



NON - PROFIT

THE RIALTO THEATRE

FOUNDATION

WHO WE ARE

The Rialto Theatre Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the stewardship and preservation of the historic Rialto Theatre, a unique entertainment venue and cornerstone of downtown Tucson.

The Theatre is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and will celebrate its 100th birthday in 2020. The Rialto has been **a successful component and catalyst of downtown Tucson's ongoing revitalization, serving as both an economic engine and a cultural powerhouse.**

RIALTO'S HISTORY

Opening in 1920 as a home for motion pictures and vaudeville, the Theatre changed with the times and desires of the city's residents, eventually becoming a showcase spot for B-Movies, a Spanish language house, even one of the first Theatres to show pornographic films in the early 1970s.



The Theatre was almost lost in 1986, slated to become a parking lot, and for nearly 10 years sat decrepit and abandoned. In late 1995 the Theatre was reopened by a private party as a live performance venue. In 2004, the Theatre was purchased by the Rio Nuevo downtown redevelopment initiative and leased to the Rialto Theatre Foundation. In 2015, the Rialto Theatre Foundation purchased the Theatre from Rio Nuevo, marking a huge milestone for the Foundation's stewardship of the property. Now under the guidance of RTF Executive Director Curtis McCrary, who has managed the theatre since 2004, and a strong board of directors, **the Rialto stands proudly as a thriving downtown arts venue.**

The Rialto has been patronized by Tucsonans over **nearly a century of cultural history** and offers a broad range of high-quality performing arts that are reflective of the diverse and vibrant community it serves.

The Rialto stage has been home to thousands of artists, including Ginger Rogers, Bo Diddley, Tom Jones, Michael Franti, Caalexico, Greg Allman, Indigo Girls and Beck.

**200+
EVENTS
ANNUALLY**

**150,000+
PATRONS
ANNUALLY**

**TOP 50
MAJOR CLUB
VENUES**

**by industry mag Pollstar*

**10+ YEARS
VOTED
"BEST OF TUCSON"**

**by Tucson Weekly readers*

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Our stewardship and improvement of this historic building is of paramount importance to sustaining diverse programming, providing a gathering place for a wide range of patrons, and continuing our contributions to the ongoing growth and revitalization of downtown Tucson.

The proposed capital project includes major improvements to the theatre and its facilities, accommodations for visiting artists, and Foundation offices.

AUDITORIUM IMPROVEMENTS will grade the house floor, eliminating the current slope. This will make both standing and seating more comfortable for patrons, create a designated section for wheelchairs, and allow more options for table and chair configurations, increasing our ability to meet the needs for a wider variety of events.

RESTROOM EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENTS will dramatically increase the number of fixtures to better accommodate the large number of guests the Rialto hosts, and will make the restrooms more accessible for patrons with disabilities.

MAIN BAR RE-DESIGN will increase accessibility and efficiency, and allow visibility from the entrance and lobby area through to the auditorium.

NEW ARTIST GREEN ROOM, OFFICES, AND ROOFTOP DECK TOWER will save the Foundation more than \$45,000 in rent annually, while also allowing the Foundation to control its own assets, and consolidating all Theatre operations within one space. A more visually appealing and comfortable artist green room with the outdoor rooftop deck will make the theatre more attractive to visiting acts, enabling the Theatre to draw a wider array of high-profile performers.

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ENDOWMENT will ensure that the upgraded facilities will be properly maintained into the future and that the Rialto will be able to continue to meet the needs of a growing patronage.

This proposed capital project will also address existing structural issues inherent with maintaining a historic building, ensuring the theatre is safe, sound, and intact for the next decades of patrons.



