

Media Release

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***For Immediate Release***

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## **ROYAL & MCPHERSON THEATRES SOCIETY COMMISSION FEASIBILITY STUDY OF ROYAL THEATRE EXPANSION**

**Victoria, BC:** The Royal & McPherson Theatres Society (RMTS) Board of Directors announce they have commissioned a donor-funded feasibility study on the expansion of the Royal Theatre. The study will explore potential enhancements to the theatre to address venue challenges, opportunities for presenters and enhancing the audience experience.

“We’re excited for the opportunity to explore the feasibility of a Royal Theatre expansion”, said Lorne DeLarge, RMTS board president. “The theatre has served this community for over 100 years and this feasibility study is designed to ensure we can continue to meet the needs of audiences for years to come by enhancing this much loved building.

The feasibility study will take into consideration modern needs of a theatre including technical improvements, allocation of space, accessibility and the comfort patrons to ensure the theatre’s viability into the future.

The RMTS has informed the municipal owners of the Royal Theatre (Victoria, Oak Bay and Saanich), the Capital Region District (CRD), and Royal Theatre users of the study and the desire for their engagement in the process. An information meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2020.

“It’s important to include participation from the community to ensure the study’s success,” said Franz Lehrbass, RMTS executive director. “Their knowledge and experience is vital to the process and we’re looking forward to engaging with the community as we begin the study.”

An expansion of the Royal Theatre would require access to the parking lot behind the theatre. The lot is owned by the CRD and managed by the City of Victoria. The Royal Theatre parking lot agreement and land title transfer state that the lot is held for future development of the theatre.

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