



City of Coos Bay

PRESS RELEASE

The City's Urban Renewal Agency recently conducted an in-depth facilities evaluation of the Egyptian Theatre for the purpose of identifying building improvement needs and creating a facilities improvement plan. The facilities improvement plan was presented to the Coos Bay Urban Renewal Agency and the Egyptian Theatre Preservation Association on December 22, 2010. The facilities evaluation and subsequent report revealed substantial structural deficiencies, and the cost to correct those deficiencies is projected to be \$3,743,682. The identified deficiencies in the building's foundation, west walls, roof structure, and balcony are such that the repair efforts will need to be undertaken in one phase.

The Egyptian Theatre Preservation Association and the Coos Bay Urban Renewal Agency are partnering together to begin a funding campaign to raise the funds to save and restore the Egyptian Theatre. Out of concern for public safety, the theatre will be closed until the necessary repairs can be undertaken.

Patty Scott, SOCC President, and Greg Mulkey, MHS Principle have offered to help the Egyptian Theatre Preservation Association through the use of their facilities to house upcoming events.

Background:

Coos Bay's Egyptian Theatre is an historic movie theatre, and it has been an icon in downtown Coos Bay for over 85 years. It was initially constructed in 1922 by Granstrom Contractors for H. Conje Noble and H.J. Clark, and it was operated as the Motor Inn Garage and Service Station. The building was converted to a theatre in 1925. The theatre is reportedly the best example of intact Egyptian Revival architecture on the West Coast, and one of only four known still existing in the United States. The theatre includes its original Egyptian style decor, light fixtures, finishing, hand-painted vaudeville flats, and Wurlitzer pipe organ.

Since its opening, the Egyptian Theatre has served the community as a major source of entertainment with movies and live performances. It came as a shock to many people when in November of 2005 the owners of the theater suddenly closed for business and put the building up for sale. The Egyptian Theatre Preservation Association was formed by a group of concerned citizens from all walks of life who believed that the Theatre was a too important a part of Coos Bay's history to be lost. The Egyptian Theatre Preservation Association quickly developed a plan to save the Theatre; and after making many presentations to the Coos Bay City Council, convinced the City's Urban Renewal Agency to purchase the Egyptian as a good investment for the economic and cultural benefits it would offer the residents of the City and surrounding communities.

On April 1, 2006, the Egyptian Theatre was purchased by the City of Coos Bay's Urban Renewal Agency. On July 21, 2006, the Agency signed a management agreement with the non-profit Egyptian Theatre Preservation Association to allow the Association to manage and operate the Theatre on behalf of the City and the community.

The building was listed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places on May 24, 2010.