash flows and MCBPAC needs. The commitment was to issue \$6,000,000 in bonds and provide those funds to pay construction costs. The DDA will now provide \$7,800,000 in cash flow over the life of the DDA to 2026. Those funds will be used to repay debt issued by MCBPAC to fund construction costs.

—**Gary Keiser, Treasurer**

Announcing Our New Design Team



The Mt Crested Butte Performing Arts Center is pleased to introduce its newly-selected Design Team chosen to commence a final design of the new facility. In response to our Request for Proposals, a staggering twenty architectural firms from across the country submitted proposals to the Building Committee. After an exhaustive evaluation process, four finalists were chosen and personally interviewed. **Studio Red Architects** of Houston, Texas put together the strongest Design Team and brought the most creative thinking to the interview process. Studio Red also was the most experienced firm in the creation of facilities similar to what has been envisioned for our community. Another strength of the team is its collaboration with Crested Butte's own **Sunlit Architecture**, brought on board to provide expertise in contextual style and mountain design. Other Team members include renowned theater planner Robert Long of **Theatre Consultants Collaborative** and acoustician Bob Mahoney of **Robert F. Mahoney Associates**. Engineering team members include, **Collaborative Engineering Group** of Houston for MEP, **Monroe and Newell Engineers** of Avon, Colorado for structural, and **SGM** of Gunnison for Civil.

Pete Ed Garrett, Founding Partner of Studio Red, has over 35 years of award-winning architecture and design experience in the public and private sector with particular emphasis in entertainment, performing arts centers and public assembly facilities. His projects have been recognized nationally and internationally with awards for design excellence. Among his many creations are Houston's Wortham Theatre Center and the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, North Carolina's Blumenthal Performing Arts Center, Disney Institute Amphitheatre and transforming Reunion Arena into Lakewood Church, the largest in the country.

Gary Hartman of Sunlit Architecture is well known in the Gunnison Valley where he and his wife/partner Jennifer have designed numerous private homes as well as work on the West Wall Lodge, Wildhorse at Prospect, Red Lady Lodge Restaurant, Gold Link Village master plan and 6th Street Station. Prior to their involvement in the Gunnison Valley, they designed several commercial projects in Vail. Sunlit will bring a uniquely local perspective to the Center's design.

Design kick off was held on May 7 and 8 in Mt Crested Butte. This stellar team will be introduced to donors and other stakeholders at a special event on July 1st. Ground breaking is scheduled for July, 2015 with a grand opening of the Biery Witt Center in July, 2017.

BIERY-WITT CENTER AT MT CRESTED BUTTE

Capital Campaign Donors



BIERY-WITT CENTER

AT MT CRESTED BUTTE

Founders Circle - \$500,000+

Tom & Linda Biery
Donna Dantini Witt Foundation
Crested Butte Mountain Resort
Town of Mt. Crested Butte
Mt Crested Butte Downtown
Development Authority
Don & Cathey Humphreys

Presidents Council - \$200,000+

The Fretthold Family
The Helmerich Foundation
—Hans & Lea Helmerich
Jim & Ynette Hogue
Scott & Kathryn King
Ed & Judy Ligon Family
R. Thomas & Stephanie K. Seymour

Leadership Level - \$100,000+

Bohdan M. Beinkowski & Jo Ann
Macy
Arlo & Barbara DeKraai
Roger & Sandra Dorf
Margery Feldberg & Jeremy Levin
Theodora Feldberg
Frank & Linda Fialkoff
Paul & Jackie Kingsbury
Mead & Diane Metcalf
Ken & Barbara Moffitt
The Oates Family
In Memory of Genie Weitzman
—The Weitzman Family

Patrons - \$50,000+

Virginia & Ansel Condray
Peter W. & Kay J. DeLeeuw
In Memory of Rosalind Jackson
—Bruce Jackson
Edwin P. & Jane B. Jenevein
Dr. Randall Lee Rosenblatt &
Barbara Glazer
Jeff Hermanson
David & Janet Hicks
Lacy Construction —Bill Lacy
The Runner Family
Larry & Venise Stuart

Supporters - \$25,000+

Anne A. Hickman
Linda & Sandy Benkwith
Fred & Sue Berry
Russell & Dorothy Budd
Nicholas & Mary Anne Chirekos
Kent & Margo Dunbar
Dr. Henry & Sandra Estess
David & Lezlie Hudiburg
Seth Novatt & Priscilla Natkins
In honor of Nancy & Kenton McGee
—Robert & Alexandra Lavie
Maxine & Jack Zarrow Family
Foundation—Kip & Gail Richards
Elizabeth A. Roistacher & Steven
M. Polan
Anne & Bill Ronai
Alban & Pinky Schuele
Woody Sherwood & Marnie Easley
In Memory of Paul & Helen Sisk
—Ruth & Al R. D. Sowards
Bill & Anita Vallett
Carol Webb & Don Wemlinger
Lacy & Edie Williams
Michael & Patricia Wortley

Actors - \$10,000+

Kay & Pat Allen
Ron & Ruth Baker
Fernando & Kathy Burstein
Stuart Cobb
Dea Family Foundation
—Peter & Cathy Dea
Artisan Rug Gallery
—Jeff & Tiffany Deutsch
Lori Divine-Hudson
Ken & Marla Drucker
Gil & Lynn Friedlander
Dr. Hugh & Catherine Harris
Bob & Barbara Kauffman
Gary & Elizabeth Keiser
Wendy & Mavis Kelsey, Jr.
Chris & Francene Kopf
Mike & Dianne Lind
Bill & Christy Manuel
Cathy & Chuck McGinnis
Bob & Florence Mullins
Donna Seligman & John Garrett
Delrena & Jim Sides
Bob & Lisa Silverman
Stephen M. Tillery
Ben & Beth Wegbreit
Laura & Michael Werner
Larry & Alice West
Becky & Joe Williams

+

Over 100 other generous donors.

We are so thankful for the continued support of all of our donors at every giving level.