



Rapid City Performing Arts Foundation (RCPAF) is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to enrich the lives of people in Rapid City and the surrounding region by providing facilities that support and encourage the creation of a broad range of quality arts programs for the entertainment and education of people of all ages and backgrounds. We support participation in arts activities.

A Community Partnership

From music to theatre to painting to dance, **art is alive in Rapid City**. Through a true community partnership, Rapid City and Black Hills residents and visitors can experience art in many different mediums. Each year, over 12,000 children and nearly 2,000 adults participate in programming, activities, or classes sponsored by Rapid City Performing Arts Foundation (RCPAF) organizations.

Audiences totaling more than 50,000 enjoy the creative efforts of our performers. The arts community also provides a vibrant arena for those with a volunteer spirit. Last year alone nearly 3,000 people volunteered with organizations affiliated with RCPAF from assisting with set designs, to becoming board members.

Unfortunately, **these community-based organizations have no permanent home** for their programming. Groups like the Black Hills Dance Theatre have never had an office, dance-specific rehearsal studios, or a venue suitable for dance presentation. Likewise, the Black Hills Symphony has never had a permanent and secure place to rehearse and no space available to expand programming and present chamber music concerts. The Black Hills Community Theatre is also without a permanent location. This year they will be performing at the Alex Johnson Ballroom come November.

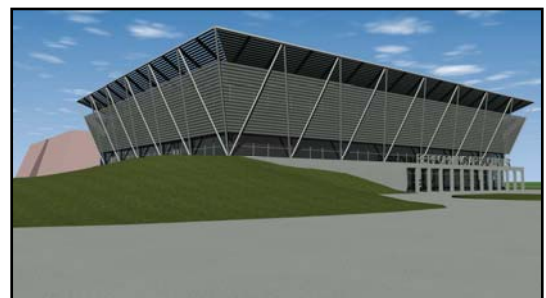
In response to the growing need of several arts organizations within Rapid City, the RCPAF, a consortium of 501(c) 3 organizations, began **planning for a performing arts center where each organization has ample performance, rehearsal, production, and operation space.**

The following RCPAF **partner organizations will all benefit from the security, stability, and quality of life, the planned facility will bring to the Rapid City community:** A Cappella Showcase, Dakota Artists Guild, Black Hills Community Theatre, Black Hills Dance Theatre, Black Hills Symphony Orchestra, and the Rapid City Children's Chorus.

Without the proposed performing arts center, Rapid City could find itself without many of these vital community organizations in the future.

Space for Arts

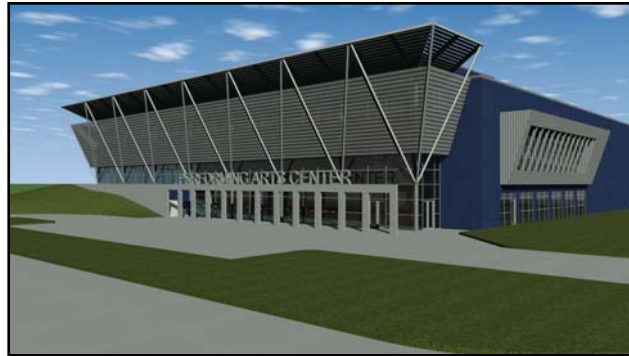
The RCPAF researched many locations throughout Rapid City before settling on a plan that calls for a free standing facility at the Journey Museum Site. The **50,000 square foot building** will offer the city's arts organizations ample space to put on productions, lead rehearsals, and offer classes.



With input from partnering organizations and the City of Rapid City, the **RCPAF wants to build a performing arts center to benefit the quality of life in Rapid City and the Black Hills region.** In doing so, each organization can better serve the community by expanding the cultural opportunities and offerings in the region. More individuals will have the opportunity to become involved in the arts, both as performers and as audience members, because of this new performing arts center.

Plans for the new facility call for:

- 500 seat theatre
- Individual dressing rooms
- Chorus dressing rooms
- Box Office
- (2) 40' x 50' rehearsal halls
- (1) 50' x 65' rehearsal hall
- Scene shop
- Chorus riser, dance floor, set, prop and costume storage
- Offices and conference room
- Comfortable lobby, and meeting spaces
- Adequate parking



The proposed facilities would cost approximately \$8.5 million for construction, furnishings and equipment. The city of Rapid City has identified \$3.25 million in Vision 2012 monies for this project, and the Harriet Redden Society has raised approximately \$50,000.

RCPAF is planning a major fundraising effort to move forward with this initiative. Upon completion, **the new facility will allow the RCPAF groups to provide many benefits to the city and region,** including:

- The ability to share performing arts with **a greater number of people.**
- **Expanded programming** and more sophisticated productions.
- **Greater opportunities** for theatre, music, dance and art classes for children and adults.
- A performance venue for **visiting arts groups and increased opportunities for collaborative efforts** among the region's cultural organizations.
- A facility that can be utilized for **community events.**
- An important economic and cultural asset that will greatly **enhance the quality of life** in Rapid City and the surrounding region.

