

HISTORIC DOS PALOS THEATRE

Request: \$300,000 to purchase and restore the Dos Palos Theatre with ADA upgrades.

Description: The Dos Palos Theatre, located in the downtown area, opened on Christmas Day in 1946. The first movie shown here was “*It’s a Wonderful Life*.” It is a valuable community resource that must be preserved. This historic Theatre, to use the old spelling on its marquee, has served local residents for generations as a movie theatre. Its stage has hosted live theatre for local drama clubs and school plays. The auditorium was used as a community hall for candidate’s debates and other important forums. Many live musical performances and educational lectures have been held here. The building’s structural integrity is good, but its façade is deteriorating, its marquee is sagging, and its roof needs replacing. This



two-story theatre with a balcony, seats 350 people. Built by the city’s first mayor, it served nearby military cadets in the 1940’s. It was a woman owned and operated business for several decades at a time when that was rare—the 1950’s and 1960’s. The Dos Palos Theatre set all time attendance records that still stand when it was the only theatre in a 100-mile radius to show The Beatles first movie-- *A Hard Day’s Night* while other

theaters shunned the group and their film. The Theatre’s Lobby features unique artwork including the images of various actors that seem to move their eyes and morph into different characters as you move about the room.



Necessity: The building needs to be upgraded to meet current Americans with Disabilities Act standards. The Theatre’s original heating, cooling, lighting, and plumbing all need to be modernized. Our small town needs a multi-purpose community center. This facility would fill that need. A local non-profit group is being formed to support the cause of restoration once initial seed money is secured.

Beneficiaries: All ages, young and old could benefit from a restored community theater. A renovated theater could also become a venue for various ethnic groups to promote and display their culture and diversity, and by adults and school children in the performing arts.

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