*New office, mezzanine,
green room, rooftop deck,
and tour bus parking*

The reasons to support this effort are many, including:

**DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION, HISTORIC PRESERVATION, CUTTING
EDGE ARTS & CULTURE, CULTURAL HISTORY, ECONOMIC IMPACT, AND
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.**

PROJECT GOAL (BUDGET)	
\$500,000	RENOVATIONS/MODERNIZATION OF FACILITIES
\$250,000	PRESERVATION/STABILIZATION
\$150,000	FURNISHINGS
\$100,000	ARTIST SPACE/GREEN ROOM
\$250,000	CAPITAL RESERVES
\$250,000	ENDOWMENT
\$1,500,000	PROJECT BUDGET



CASE FOR SUPPORT

Thousands of historic theatres around the country have been torn down in the last few decades – their history paved over and their potential lost forever. The Rialto is lucky to have survived for nearly a century, and it is now the mission of the Rialto Theatre Foundation, with the help of our members, partners, and the community at large, to sustain the historic theatre for future generations.

The Rialto has an annual operating budget of \$5 million, with over 90% of that coming from earned revenues. While the Rialto programming and business lines have been extremely successful, and proven the sustainability of the organization, a successful capital campaign with funds raised from the community will provide even more security for both the physical structure and long-term health of the Foundation, and as designed will dramatically improve the patron experience.

***We create reasons for
the whole community to
come to the Rialto.***



*New main bar with
view to auditorium*

LEADERSHIP

SENIOR STAFF:

Curtis McCrary, Executive Director
Julie Ragland, Development Director
Richard Champlain, Controller

BOARD:

PRESIDENT: **Sara Perotti**, ACNP-BC, MSN, NRCME, NREMT-P, Neurosurgery Nurse Practitioner, Banner UMC
VICE PRESIDENT: **Christopher T. (Kip) Volpe**, CPA, Vice President/Treasurer, The Estes Company
SECRETARY: **Polly Putnam White**, JD, Vice President & Senior Trust Advisor, The Northern Trust Company
TREASURER: **Matt Thrasher**, Managing Partner, Thrasher Law Offices PLLC
PAST PRESIDENT: **Hubert Parker**, CRPC, Financial Advisor, Waddell & Reed
BOARD COUNSEL: **Michael McGrath**, JD, Partner and Chair of Board of Directors, Mesch Clark Rothschild

Elizabeth Burden, MS, Chief Executive Officer, ParticipationLNK
Michael Chiorazzi, BA, JD, MLL, Associate Dean for Information Services; James and Beverly Rogers
Professor of Law, UA College of Law
Michael Crawford, JD, Partner, Mesch Clark Rothschild
Michael Duran, JD, Vice President, Tucson Medical Center
Chris Eldridge, Real Estate Broker/Investor, Tierra Antigua Realty
C. Elliott, House Photographer, Rialto Theatre & Fox Tucson Theatre
John Farlow, MBA, Employee Engagement Manager, Raytheon Company
Raynu Fernando, Owner & General Manager, Oasis at Wild Horse Ranch
Matt Luck, Senior Project Architect, Rick Joy Architects
John F. O'Dowd, CPA, Senior Tax Manager, Amado & Associates CPAs P.C.
Tony Ronstadt, Marketing Manager, Econolend Finance Company
Jim Rosborough, Assistant Coach, Women's Basketball, Pima Community College
Justin Ruggieri, JD, Assistant General Counsel, Desert Diamond Casinos & Entertainment
Calline Sanchez, Vice President, IBM Enterprise Storage
Don Snyder, PT, COMT, Physical Therapist, Arizona Physical Therapy
Carole Tonigan, MA, CCC-SLP, Retired, American Speech and Hearing Association
Melissa Vito, Ed.D, Senior Vice President for Student Affairs & Enrollment Management and
Senior Vice Provost for Academic Initiatives & Student Success, University of Arizona
Lisa Wagenheim, JD, Senior Vice President & Deputy General Counsel, Caliber Home Loans, Inc

"Theatres like the Rialto are special and are disappearing rapidly. They need to be kept going wherever possible, to maintain that connection with history, and people that have come before. It's really great to play places like this."
—**Elvis Costello**

Photo Credit (cover): Mark Martinez

Photo Credit (back): C Elliott

