

2020 Lacombe County Operations Funding Presentation

I'd like to begin with a brief overview of the community impact of the Lacombe Performing Arts Foundation: We launched our Music in the Park programming in 2013 and began fundraising for the construction of the Echo Stage in 2017. Music in the Park has seen a large draw from surrounding communities. A year ago we entered into a lease with Trinity Lutheran Church and purchased the facility on October 1, 2019.

The Lacombe Performing Arts Centre Foundation has worked numerous years to support the presence of a strong arts community within Lacombe County and strived for what we have today – a dedicated facility to provide an opportunity for performers and cultural educators to share in what is becoming a community hub for all to enjoy.

A quarter of our board members reside in the County and everyone has committed to bring this facility to all residents and communities.

2019 Programming

Our current rental space consists of the Theatre with 150 theatre-seating capacity, audio, lighting, and stage; the Fireside Room, 60 theatre-seating capacity; and the Art Room, up to 6 worktables or 50 theatre-style seating capacity, bathroom and large basin wash sinks attached. The venue can meet the needs of various arts organizations, like-minded community groups and cultural educators.

The Trinity Lutheran Congregation still uses the space, in the Fireside Room, and has a permanent Pastors Office, free of charge for the foreseeable future.

Average Bookings

In 2019 alone, LPAC has seen a rise in bookings from its Spring Season to its Fall Season by an average of 335% (from 26 hours per month on average to 87 hours per month on average), and an increase of unique renters of 183% from 6 to 11 – so far.

We have housed 4H, and gave a home to a dance business that had to close their studio in Blackfalds. Two of our long-term renters, Maddox Dance and Cow Patti Theatre, also reside in the County. Of our long-term rentals, 66% come from the County.

Concerts and Programming

LPAC offers a concert series, bringing in local, provincial, and national talent for quality performances once a month through the winter, spring, and fall. Roughly

33% of our attendance comes from the County. We have collaborated with local performing arts companies – Cow Patti Theatre has introduced a Youth Theatre Program which began in September and runs until February; we have return bookings for public entertainment from Tim Tamashiro, Flat Iron Jazz Band, Lion’s Community Band, Homeschool Children’s Theatre, Maddox Dance, and Homegrown Theatre; as well as having new concert bookings from public performers.

We have recently purchased a Grand Piano, which has already been of use for a recital and will continue to increase the amount of groups and performers able to use the space.

Growth as a Performing Arts Centre

Our goal is to expand programming into visual and literary arts, broadening the accessibility, answering more community needs, and rounding out the use of the entire Centre. In part, to do so, it is essential that we collaborate with like-minded organizations to fill those needs and offer a more diverse programming; while increasing art exhibits to promote local visual artists.

Looking to the Future

Lacombe Performing Arts Centre strives to enrich and enhance the cultural environment of the City of Lacombe and surrounding communities; focusing on rebranding and marketing as a new dedicated arts facility, creating a space for like-minded individuals, and continuing programming that is accessible to everyone, such as Music in the Park.

Lacombe Performing Arts Centre committee is currently exploring the option of expanding Music in the Park programming to the Bentley Farmers Market.

Budget and Funding Request

Increase in the 2020 budget factors contribute to ownership of the facility, taking over care and maintenance of the building, and increasing hours of the executive director to establish consistent operating hours in the centre.

We are budgeting to build a reserve. A professional contractor will be completing a reserve fund study to prioritize infrastructure needs that will come from reserve funding.

The Lacombe Performing Arts Centre is requesting \$38,000 to support operating costs of the Centre for 2020.

We thank the County for the ongoing support to enhance the City of Lacombe and its surrounding communities through arts and culture.