

## ROYAL & McPHERSON

# ROYAL & MCPHERSON THEATRES SOCIETY

The Royal and McPherson Theatres Society provides the knowledge and expertise required to manage, operate and preserve the renowned Royal Theatre and McPherson Playhouse.



ROYAL THEATRE



MCPHERSON PLAYHOUSE



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## ROYAL & McPHERSON

# LEADERSHIP

**2024 brings a change in leadership at the RMTS with Mandy Niddrie stepping up as Acting Executive Director during the recruitment period. Mandy brings a wealth of experience, knowledge and expertise to the acting position:**

- 33 years of experience at the Royal and McPherson Theatres Society
- Has been the Manager of Client Services for more than twenty years
- Served as acting Executive Director during transitional periods in 2020 and 2024
- Part of a strong team of dedicated and experienced professionals



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## THEATRES IN DEMAND

**Demand for the Royal Theatre and McPherson Playhouse continues to grow:**

- As the capital region grows, theatre audiences grow
- Increased demand from local arts groups for theatre usage
- High demand for a variety of events
- In 2023, the Royal Theatre and McPherson Playhouse welcomed over 187,000 audience members

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## REGIONAL THEATRES

**The Royal Theatre and McPherson Playhouse have unique functionality in the region:**

- Stand as the largest professional performing arts venues in the region
- Accommodate a range of professional, community, and amateur events
- Efficiencies generated by shared staff, box office, resources and infrastructure
- Single collective agreement with I.A.T.S.E. Local 168
- Ease, consistency and knowledge for clients that use both theatres for performances
- Shared box office and development software with a consortia that includes Dance Victoria, Pacific Opera Victoria and Victoria Symphony

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## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**Throughout the year, the Royal and McPherson Theatres Society strives to find opportunities to collaborate with local organizations by:**

- Providing discounted rental rates for non-profit and educational clients
- Offering a Community Opportunities Program that gives local non-profit and charitable organizations the opportunity to use the theatres rent free for fundraising efforts
- Continuing to look for new ways to accommodate local arts groups within our operations
- Advancing and supporting cultural diversity through our rentals



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## FUNDING

**Local government funding for the theatres has been frozen for 25 years:**

- Resulting in a decrease of at least 40% in terms of purchasing power – higher due to recent inflation rates.
- Due to the current bylaw the Royal and McPherson have not been included in the efforts of municipalities to increase infrastructure funding for asset management
- Funding must be unfrozen to address deferred maintenance and ensure the buildings can be appropriately maintained into the future
- Over 85% of RMTS revenues are earned from theatre operations
- Municipal operating grants cover less than 15% of the operating costs for both theatres



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## **SUPPORTING THE FUTURE**

**The Royal and McPherson Theatres Society requests that Victoria City Council consent to amending McPherson Playhouse Service Bylaw No. 4561 to increase funding to the McPherson Playhouse beyond the fixed amount:**

- Amended bylaw is first step in ensuring these significant municipal assets receive appropriate capital funding
- Amending the bylaw will not compete with or prevent the development of a larger, long-term strategy for the McPherson Playhouse
- The new bylaw would make it more straightforward for municipalities to join the McPherson Bylaw service and to calculate the cost to join



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