



Located in the heart of Columbus, Texas, the R.E. Stafford Opera House is the crown jewel of Colorado County. Since its completion in 1886, the Opera House has served as a bank, dry goods store, theater, roller rink, and car dealership. Over the years and changes in ownership, the once grand building fell into disrepair. In 1972, the Magnolia Homes Tour, Inc. (now the Columbus Historical Preservation Trust, Inc.) purchased the Opera House and began restorations to bring it back to its former glory. The full restoration was completed in 1990 and the Opera House was rededicated to the City of Columbus and its residents. With the Buddy Rau Room located on the first floor, and the Grand Hall on the second floor, the Stafford Opera House now serves as an event venue, capable of hosting events of all sizes.

Over the past 30 years, several repairs to the building have been made, including repainting and reflooring portions of the Grand Hall as well as updating the A/C system. However, significant repairs and improvements to the 137-year-old building must now be made for guests to continue to fully utilize the space. Repairs to the roof, structural beams, and elevator can no longer be ignored. Without these repairs, CHPT will not be able to rent the venue and therefore will lose crucial revenue to continue the maintenance of the Opera House as well as the three other CHPT-properties in town – the Alley Log Cabin & Tool Museum, the Dilue Rose Harris House Museum, and the Santa Claus Museum.

The cost of the needed repairs and improvements to make the Opera House fully functional is approximately \$700,000. This far exceeds what CHPT can afford. As such, we are reaching out to the community for support. For many Columbus residents, past and present, the Opera House holds very special memories. Memories of weddings, proms, reunions, Magnolia Belle presentations, and other significant events that brought friends, family, and community members together. The Opera House is an important part of not only Columbus' history, but the history of its residents.

The need for funding for the Stafford Opera House repairs has reached a critical point. We humbly ask you to help Save Our Opera House and make the crown jewel of Colorado County shine once again. By joining the Stafford Opera House Legacy Society, you will validate the importance of reviving and renewing the Opera House as an important piece of Texas' history. You'll also support CHPT's mission to preserve the historical significance of Columbus. How lucky we are to have such an amazing historical treasure in our community! With your legacy gift, the 1886 Stafford Opera House will be treasured for generations to come.

To show your support of this important project, please complete the Stafford Opera House Legacy Society commitment form and return it at your earliest convenience. Forms and donations may be mailed to the CHPT office at PO Box 817, Columbus, TX 78934, or delivered to the Stafford Opera House at 425 Spring St, Columbus. Online donations may be made at <https://bit.ly/SaveOurOperaHouse>. For additional information, contact us at 979-732-5135 or 1886soh@gmail.com.

Thank you in advance for your support of CHPT and your dedication to save the Stafford Opera House.

Stafford Opera House Legacy Society Giving Opportunities

LEGACY LEADER - \$50,000

- Premier recognition on Save Our Opera House campaign materials (through Dec. 2024)
- Premier recognition on Legacy Society donor signage, displayed at CHPT events
- Premier recognition on CHPT website (through Dec. 2024)
- Premier recognition on Legacy Society plaque in Stafford Opera House
- Lifetime CHPT Benefactor membership
- Complimentary admission with premier seating for 10 at CHPT events through (Dec. 2024)
- Premier recognition in *Seasons of Colorado County* photo book
- 20 copies of *Seasons of Colorado County* photo book

HERITAGE PROTECTOR - \$30,000

- Premier recognition on Save Our Opera House campaign materials (through Dec. 2024)
- Premier recognition on Legacy Society donor signage, displayed at CHPT events
- Premier recognition on CHPT website (through Dec. 2024)
- Premier recognition on Legacy Society plaque in Stafford Opera House
- Lifetime CHPT Benefactor membership
- Complimentary admission with priority seating for 8 at CHPT events through (Dec. 2024)
- Premier recognition in *Seasons of Colorado County* photo book
- 12 copies of *Seasons of Colorado County* photo book

RESTORATION PARTNER - \$20,000

- Priority recognition on Save Our Opera House campaign materials (through Dec. 2024)
- Priority recognition on Legacy Society donor signage, displayed at CHPT events
- Priority recognition on CHPT website (through Dec. 2024)
- Priority recognition on Legacy Society plaque in Stafford Opera House
- Complimentary admission with priority seating for 6 at CHPT events through (Dec. 2024)
- Priority recognition in *Seasons of Colorado County* photo book
- 8 copies of *Seasons of Colorado County* photo book

CORNERSTONE CONTRIBUTOR - \$10,000

- Recognition on Save Our Opera House campaign materials (through Dec. 2024)
- Recognition on Legacy Society donor signage, displayed at CHPT events
- Recognition on CHPT website (through Dec. 2024)
- Recognition on Legacy Society plaque in Stafford Opera House
- Complimentary admission with preferred seating for 4 at CHPT events through (Dec. 2024)
- Recognition in *Seasons of Colorado County* photo book
- 6 copies of *Seasons of Colorado County* photo book

FOUNDATION SUPPORTER - \$5,000

- Recognition on Save Our Opera House campaign materials (through Dec. 2024)
- Recognition on Legacy Society donor signage, displayed at CHPT events
- Recognition on CHPT website (through Dec. 2024)
- Recognition on Legacy Society plaque in Stafford Opera House
- Complimentary admission with preferred seating for 2 at CHPT events through (Dec. 2024)
- Priority recognition in *Seasons of Colorado County* photo book
- 4 copies of *Seasons of Colorado County* photo book



Stafford Opera House Legacy Society Commitment Form

I/WE WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE LEGACY GIVING SOCIETY AT THE FOLLOWING LEVEL:

- | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> LEGACY LEADER
\$50,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> HERITAGE PROTECTOR
\$30,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> RESTORATION PARTNER
\$20,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> CORNERSTONE CONTRIBUTOR
\$10,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> FOUNDATION SUPPORTER
\$5,000 |
|--|---|--|--|--|

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE RECOGNIZED IN PRINT?

I/We prefer to remain anonymous. Please do not recognize this gift publicly.

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

- CHECK (make payable to CHPT and mail to PO Box 817, Columbus, TX 78934)
- CREDIT CARD (Visa, Mastercard, or AMEX)

NAME ON CARD: _____

CARD NUMBER: _____

EXPIRATION DATE: _____ CVV: _____ BILLING ZIP CODE: _____



If you prefer to donate with a credit card via the CHPT secure online giving portal, scan the QR code or visit <https://bit.ly/SaveOurOperaHouse>.

Thank you for helping to Save Our Opera House!