Bringing art and performance to the Black Hills region

Black Hills Symphony Orchestra

Since beginning in 1935 with a small group of string players, the Black Hills Symphony Orchestra (BHSO) has grown substantially and now employs approximately 90 musicians. BHSO performs in the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center Theatre to an average audience of 1,200 people. BHSO is the only community symphony within a 300 mile radius; audience members come from South Dakota, North Dakota, Wyoming, Nebraska, and Montana.



BHSO and individual members also provide educational outreach programs and musical opportunities for area youth, including the 4th Grade Concert, Music in the Schools, Young Artist Competition, the Black Hills String Retreat, the Rushmore Competition and Black Hills Suzuki School. Its current needs include rehearsal space; small group performance space; dressing rooms for conductor and guest artists; instrument storage, especially for percussion instruments; and administrative storage.

A new performing arts center will provide BHSO with the much needed rehearsal and storage space, the ability to offer more concerts to both its performers and area audiences, to continue to grow and provide classes, and expand programming to area residents.

Black Hills Community Theatre

For 39 years, the Black Hills Community Theatre has provided an excellent live theatre experience to an average audience of 130 people per performance, and over 250,000 people since its founding. The Theatre currently works out of two locations; administrative offices are housed at the Black Hills Arts Resource Center, on East Saint Francis Street, and since 1979 it has performed at the Theatre at the Dahl Arts Center.



Beyond its regular season of five main stage productions, BHCT also offers summer camps for area youth; is developing an original production with “people served” by the Black Hills Workshop; has a senior troupe of actors, “The Well Done Players”; produces four children’s theatre productions each year with the “Cherry Street Players”, BHCT’s children’s theatre program; produces a dinner theatre production, and is expanding its education and outreach programs.

With the Dahl expansion underway, BHCT will be without a permanent performance space following the first production of its 39th season. Current space restrictions at the Theatre at the Dahl inhibit the theatre’s growth in the areas of audience, scenic and lighting design, and overall production values. A new performing arts center will provide BHCT with the space it needs to expand programming and production values.

Black Hills Dance Theatre

The Black Hills Dance Theatre (BHDT) is dedicated to providing quality dance education, performances, and outreach experiences to audiences in the Black Hills region. It supports local dancers through scholarships, workshops, education, and performance opportunities. The organization also sponsors nationally and internationally recognized professional dance companies to perform, provide master classes, and in-service for local schools and home school populations. Currently housed at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, the Black Hills Dance Theatre draws 800 to 1,200 people per performance.



However, the Dance Theatre is in need of updated rehearsal and performance facilities. Currently, members use the same space as a rehearsal floor, space for warm-up, and for storage of dance bags, music equipment, costume fittings, and set and prop storage.

A new performing arts center will provide BHDT the chance to bring in a greater variety of touring dance companies, expand their workshop programs and offer more intensive and expansive programming to the community.

Rapid City Children's Chorus



Since 1986 the Rapid City Children's Chorus has offered children in grades three through eight the opportunity to develop good choral technique and perform music with sensitivity and musicality. With three choirs and over 350 children involved, the Rapid City Children's Chorus performs two concerts each year and hosts an annual area-wide festival. Currently, the choirs have to share rehearsal space, limiting the time each choir has available to rehearse.

Dakota Artists Guild

A "gallery without walls," the artists of the Dakota Artists Guild display their work in ongoing exhibits at various locations throughout the Rapid City area.

The Dakota Artists Guild consists of 50 to 60 artists and operates without a dedicated classroom, administrative space, or even a sales gallery. The all-volunteer board of directors handles administrative tasks out of board members' home offices, and all records are stored in board members' garages.



The Dakota Artists Guild is greatly in need of a performing arts center that will provide the Guild with a gallery, classroom, and office space.

A Cappella Showcase



Affiliated with Sweet Adeline's International, the A Cappella Showcase began 25 years ago. An auditioned chorus with female members ranging in age from 16 to 62, its mission is to offer education, competition, and performance for members and the community.

Nearly 4,000 people attend its performances throughout the year; the group also produces a Christmas Concert benefiting the Black Hills Regional Food Bank. A Cappella Showcase feels that the

RCPAF will provide a viable location for performances, rehearsals, and storage.

Thank You!

The support of individuals, businesses, foundations and organizations who share our vision for the future of performing arts in Rapid City will play a key role in the success of the project as planned. We appreciate that you have taken time to read and consider the above, and we will appreciate receiving your feedback and suggestions through this planning study process. Thank you!