

# Dunedin Theatre Network

## Recap on the concept

- A proposal to meet the city's need for performing arts venues by investing in the city's existing theatre infrastructure.
- Refurbish the Playhouse Theatre, Athenaeum & Mechanics Institute and Mayfair Theatre over 6-8 years, with shared resources managing the venues once refurbished.
- Proposes using budget the Dunedin City Council has already set aside for a performing arts venue as cornerstone investment, with the balance of funds raised from central government, philanthropic, community and private sources.
- A community-led, collaborative concept that saves three heritage buildings and offers better 'bang for buck' than a project funded solely by Council in several respects.



### PLAYHOUSE

130-seat auditorium  
Social/F&B space above  
Focus on children  
& young people



### ATHENAEUM

2 x new performance studios  
Athenaeum Library, to become  
a new Centre for Writing  
Suite of other rehearsal studios,  
practice rooms, offices, meeting rooms  
Food & beverages



### MAYFAIR

400-seat auditorium  
Social/F&B space above  
Offices, meeting room  
Adjacent building offers other  
opportunities to explore

## • COLLABORATIVE SHARED RESOURCE TO MANAGE FACILITIES

The form this could take is still to be explored, but some shared resources across the venues will make them more useful to the city.

- **COMMITMENT TO ENSURING VENUES ARE AVAILABLE TO THE COMMUNITY**
- **ABILITY TO INCLUDE OTHER VENUES IN THE NETWORK**

## Process so far

Each venue has been pursuing refurbishment plans individually for 2+ years. We got together in March 2022 and quickly identified the synergies in our projects.

We floated the network idea with the community and Council in April 2022. We received very positive feedback from across the performing arts community, with over 25 organisations and individuals supporting the idea progressing to the next stage of discussion.

# What next?

We are working on a further report back to Council and the community that fleshes out the theatre network proposal in more detail.

We aim to complete this in time to feed into the next Annual Plan process.

We are focusing on:

- Providing more detail on what each venue could look like when refurbished
- Exploring how our venues could support the rejuvenation of professional theatre in Ōtepoti Dunedin
- Engaging with the performing arts community to understand what they want and need from venues.

## Engagement with the community

This is a community-led proposal, so we want to engage widely and have plenty of input. At this stage of the project, we will be reaching out to performing arts organisations and practitioners for their views on the Theatre Network concept.

One question we would like to explore is how our venues could support rejuvenation of professional theatre in Ōtepoti Dunedin. We invite you to attend a workshop on this at **7pm, Thursday 27 October 2022, at the Playhouse Theatre, 31 Albany Street.**

We would love to hear from anyone else who wishes to share their thoughts on the proposal. Please email us at [dunedintheatrenetwork@gmail.com](mailto:dunedintheatrenetwork@gmail.com) to arrange a chat.



MAYFAIR  
THEATRE

PLAYHOUSE  
THEATRE  
HOME OF DUNEDIN REPERTORY SOCIETY INC

ZEAL  
ZEALAND

[dunedintheatrenetwork@gmail.com](mailto:dunedintheatrenetwork@gmail.com)

[www.dunedintheatrenetwork.org.nz](http://www.dunedintheatrenetwork.org.nz)