



SHOWTIME

February 2025

We are pleased to share this issue of **SHOWTIME**, a monthly update on Augusta Colonial Theater's journey toward our mission of restoring and operating the historic Colonial Theater in downtown Augusta, Maine, as an arts and cultural center for the benefit of the community.

This revised **SHOWTIME** format is designed to provide you a more frequent overview of all things [Augusta Colonial Theater](#) (ACT). Thanks for reading!



AWARD-WINNING FACELIFT

With the exception of a replica marquee, our façade is almost fully restored and people have noticed! [Augusta Downtown Alliance](#) recently recognized our efforts with an "Outstanding Facade Improvement" award at their annual meeting in January. We think the transformation is pretty outstanding as well! With five sets of double doors and fully restored windows, the façade is not only stunning, but it provides the public a glimpse of the yet-to-be-restored interior of the historic building.



[Learn More About Our Restoration Journey](#)



BACKSTAGE with the BOARD

Meet Amanda Taylor, Architectural Historian at Kleinfelder. Amanda joined the ACT board in 2016 and is a Building Committee member and the Chair of the Grant Committee.

Amanda and her husband, John, relocated to Augusta from Indiana over 11 years ago. A few years later, they moved to Water Street, and Amanda loves seeing first-hand the downtown's revival.

When asked why she joined the board, Amanda explained, "Historic buildings are irreplaceable. They are tangible connections with our past that document how we've lived, worked, and played. For me, the Colonial Theater is a unique and important part of Augusta's past that should not be lost." Amanda is excited about the prospect of not traveling far to see her favorite performers. She looks forward to the day when she sees the marquee lit up on a Friday night proclaiming a sold out show.

Additionally, Amanda loves the outdoors and has hiked all 14 of Maine's 4,000-foot peaks. She also enjoys traveling, cycling, reading, and crocheting.



Carmen Sandiego, AKA board member Amanda Taylor, and her husband John pass out candy in front of the theater at Augusta's annual *Trick or Treat on Water Street* event.

"Historic buildings are best when they are brought to life and used again. I want to see the Colonial Theater full of patrons from all over Maine, who are inspired by great performing arts shows and a beautiful theater building." ~ Amanda Taylor

COLONIAL MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE NOW

Order Today



Last fall, we launched our Augusta Colonial Theater online merchandise store. All screen-printing and embroidery is done by [DR Designs](#) in Manchester, Maine, so all purchases support both a small local business and the mission of the Augusta Colonial Theater.



While we do receive a small portion of the proceeds for each purchase, our larger goal is to get the community talking about the Augusta Colonial Theater. In that light, we'd love to see our gear worn in and around the Augusta area and beyond. Send us photos of you wearing our Colonial gear and we'll feature them in future newsletters or social media posts!



Your Support Makes a Difference

COMMUNITY MATTERS MORE

Every February, [Bangor Savings Bank](#) encourages people to vote for their top five non-profit community organizations within the BSB service area, as part of their *Community Matters More* program. Those organizations with the most votes will receive grants from the Bangor Savings Bank Foundation.

This year, the Augusta Colonial Theater is throwing its hat in the ring as a quick and easy (as well as FREE) way for the community to show support for our mission of restoring and operating the historic Colonial Theater as an arts and cultural center for the benefit of the Augusta community and beyond. We believe that an operational Colonial Theater will bring transformational revitalization to the historic Water Street district, to our state's capital city, and to the greater Kennebec Valley region. We'd love your vote!

[Vote for Colonial Theater, Inc.](#)

Thanks for taking a few moments to vote. **VOTING ENDS FEBRUARY 28TH.**



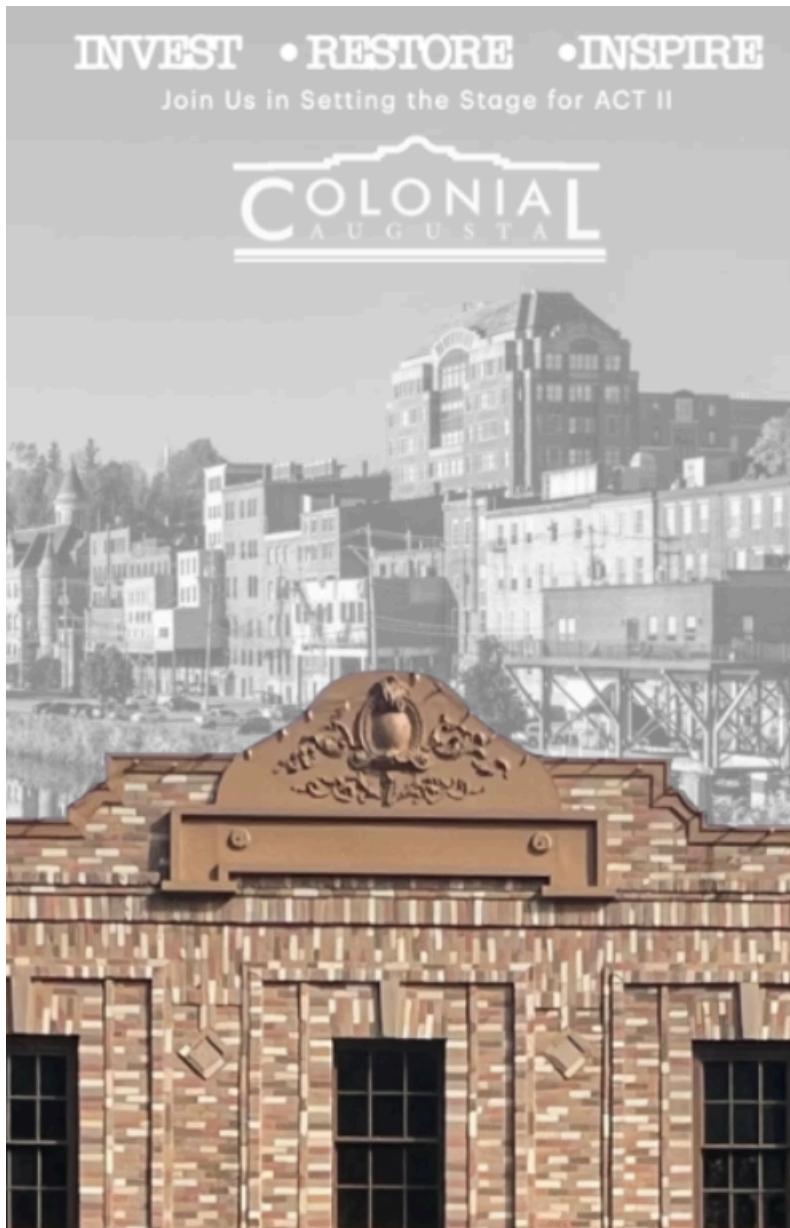
[Vote for Colonial Theater, Inc.!](#)

