



Keller Auditorium

DECIDING WHAT'S NEXT FOR AN ICONIC PORTLAND VENUE

Portlanders have packed the Keller Auditorium since 1917 to see shows, operas, ballets and civic events. As the owner and operator of this popular performing arts space, the City of Portland and Metro are teaming up to ensure the safety and success of future productions.

The Keller plays an essential role in Portland's arts community, providing the only local space for large-scale performances. It generates half the revenue for Metro's Portland's 5 theaters - helping make smaller, local productions feasible, affordable and accessible.

Like most older civic buildings, the Keller was not built to withstand a major earthquake. A 2020 seismic report provides a preliminary analysis of renovations needed to meet modern safety standards. Guest amenities, backstage facilities, and mechanical and production systems are also outdated, creating a competitive disadvantage.

Modernizing the Keller would require significant time, investment and collaboration. To determine next steps, the City of Portland is committing \$200,000 from its spring 2022 budget update to evaluate options, work with partners and begin seeking community input. Stay tuned for opportunities to get involved.



FAST FACTS

- Built in 1917; limited upgrades since 1968
- Seats 2,992 and hosts 400,000 per year
- Owned by the City of Portland
- Managed by Metro's Portland's 5 Centers for the Arts; overseen by Metropolitan Exposition Recreation Commission

2020 SEISMIC STUDY

- Meets fire and safety code requirements
- Not built to withstand major earthquake
- Preliminary concepts range from seismic and amenity upgrades (\$119M) to full venue replacement (\$245M)
- Full replacement would allow for shows during multi-year construction

WHAT'S NEXT

- Evaluate options, seek community input
- Collaboration with performing arts organizations, nearby property owners

