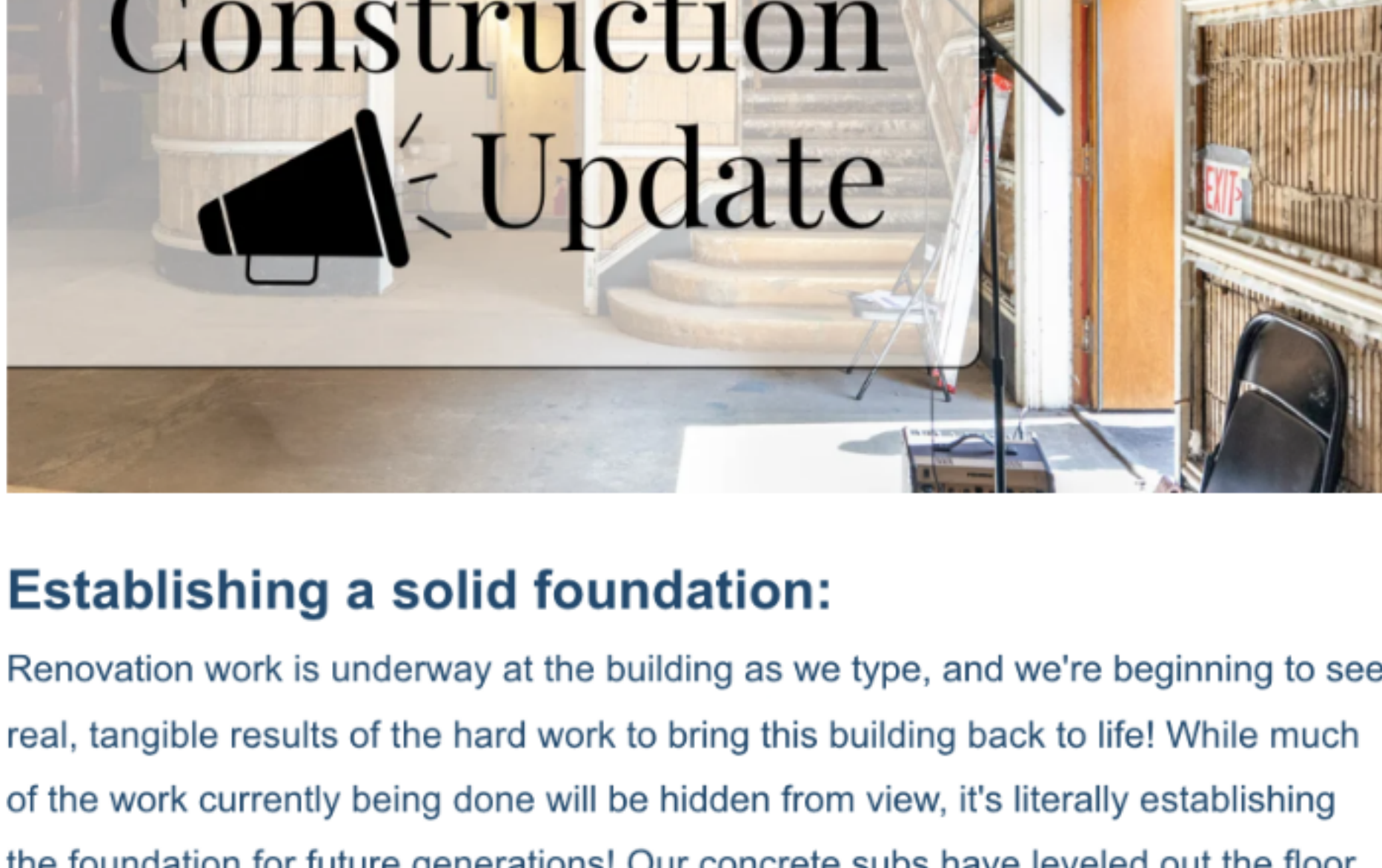
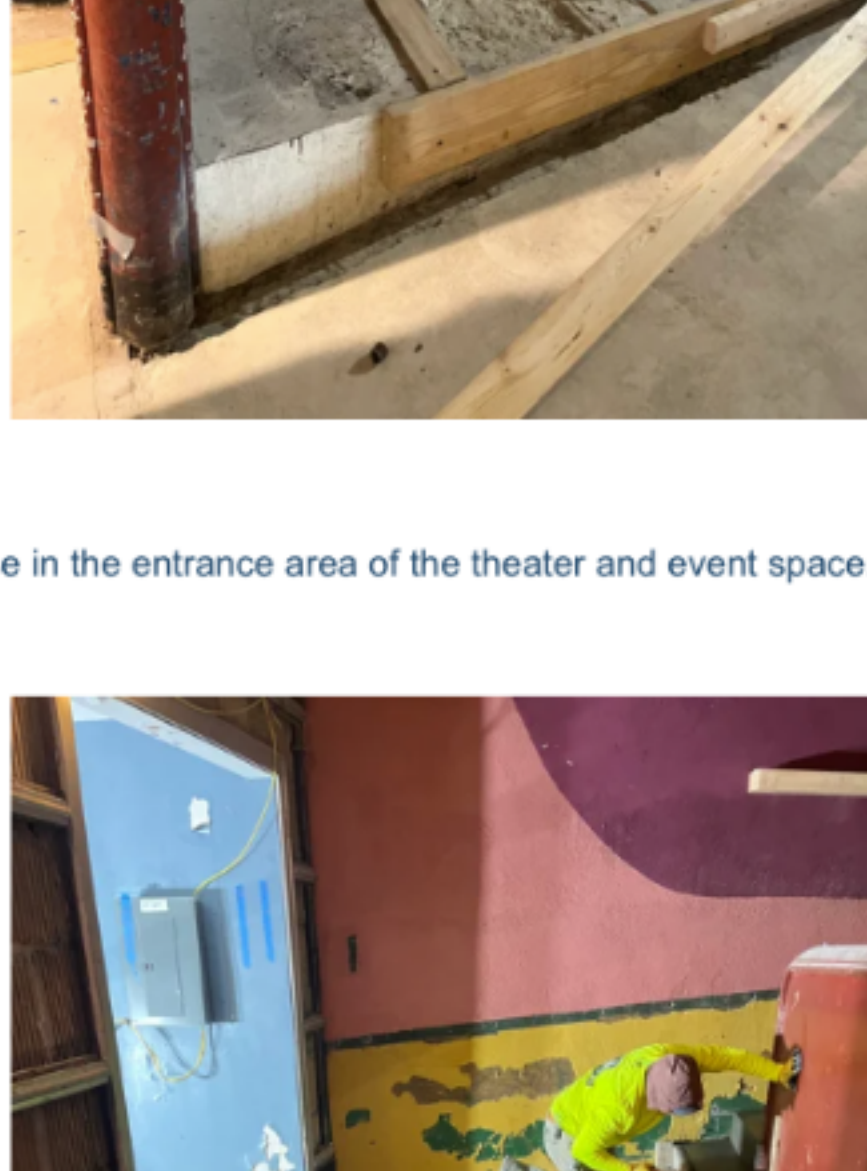