Help us receive a grant from
The Bangor Savings Bank Foundation!



Voting takes just a few moments, but makes such a huge difference! Voting is open to Maine and New Hampshire residents and each participant can submit only one ballot. BSB will ask for your name, e-mail, and state to ensure that you are within their service area. Then you will be asked to choose the service area to support: for us, choose Maine, then Kennebec-Somerset county, then WRITE IN *Colonial Theater, Inc.* under "other." You can add up to four other non-profits from this region.

ANNUAL APPEAL



The opportunity to invest in Augusta and the downtown is here and we need your help in molding a future where our children and families thrive with greater access to the arts.

Augusta is the only state capital without an arts and cultural center. The Augusta Colonial Theater is a signature landmark of downtown Augusta and is recognized on the National Register of Historic Places. The mission of Colonial Theater, Inc. is to restore and operate this historic theater as an arts and cultural center for the benefit of the community.

Thanks to the dedication of a hard-working all-volunteer board, we continue to work toward that goal. This past year we've increased community presence, completed 50% design plans, navigated Federal pre-construction requirements, and continued developing a full plan for a multi-phase construction project. Phase I will include full restoration of the 1,000 seat Augusta Colonial Theater along with the addition of a supporting building in order to become operational. Phase II will include further expansion to complete the cultural center and assist in long-term sustainability.

We need your help in ensuring that this critically important economic and community resource in our state capital becomes a reality. Your support during this time ensures continued operations of Colonial Theater, Inc. We have a full-time executive director, operational and maintenance costs for the building, as well as other development and administrative costs. We're planning to bring a few small community engagement events to the theater this season. We're also currently developing printed fundraising materials to aid in our restoration efforts.

THANK YOU to those who have already given! If you've not yet given this year, but support our mission, please know that every gift matters. Most of our donors make annual donations, though smaller monthly giving is sometimes more manageable for you. Just \$5 a month would total \$120 per year and \$30 per month (approximately \$1 per day) would add up to \$360 per year! We're certainly grateful for larger gifts, but small monthly gifts add up!

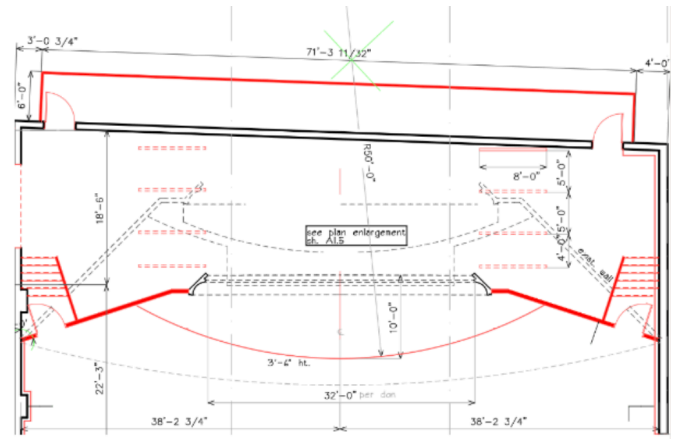


Donate Today or Set Up a Recurring Monthly Gift



WHAT'S NEXT?

Senators Susan Collins and Angus King were instrumental in securing \$1.5 million in federal funding for the Augusta Colonial Theater as part of the Fiscal Year 2023 Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill. We're excited to announce that as of early January 2025, we have successfully cleared all the pre-construction Federal requirements (environmental assessments, etc.) in order to move forward with our stage rehabilitation and renovation project. We are currently in the process of determining the best timeline for completion of this project. A rehabilitated and renovated stage area will bring us one step closer to becoming operational.



Originally built in 1913 as a silent movie house with some vaudeville acts, the Colonial Theater stage is too small for most performing arts programming. In order to accommodate a wide variety of modern productions, such as theater, dance, musical acts including orchestral performances, and more, we have chosen to extend the depth of the stage and adjust the wing walls. The updated area will retain the identifying features of the historic stage, while modernizing the space for the next generation. Plans call for rehabilitating and moving the proscenium forward, and keeping the historic decorative elements such as the wooden doors with their decorative pediments and other finishes and features of the wing walls. ACT will work closely with Maine Preservation to ensure the integrity of the historic building.

Spread the Word

Help us share our progress by forwarding this newsletter to friends and family. Together, we can help expand access to the arts in the capital area and beyond!



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