



June 2025

Volume 2, No. 6



Welcome to Arts Center Task Force's newsletter, where you can find the latest news about the Mid-Columbia Performing Arts Center (MCPAC)!

Our mission remains unwavering: to create a home for the performing arts. An environment for artistic expression and innovation. We strive to enhance our community's cultural access, quality of life for all ages, and economic vitality. Thanks to our donors, volunteers, and the dedication of our incredible team, we've made substantial progress toward beginning construction on the MCPAC.



ED Talks - Thoughts from the Executive Director

Listening to Learn: Shaping the Future of Arts, Culture & Community

In the wake of last February's Mid-Columbia Performing Arts Center ballot defeat, we are taking an intentional step forward—not by rushing into a new proposal, but by pausing to listen and learn.

Over the summer months, we'll be hosting a series of community listening sessions focused on understanding why the measure to fund a new performing arts center at Columbia Park West did not pass. We know that voting "no" doesn't mean people don't care about the arts. It often means they have questions, concerns, or simply didn't feel connected to the process. Now, it's our turn to listen—critically, openly, and humbly.

This is not about rehashing old arguments or pointing fingers. It's about creating space for open dialogue and genuine reflection. What gave people pause? Were the long-term benefits of that project clear? Did the proposal feel inclusive and representative of community needs? What might a more widely supported vision look like?

As we listen, we're also beginning to evolve our thinking. We believe a future ballot measure should

not focus solely on funding a single performance venue. Instead, we're exploring a broader, more inclusive concept: a hub for arts, culture, and entertainment connected by a synergy of venues our community has long wished for. A vibrant, multi-use space that reflects and celebrates the diversity and creativity of our entire community.

While the vision is still coming together, our commitment to a new home for live arts and entertainment as part of that vision, hasn't wavered. That's exactly why your input matters. The shape, purpose, and priorities of this future hub must be defined *with* the community, not just *for* it. It should be shaped through community voices and values—not delivered as a finished product, but co-created with those who will bring it to life and benefit from it.

We know that critical listening is essential. It's not enough to collect feedback—we must truly hear and act on it. These sessions are about building trust and long-term relationships. They're about working together to imagine a home where community members of all ages and backgrounds, kids and families, visitors, and neighbors feel a sense of belonging, inspiration, and excitement.

The outcome of these conversations will influence more than design or funding strategies. It will shape how we approach outreach, accessibility, sustainability, and equity in everything we do moving forward.

We are deeply grateful for those who supported the previous measure—and equally grateful to those who challenged us to do better.

More details about upcoming sessions will be announced soon. We hope you'll join us, bring your perspective, and help lead this next chapter. Whether you're a performer, teacher, business owner, student, parent, recent or lifelong Tri-Cities resident—your voice matters and we want to hear from you.

Blake



We are deeply honored and grateful to everyone who attended and supported our Act Two Spring Gala. With your incredible generosity, we raised \$58,000!

Thank you to our guests, sponsors, donors, volunteers, and friends — your belief in the power of the arts and your commitment to our shared vision inspire us every day. Together, we are building something extraordinary for the future of our community.

Find photos from that evening on our [gala page](#)!

**Join Us in Shaping the Future of the
Arts!**



MID-COLUMBIA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER | CONCEPTUAL AERIAL VIEW



ARTS CENTER

LMN

We're looking for passionate individuals to join our team! Whether you're ready to take a seat on our board or contribute to a committee, there's a place for you.

Committees meet monthly (or as needed). You don't need to be a board member to join a committee!

Our Committees-

Fundraising
Marketing/Communications
Operations
Facilities
Finance

Board membership is application-based and offers a rewarding opportunity to help guide our nonprofit's vision and impact. Board members have opportunities to attend partner performances and experience the art and culture of performing arts in our community.

No performing experience? No problem! All you need is enthusiasm and a desire to advocate for the arts in our community. Be part of the movement that will create a vibrant hub for artistic expression and cultural innovation.

Ready to make a difference? Join us today!

Email - amber@artscentertaskforce.com for more information.

Become a Recurring Donor



Consider Becoming a Recurring Donor!

Recurring donations provide critical, sustaining support for ACTF and put us in an excellent position to meet significant milestones toward building the Mid-Columbia Performing Arts Center.

Recurring monthly donations are incredibly valuable to our organization as they provide a stable and reliable source of funding allowing us to focus on our mission and plan for next steps with confidence. For questions about becoming a monthly recurring donor, contact us at info@artscentertaskforce.com.

Click the link below to set up your recurring donation with a credit card or checking account, and let the funds be automatically deducted each month - no need to remember or send in payments; your valuable support happens seamlessly.

[Click to sign up](#)

What the staff's been up to!



May 29, 2025

WE Taste 2025 - PNNL Campus

The team accompanied by superstar volunteer Andrea McMakin manned a booth at We Taste out at PNNL's campus.

ACTF is proud to be a returning vendor to such a wonderful event. This event is put on by Life @ PNNL, filled with delicious food, fun activities, and strengthening connections with colleagues and community organizations.

June 2, 2025

Columbia Valley for Recovery Center

Operation Director Amber Maiden represented Leadership Tri-Cities Class 28 at the Media Day held for Columbia Valley for Recovery Center.

This event the recovery center released images of their logo and updates on the progress of the renovations for the soon to be first ever Recovery Center in the Tri-Cities.

Learn more about this project to bring the first inpatient recovery facility to serve the Tri-Cities [here](#).



June 11, 2025

Leadership Tri-Cities Class Graduation

Operations Director Amber Maiden graduated on Wednesday, June 11, with her Leadership Tri-Cities class mates.

As part of class 28, Amber held the position of Co-Chair for Communications with her class. Completing the 11 month program among side



25 other community leaders. We are so proud of Amber and all her hard work!

ACTF is a proud sponsor of Leadership Tri-Cities and the development and growth they bring to our community. You can learn more about the organization [here](#).

Where to find us next!

Where to Find Us Next: ACTF Listening Campaign

The Arts Center Task Force is hitting the road this summer—and we want to hear from YOU! As part of our **Listening Campaign**, we'll be out at some of your favorite community events, talking with neighbors, gathering ideas, and learning what you want to see in the future **Mid-Columbia Performing Arts Center**.

Find our booth, meet our team, and share your thoughts!

What kinds of performances excite you?

☐ What would make a performing arts center meaningful for our region?

This phase of the project is all about listening to *you*. Scroll down to see where we'll be next—we can't wait to connect!



Come See Us at Cool Desert Nights!

We're excited to be part of this year's **Cool Desert Nights**, a beloved community event full of classic cars, great food, and local fun! **Arts Center Task Force** will be hosting an information booth on **Saturday, June 28, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.**

Stop by to learn more about the future performing arts center, chat with our team and volunteers, and share your ideas or questions about the project. We'd love to see you there!

Public Presentations

If you'd like us to speak to your club or organization, please contact us at
Info@artscentertaskforce.com



The Studio on Symons Street

Need event, rehearsal, small performance, podcast and/or meeting space? Check out ACTF's [Studio on Symons Street](#) at 704 Symons in Richland. We have a wide range of video and audio equipment available for recordings, including a green screen and lighting equipment.

Contact Amber Maiden, Operations Director, for details and tours.

Amber@artscentertaskforce.com



ARTS CENTER
TASK FORCE

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