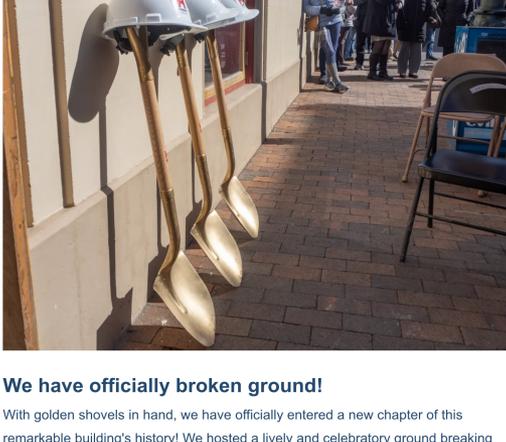


And so it begins....



We have officially broken ground!

With golden shovels in hand, we have officially entered a new chapter of this remarkable building's history! We hosted a lively and celebratory ground breaking ceremony on Tuesday, February 24, where over 60 city and community leaders, project leaders, members of our board of directors, donors, volunteers and community members came together to kick off renovation work.



And with the conclusion of that event, we can now officially say **WE ARE UNDER RENOVATION!** Your generosity and belief in this project has gotten us here; because of you, this building is entering its next chapter. Thank you for helping create a place where Staunton's magic can unfold every day!

Our Executive Director, Pam Mason Wagner, shared inspiring remarks about our journey as an organization and our hopes for how this historic building can be a place to gather and create community through meaningful cultural offerings. [Her remarks are linked here.](#)



Members of City Council, representatives from Harman Construction, our Architect Michael Brown, Board President Elizabeth Resesp and co-founders Thom and Pam Wagner officially begin construction!



Our community turned out to help celebrate!



New and familiar faces braving the cold!



We heard remarks from Staunton Tourism Director Samantha Johnson and Vice-Mayor Brad Arrowood.



Board Members Nancy Ivey and Mary Clare Vogt, and Board President Elizabeth Resesp enjoy the day!



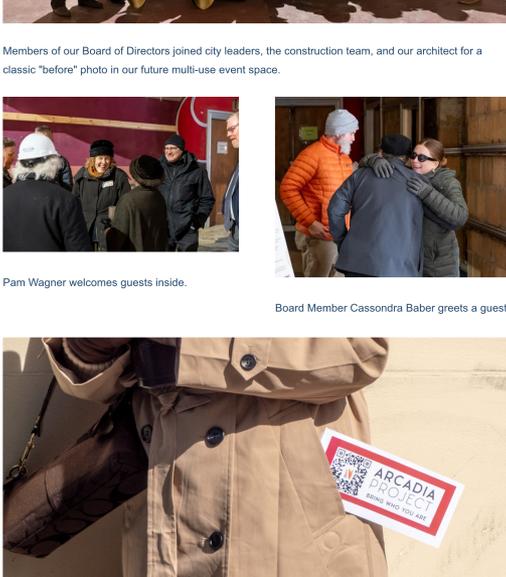
Members of our Board of Directors joined city leaders, the construction team, and our architect for a classic "before" photo in our future multi-use event space.



Pam Wagner welcomes guests inside.



Board Member Cassandra Baber greets a guest.



Stay in the know about our progress via our socials channels, and read more detailed updates here in the newsletter!

Extra! Extra! Read all about us!

LOCAL

Inside Staunton's historic theater the Arcadia Project on Beverley St.

Monique Calelio

Feb. 26, 2026, 4:30 a.m. ET



Arcadia Project's groundbreaking ceremony on Feb. 24 celebrated the start of construction and offered tours of the inside of Staunton's historic theater on 125 E. Beverley St.

Monique Calelio/The News Leader

[Click here to read Staunton Newsleader Article](#)

Arcadia Project breaks ground on Dixie Theater transformation

On Wednesday, crowds gathered to celebrate the groundbreaking of the Arcadia Project on East Beverley Street, a renovation initiative that will transform the former Dixie Theater.

By Linden Kiser February 26, 2026 6:32 am



[Click here to read Rocktown Now Article](#)

Arcadia Awarded Brownfields Grant:



The final stage of asbestos abatement:

To complete our asbestos remediation work, and complete preparations for the renovation work to begin, the Arcadia Project was awarded a third Brownfields Grant! Provided through the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, these grants help communities turn once-unusable properties into vibrant spaces for growth and development. Our construction team completed the work in February (working through the holidays and ice storm), making us construction-ready.

Help share the story!



Now, more than ever...

...it's time to share our story! Looking forward, we have more work to do, and we need your ongoing support. We know there are folks who are interested in small towns with big hearts for the arts. As Pam Wagner said in her speech, in times like these, we desperately need places where folks can come together to create and experience the beauty of the arts. Please consider making a donation to help fund our ongoing renovation. Also, as you come across our updates on Facebook or Instagram, would you please consider sharing our updates among your circles?

Thank you!

[Follow us on Facebook!](#)

[Follow us on Instagram!](#)



BRING WHO YOU ARE

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

Donate!