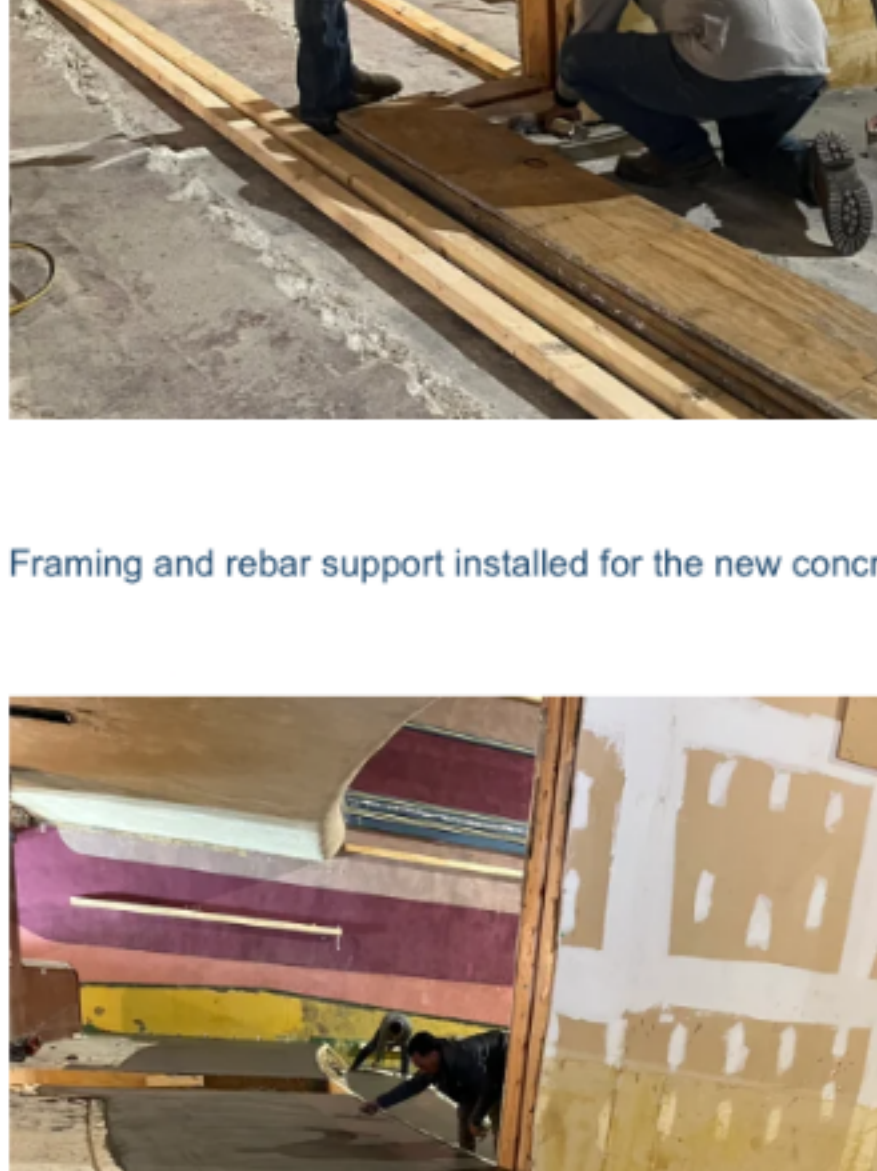


