

MASSEY THEATRE IS AT RISK OF DEMOLITION

Concerned parents and community members share the belief that the Massey Theatre is a valuable asset to New Westminster. Lack of public consultation will only further delay the urgently needed construction of a new high school. The landmark Massey Theatre is a fundamental piece of our community and has been an inspiration and home to generations of artists, students and community members for 60 years, contributing \$2 million a year to local economy - a real success story.

No functioning theatre has been intentionally demolished in Canadian History!

We just keep on needing more. But they don't build them like they used to and our Massey Theatre is unique historically, architecturally and operationally. We won't take threats to it lightly.

WHAT'S GOING ON:

A site for the rebuild of the high school must be selected which avoids land designated by cemetery.

The School District has somehow concluded that the location occupied by Massey Theatre is the simplest option.

The City and School District could swap land to facilitate both the preservation of Massey Theatre and the construction of a new high school while leveraging funds for new athletic facilities. No formal agreement has yet been made.

WHAT WE BELIEVE:

It is crucial to preserve Massey Theatre, upgrade athletic facilities and see the plan for a new high school completed. There has not been enough done to develop an overall plan for the site. We expect decision makers to search for options which don't result in the permanent loss of unique community assets.

WHAT'S BEING SAID:

An engineer's report has been distributed which outlines an \$18.2 million cost to bring Massey Theatre to state-of-the-art condition (solar panels, elevator, new seats, seismic upgrades).

A risk analysis report has also been distributed revealing much lower investment is required, certainly in the short term.

Elected leaders are suggesting that much smaller performance spaces are an effective replacement for Massey Theatre.

WHAT WE BELIEVE:

The engineer's report is a wish list of improvements that include many which are not necessary for the theatre to remain operational. The cost of seismic upgrades and renovations is inflated due to the engineer's plans to tear exterior rooms which are valuable to the building's operation (band rooms, classrooms, small gym, drama studios) from the building. The necessary work can be done when the funds are in place to do so. The building is safe. A generic flexible performing space is in no way equivalent to this unique, warm, purpose-built theatre, not to mention the loss of seating capacity.

WE ASK: Where will the students of New Westminster find opportunities for personal growth through performance? How will New Westminster's wonderful arts groups thrive in smaller facilities for which there is no guarantee they will ever be built and no room to grow? Do our leaders place no value in our large community's need to gather, share cultural experiences and celebrate our talented performers together?

We are calling on leaders from all levels of government to participate in a diligent, thoughtful and open process to determine responsible plans for the site containing NWSS, Massey Theatre, Mercer Stadium and Moody Park Arena and to do it urgently.

WHAT YOU CAN DO :

1.) Join us at these two important upcoming meetings:

- School Board Meeting - **October 27th** at F.W. Howay Elementary, 91 Courtney Crescent 7:30pm
- City Council Meeting – **November 9th** at City Hall Council Chambers 7pm

2.) Get more information

Read reports, articles and what's being said at <http://savethemasseytheatre.blogspot.com/>

**"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."
Margaret Mead**

If you support this call to action please **write a letter** to the following representatives:

Mayor Wayne Wright, Councilor Jonathan Cote, Councilor Bill Harper, Councilor Jamie McEvoy, Councilor Betty McIntosh, Councilor Bob Osterman, Councilor Lorrie Williams

Email: postmaster@newwestcity.ca, Mailing address: City of New Westminster, 511 Royal Avenue, New Westminster, BC V3L 1H9

Board of Education Chair James Janzen, Trustee Brent Atkinson, Trustee Casey Cook, Trustee Michael Ewen, Trustee Jim Goring, Trustee Lisa Graham, Trustee Lori Watt

Emails: janzen01@telus.net; casey@caseycook.ca; mewen@shaw.ca; jgoring@sd40.bc.ca; lisa_graham@shaw.ca; loriwatt@shaw.ca

Mailing address: School District 40, 1001 Columbia Street, 2nd Floor, New Westminster, BC V3M 1C4

M.L.A. Dawn Black

Email: Dawn.Black.MLA@leg.bc.ca, Mailing Address: 737 Sixth Street, New Westminster, BC, V3L 3C

Minister of Education Margaret McDiarmid

Email: Margaret.mcdiarmid.mla@leg.bc.ca, Mailing Address: Room 347, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, BC, V8V 1X4

M.P. Peter Julian

Email: juliap1@parl.gc.ca, Mailing Address: 7615 Sixth Street, Burnaby, British Columbia, V3N 3M6

Minister of Canadian Heritage M.P. James Moore

Email: moorej1@parl.gc.ca, Mailing Address: 2603 St. John's Street, Port Moody, BC, V3H 2B5 ph: 604.937.5650