



City of Coos Bay

Office of the City Manager

500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay, Oregon 97420 • Phone 541- 269-8912

Fax 541- 267-5912 • <http://www.coosbay.org>

July 19, 2011

PRESS RELEASE

What is being done to get the word out about the Egyptian Theatre? The theatre was accepted for listing on the National Register of Historic Places in May 2010. A *theatre page* was developed on the City's website in March 2011 with a link to the Egyptian Theatre website. The Coos Historic and Maritime Museum opened a theatre exhibit in April 2011. The theatre was selected for the Oregon's Most Endangered Places list in May 2011. After the announcement of the OMEP designation, Oregon Public Broadcast Radio picked up the news and featured the Egyptian Theatre on OPB's *Think Out Loud* program.

The Egyptian Theatre Preservation Association (ETPA) has developed a fundraising plan which includes increasing membership, sale of theatre memorabilia at their downtown office, Farmer's Market and local festivals, "selling" theatre seats, obtaining letters of support, and sponsoring film events, just to name a few. An account has been set up at Pacific Bank in Coos Bay for accepting donations to the project. Donors have the option of making a one-time donation or setting up for monthly donations.

The City of Coos Bay Urban Renewal Agency established the Egyptian Theatre Restoration Steering Committee (ETRSC) and appointed members to the committee on July 5th. The ETRSC is comprised of Agency board members Gene Melton, Crystal Shoji, and Mike Vaughan, City Economic Revitalization Administrator Joyce Jansen, and ETPA board members David Abernathy, Anella Dumas, and Susan Watson. The steering committee held their first meeting July 14th and appointed Gene Melton as Chair and David Abernathy as Vice-Chair. Other business included authorizing Bob More to apply for grants with the Ford Family Foundation and the Coquille Tribe Community Fund, and discussion on development of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Urban Renewal Agency and the Egyptian Theatre Preservation Association.

If awarded, the Ford Family Foundation grant would be used for technical assistance in preparing a strategic plan for restoration of the theatre structure and a business plan for operating the theatre, and board training. The Coquille grant would be used to restore the theatre marquee. The purpose of the MOU is to set out the division of duties (between URA and ETPA), designation of a public information officer, accounting process for donation and grant funds, development of a strategic plan, and ownership of the building. After committee review the MOU will be sent to both the Urban Renewal Agency and Egyptian Theatre Preservation Association for approval.

The good news of the evening was an announcement by David Abernathy of the receipt of a \$10,000 donation for the restoration project. Donation of funds as well as time is needed to ensure successful restoration of the theatre. Those interested in volunteering, becoming a member, or making a donation are encouraged to stop by the ETPA office located at 255 North Broadway, call 541-269-8650, or visit the theatre websites www.egyptian-theatre.com and www.coosbay.org/EgyptianTheatre

For more information contact Joyce Jansen at 541-269-8924 or jjansen@coosbay.org