BRING WHO YOU ARE

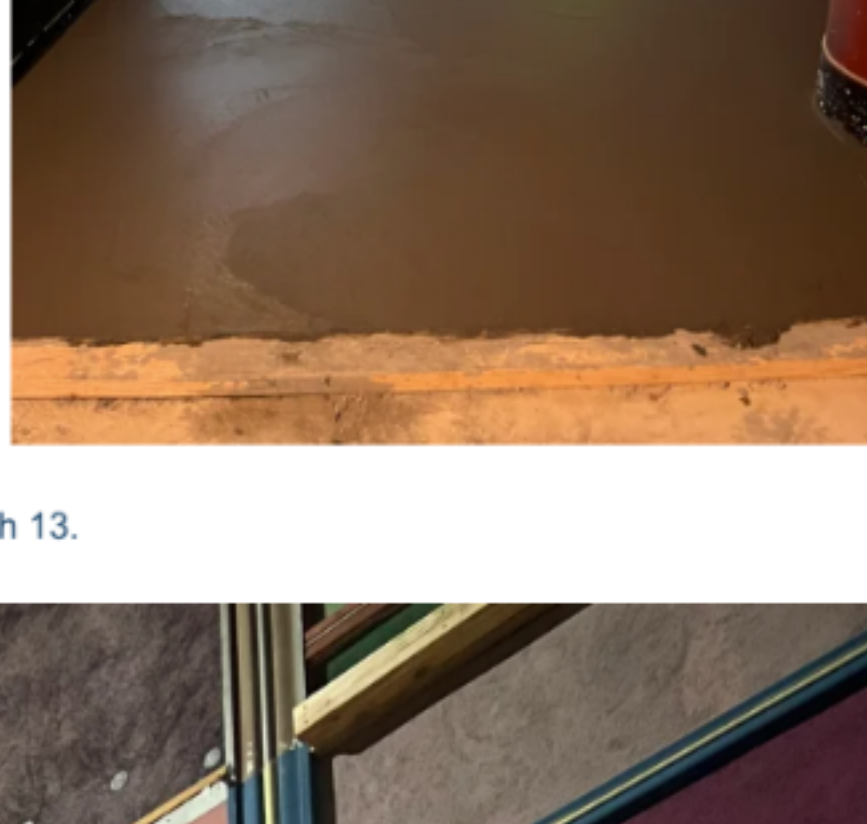
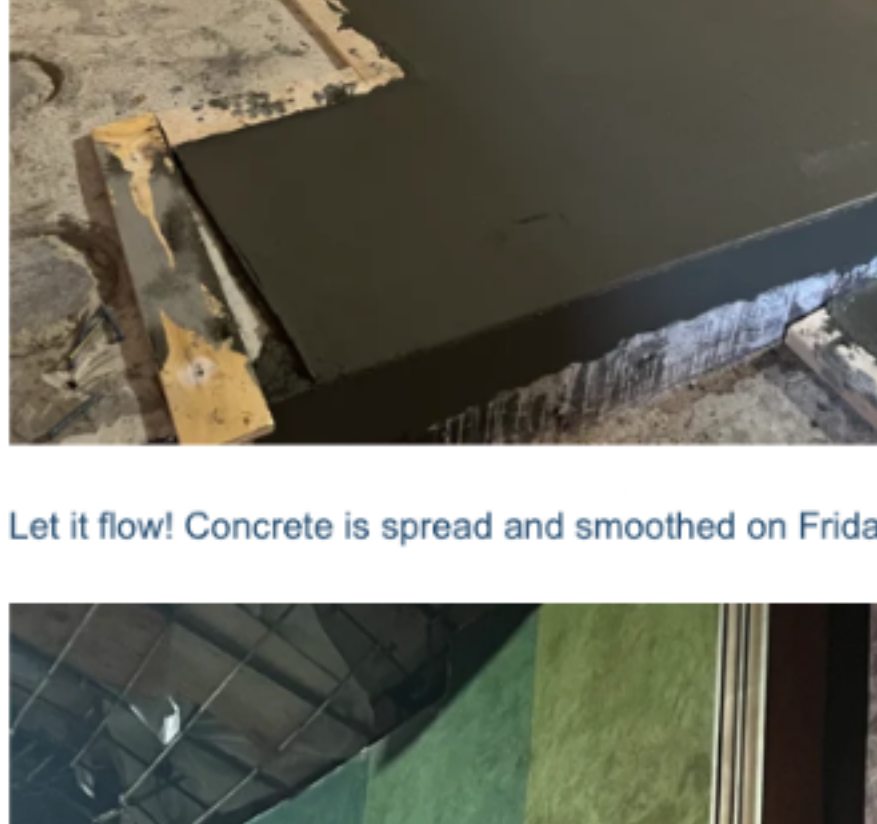


