

President
Kelowna Citizens for a New Performing Arts Centre Society

On behalf of the members of the Canadian Federation of University Women - Kelowna we are pleased to offer our support to the Kelowna Citizens for a New Performing Arts Centre Society and its' goals. Our support of your goals was passed unanimously by both our Executive and club members in December 2020.

Over the 60 years of our existence, CFUW members have fostered the arts in Kelowna in many ways both as individuals and as an organization. Our members understand and value the importance of the arts to an individual as well as to the community. The arts develop and stimulate the minds of people, regardless of age. They bring a greater understanding and appreciation of various cultures. The arts help a young mind and body to grow. The arts enrich our quality of life.

Closing the centre for three years while a new facility is built would deal a major setback to our talented local arts groups and a loss of potential revenue to the community. This will mean the demise of many such organizations or if not, at the very least extraordinary pressure financially for them all. A particular consideration this year is that they are already under stress from the restrictions and cancellations of their recent performances due to the pandemic. How ironic for this City Council it would be to build a new theatre only to discover that their action lead to the disappearance of the very entities they purport to be building it for! What a tragic legacy that would be.

A move such as is being considered by city council could mean outside booking agents would be forced to bypass Kelowna and perhaps would not return when the new centre was finished. In a time where we are seeing closures of many businesses, can we afford to also see a source of revenue close?

As one of our members stated:

The proposal to tear down the theatre without consideration to what it would do to the Arts and Culture of the city is appalling! Our city is growing; we NEED a decent sized modern theatre to anchor the cultural district that council purports to support.

When our members examined the membership of the board of the Kelowna Citizens for a New Performing Arts Centre Society and the names of those whom they had recruited for their Advisory board, we saw a strong, experienced group of individuals with a broad understanding of the needs of the various groups that use the facility. It is our hope that City Council will work with the society to bring about a facility to meet the needs of the various artistic groups who would perform here as well as the community who would access it.

Sincerely,



Charlene Hodgson / Carrie Izumi
Co-presidents
Canadian Federation of University Women - Kelowna