

Community Involvement Opportunity
The Music Theatre of Idaho
2021

This is our story. The Music Theatre of Idaho is a 501 (c) 3, Non Profit Organization, was founded and incorporated in 1997 by a group of Nampa residents who saw a need for professional quality theatre programming in our area. These citizens had researched the benefits provided to a community by the arts, including creating a more positive, humane and civil society and providing much needed exposure to the arts for young people and families in the Treasure Valley. At the time, no such programming existed in Canyon County, Idaho. Even now, there is not a program which balances creative and cultural enrichment with community service, as the MTI does. The Music Theatre of Idaho has always served families in the Treasure Valley through professional, Theatrical Production of live musicals at the Nampa Civic Center. Each year, approximately 300 performers participate in professionally guided productions, and over a hundred thousand residents are exposed through audience participation. Thousands of school children benefit from the on-site Arts in Education experience. Additionally, the Music Theatre of Idaho, as part of it's mission, provides FREE and greatly reduced priced admissions to under-served populations in our community, including those who live in income assisted housing, elderly care facilities, schools in under-served communities, incarcerated youths and other under-served populations. Each year we actively seek audiences who may not otherwise be able to participate in the magic that the arts can bring to their lives. Additionally the MTI wrote the original charter for the Idaho Arts Charter School in Nampa. The school, an award winning K-12 program, now independent of the MTI, and serving over 800 students is a shining example of the MTI's commitment to Arts in our community, and in the State of Idaho, including Arts in Education for our young people. We also provide resources for classroom teachers and aid and assist schools in invigorating their arts programs, while providing access to a wide variety of performing arts for their students. Each year The Music Theatre of Idaho touches the lives of over 100,000 Idahoans, through our regular and outreach programs. Approximately 25,000 additional school children are reached through our Arts in Education program. When the board of the Music Theatre of Idaho was choosing the company name, they were adamant that "IDAHO" should be in the title. The MTI represents Idaho at it's very best and seeks to provide opportunities for all citizens of Idaho.

Participants in the MTI programs, including performer participation and patron attendance are almost come largely from Canyon County, with smaller groups coming from Ada County and beyond. Current patrons of regular MTI activities are 40% adult (18-54 years), 55% seniors (55+ years), and 5% children (under 18 years). When Arts in Education Activities are added to these totals, the statistics are much more weighted to children under 18 years of age.

The current population of Nampa is approximately over 105,000. The median age is 31.4 years and over 20% of the residents earn incomes below the poverty level, which is higher than the 13.7% nationally. Nearly 23% of local residents are Hispanic. Median Household income in Nampa is \$50,346 compared to \$70,850 nationally. Population 25 years and over with high school diploma is 80%, compared with 84.1% nationally. Currently, 46% of area youth spend 3 or more hours per week in sports, clubs, or community organizations. The MTI seeks to be a continuing source of outside support for youth and families. The MTI has an impressive record involving young people who participate in production programs. In the past 25 years, several thousand young people have participated in various MTI production and classes. Many of these young people have reached high school graduation age and 98% of these young people have graduated. Additionally, 90% of those graduating have gone on to higher education. These statistics are on par with nationally published studies, which indicate that young people involved in the arts are more likely to graduate from high school and college, have more positive mentor relationships, fewer brushes with the law, lower rates of teen pregnancy and higher over-all standardized test scores.

For over 24 years, the Music Theatre of Idaho has been a productive example of Idaho at its best. Hundreds of volunteers, generating approximately 7000 volunteer hours per month, come together as a team, to produce professional quality, Broadway style productions, for the benefit, enjoyment and education of other citizens of Idaho. The Music Theatre of Idaho encourages family participation, from all ages and walks of life. We strongly believe that encouraging family participation builds a stronger Idaho by encouraging multiple generations to work together in a positive and powerful way to create live art for a broad range of patronage. The Music Theatre of Idaho produces a program and a product, which is rivaled by no other organization in Idaho, the Northwest. The Music Theatre of Idaho operates with, professionalism and an eye toward serving our communities, on a limited budget.

The Music Theatre of Idaho is an inclusive company, with a carefully designed inclusion statement: The Music Theatre of Idaho is committed to cultivating and preserving a culture of inclusion and connectedness. We are able to grow and learn better together with a diverse team of company members and participants. The collective sum of the individual differences, life experiences, knowledge, innovation, self-expression, and talent that our company members invest in their work represents not only part of our culture, but our reputation. In recruiting for our team, we welcome the unique contributions that everyone can bring in terms of their education, opinions, culture, ethnicity, race, sex, gender identity and expression, nation of origin, age, languages spoken, veteran's status, color, religion, disability, sexual orientation and beliefs.

For the past 20 years, the Music Theatre of Idaho has operated its box office, rehearsals, production services and academy programs from a leased space in Nampa, Idaho. The building, almost 8000 square feet is a re-purposed site, which has been represented many businesses over the years. It has served our purposes well, but over the last ten years or so it has begun to deteriorate. The roof leaks in many places, the drains don't run as free as they used to, the building is woefully under insulated and the windows are very old, making it cold in the Winter and sweltering in the Summer. The building owner has made it clear that he does not want to repair or upgrade the building. The owner has offered to sell us the building at a reduced price. A careful cost analysis has lead us to the conclusion that it would cost more to repair the building for safe occupation, than it would to tear it down and start fresh. One of the primary reasons for that is that the roof would have to be completely removed, and re-built as the center of the building roof is currently sagging 7 inches below the eaves. Recently, the center of our main room in the building, collapsed after a rainfall. We can no longer rehearse in the building and our many valuable costume, sets, sound and lighting equipment are in danger of being destroyed. We have already lost thousands of dollars of items to the leaking ceilings.

For nearly 25 years the Music Theatre of Idaho has blessed our community with full scale, Broadway style musicals, as well as classes and educational programs for children and adults. We have provided a meeting and gathering place for families and individuals to explore and develop in the arts. We have served our community with pride and now we need help. For 25 seasons we have presented a full season of entertainment at the Nampa Civic Center. We have taught dance, acting, and visual arts classes and educated men and women in sound design and technical theatre. And we are now precariously close to becoming a thing of the past.

Nampa needs the arts and they need a place to gather and produce the arts. Producing the arts doesn't just happen on "show night," it's what happens in the weeks and months before the show that make it "magical".

In order to purchase the current MTI building, raze the old structure, prepare the site for a new building, purchase an adequate size, quality steel building, have it constructed on site, provide all code related items (such as fire suppression), build out the interior to meet the needs of the mission of the Music Theatre of Idaho, all at a very basic level, will cost approximately \$500,000. We are working diligently on recruiting community support for this project, not only in terms of funding, but also in terms of in kind donations of goods and services. This is to be a true community project. We need angels and heroes and we know they are in the community. Please reach out and help us in whatever way you can. Any help is appreciated. And please remember, the Music Theatre of Idaho is a 501 c 3, non profit corporation, existing continuously in our community since 1997 (25 years). All donations are fully tax deductible to the extent of the law.