Establishing a solid foundation:

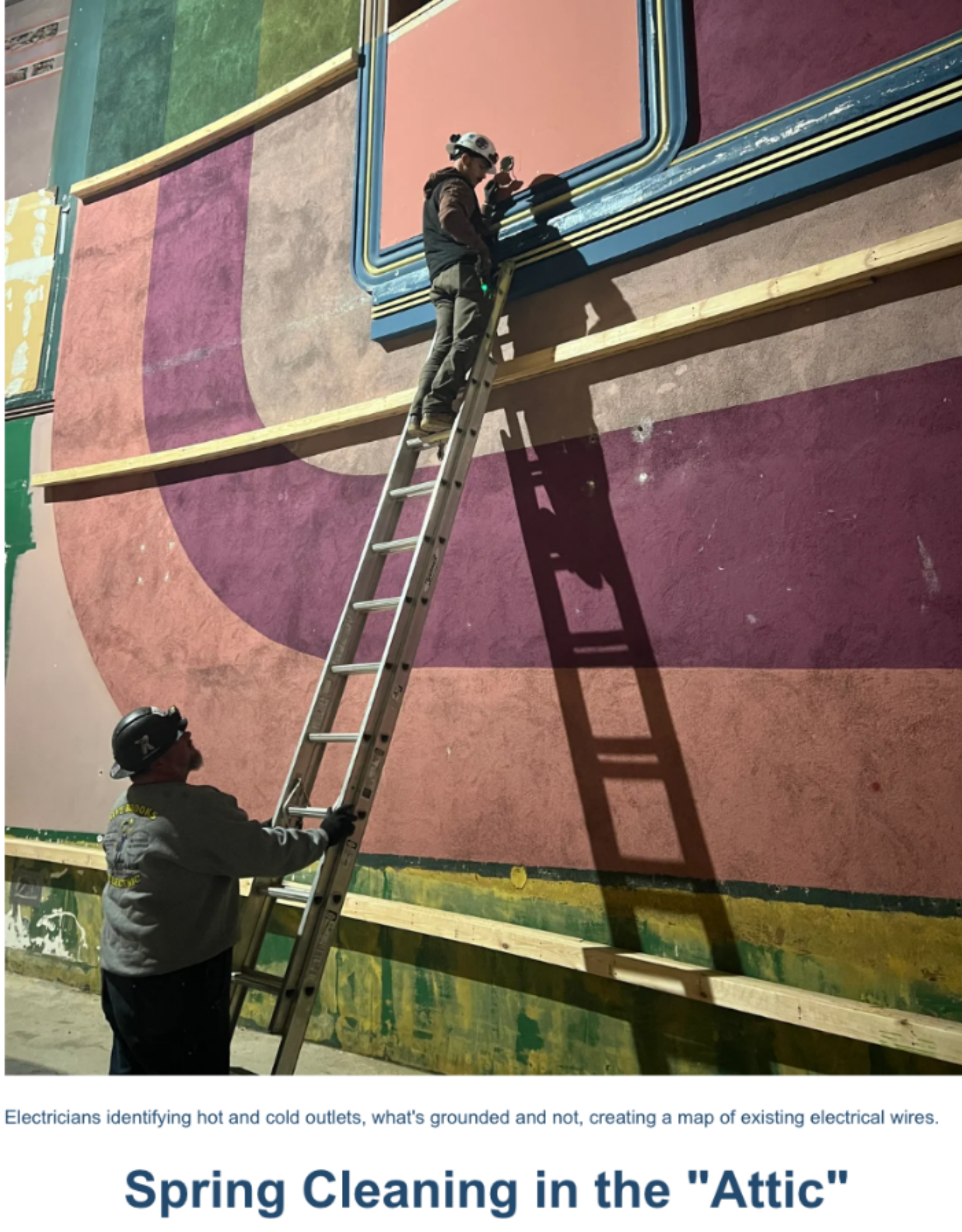
Renovation work is underway at the building as we type, and we're beginning to see real, tangible results of the hard work to bring this building back to life! While much of the work currently being done will be hidden from view, it's literally establishing the foundation for future generations! Our concrete subs have leveled out the floor in back of the event space and movie theater, with concrete flowing into forms on Friday, March 13. Our electrical team has been systematically unknotting the web of wires behind our walls to bring us up to code and prep our spaces for future concerts, gatherings and meetings!



Framing and rebar support installed for the new concrete base in the entrance area of the theater and event space.

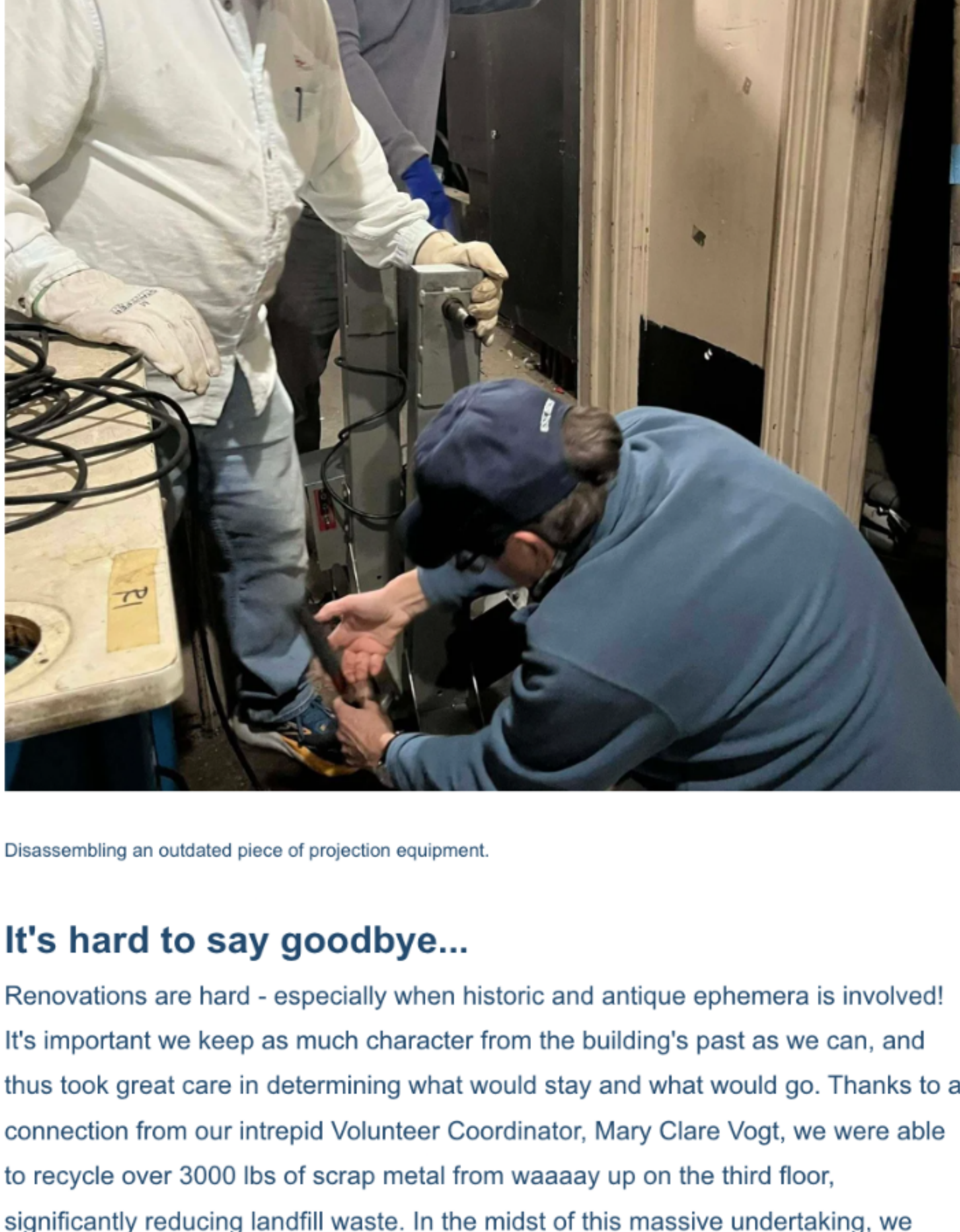


Let it flow! Concrete is spread and smoothed on Friday, March 13.



Electricians identifying hot and cold outlets, what's grounded and not, creating a map of existing electrical wires.

Spring Cleaning in the "Attic"



Disassembling an outdated piece of projection equipment.

It's hard to say goodbye...

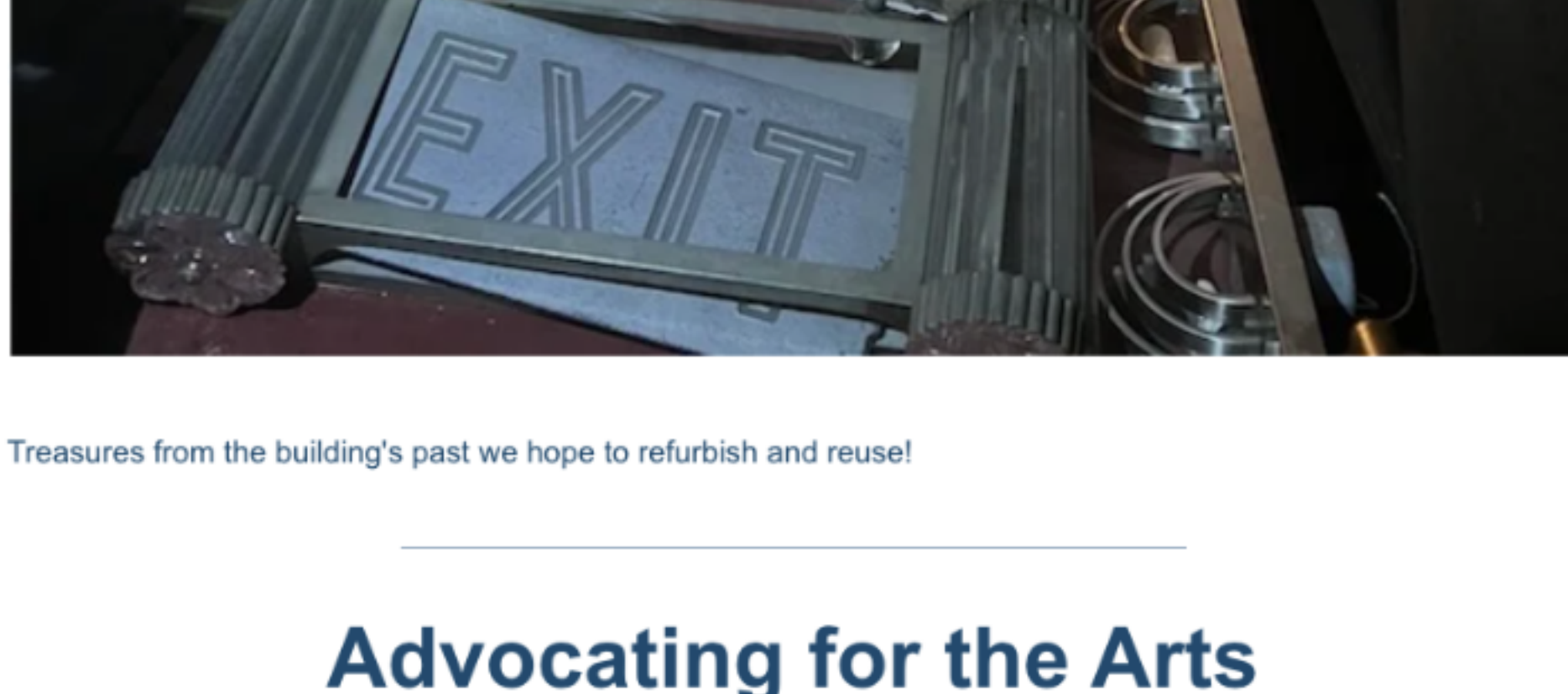
Renovations are hard - especially when historic and antique ephemera is involved! It's important we keep as much character from the building's past as we can, and thus took great care in determining what would stay and what would go. Thanks to a connection from our intrepid Volunteer Coordinator, Mary Clare Vogt, we were able to recycle over 3000 lbs of scrap metal from waaaaay up on the third floor, significantly reducing landfill waste. In the midst of this massive undertaking, we came upon some absolute treasures that we plan to incorporate into the new spaces within the building! Our heartfelt thanks to the volunteers who lent us their muscles and time.



Chance Crawford carefully inspects all the scrap!

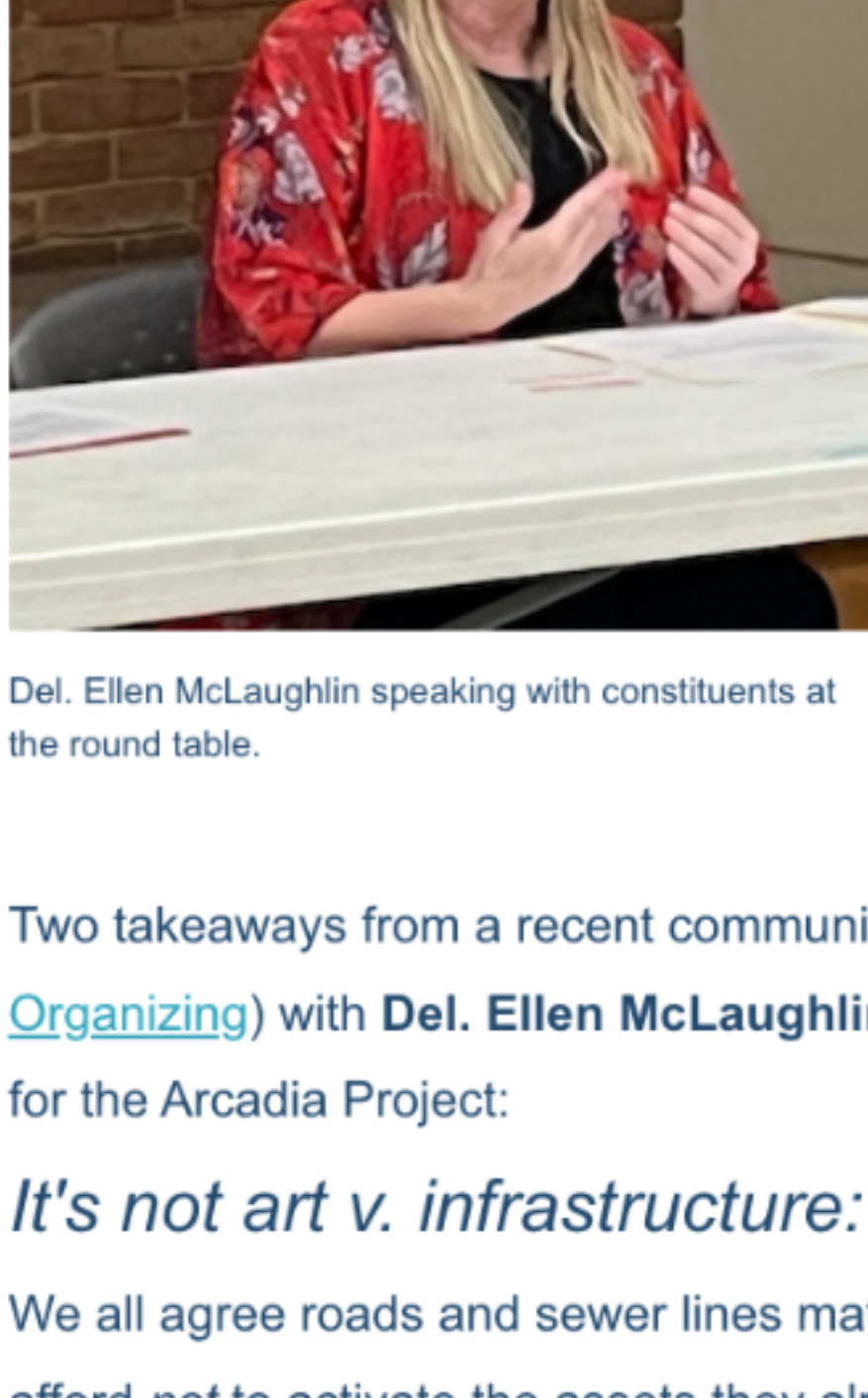


Teamwork makes the dream work! Thanks Tarik Lazri!



Treasures from the building's past we hope to refurbish and reuse!

Advocating for the Arts



Del. Ellen McLaughlin speaking with constituents at the round table.



Executive Director Pamela Mason Wagner makes the case for supporting arts funding in Virginia.

Two takeaways from a recent community listening session (hosted by [VA Organizing](#)) with **Del. Ellen McLaughlin**, sponsor of a \$250,000 budget amendment for the Arcadia Project:

It's not art v. infrastructure:

We all agree roads and sewer lines matter. The real question is: can communities afford *not* to activate the assets they already have? Investing in arts and culture builds livability—places people choose to move to and stay in. Those communities grow the tax base needed to fix the roads.

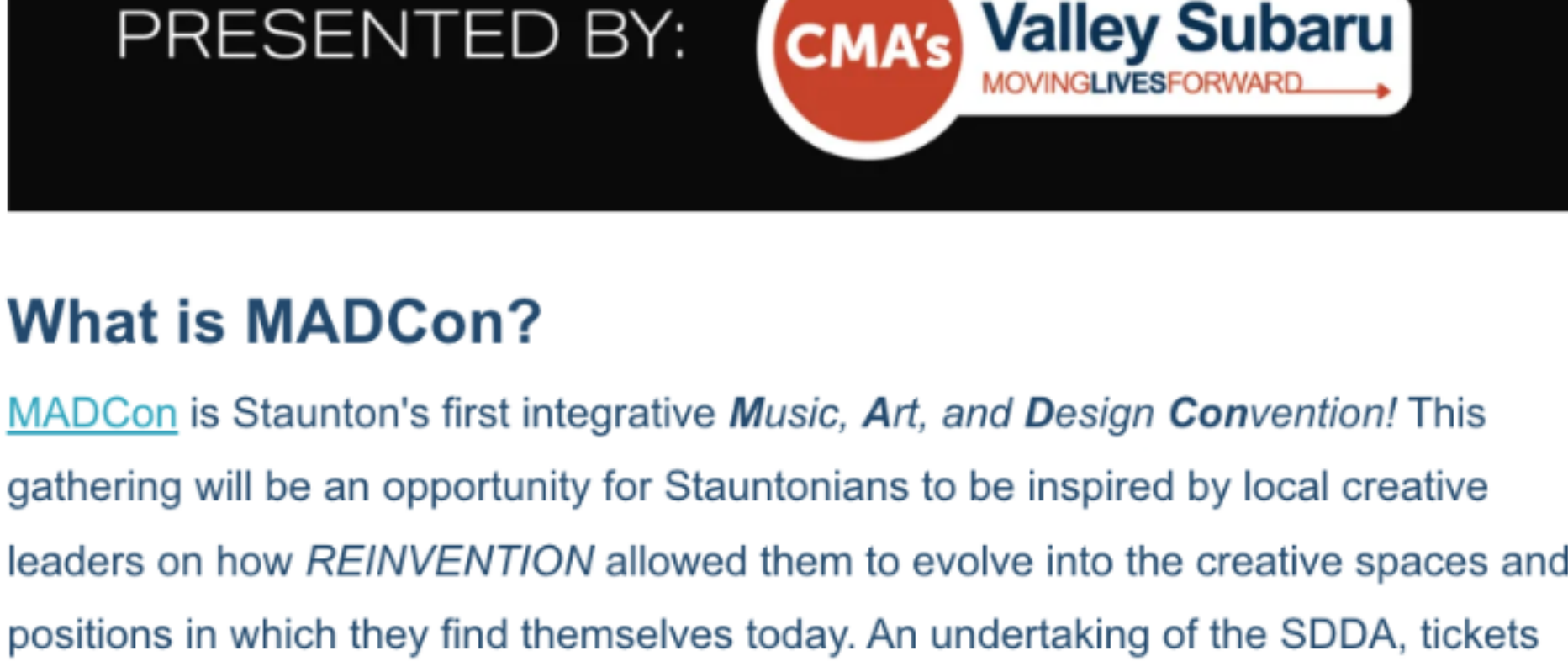
Arts are an economic engine:

Arts and culture are a significant contributor to Virginia's GDP (higher than agriculture!)—supporting 119,000+ jobs and over \$10B in wages. Nationally, since 2023, the sector has been growing at *twice* the rate of the overall U.S. economy. In short, public investment in the arts isn't extra: it's smart, strategic and foundational.

THANK YOU...

...to all our donors and supporters who took the time to write and call our State Delegates and Senators to advocate in support of Del. McLaughlin's \$250,000 investment in the Arcadia Project! We'd like to extend a special thanks to volunteer Jim McClary for quickly and efficiently leading this effort.

MADCon x Arcadia Project



What is MADCon?

[MADCon](#) is Staunton's first integrative *Music, Art, and Design Convention*! This gathering will be an opportunity for Stauntonians to be inspired by local creative leaders on how *REINVENTION* allowed them to evolve into the creative spaces and positions in which they find themselves today. An undertaking of the SDDA, tickets for this year's programming are "pay-what-you-will" to ensure all members of our community can attend.

When is MADCon?

Friday April 10: 5PM-10PM - Opening events kick off at MADCon HQ, 110 W. Beverley St. with a sustainable fashion show & wearable art show, and a social event hosted by The Box.

Saturday April 11 - Concurrent sessions lead by creative leaders in our area, hosted across our beautiful downtown. More sessions are added by the day! [Click for schedule of sessions.](#)

What's our connection to MADCon?

We are hosting the Billy Haines Lounge at MADCon HQ, 110 W. Beverley St. This space will be a place for folks to gather, rest and connect throughout the event, and a venue to launch our Billy Haines Initiative. The lounge is dedicated to a native son whose story embodied reinvention. Come learn all about him! **NO TICKET NEEDED TO VISIT THE BILLY HAINES LOUNGE!**

Thank you for sharing our story!

We wouldn't have gotten to this point in the journey without YOU - thank you for continuing to believe in the mission of connecting people through culture and creativity. An easy way to continue supporting the work is by liking, commenting and sharing Arcadia Project's posts on [Facebook](#) & [Instagram](#). Your interaction with these posts will boost the activity on our pages, telling the algorithms that people are curious about what we are doing! We can't thank you enough!



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Have questions? Either respond to this email or write us at info@thearcadiaproject.org

[Donate!](#)