

# Preservation

## News

# I ♥ This Place

## The Newsletter of Historic Seattle

### Historic Seattle and Seattle Theatre Group Announce Partnership to Purchase The Showbox

**ON NOVEMBER 19, WE ANNOUNCED A NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH SEATTLE THEATRE GROUP (STG)** to buy The Showbox. STG is the largest non-profit arts organization in the Puget Sound region and operates The Paramount, The Moore, and The Neptune Theatres. As organizations that share a dedication to preserving history, arts, and culture for the sake of community, we could not be more excited to join together in an effort to purchase The Showbox.

The Showbox was unanimously designated a City of Seattle Landmark in July 2019, following a yearlong advocacy effort led by Historic Seattle and supported by advocates like you. Because landmark status does not guarantee protection of a property and cannot save a building's specific use, Historic Seattle also announced its intention to purchase The Showbox in May 2019 and submitted a formal offer alongside STG in October 2019.

Separately, negotiations with the current property owner continue to play out with the Landmarks Preservation Board in a process known as "controls and incentives." Controls protect the character-defining features of the landmark in exchange for incentives for the property owner, which can include access to grants and special tax valuations.

**This is where you come in – we strongly encourage you to send your comments to [sarah.sodt@seattle.gov](mailto:sarah.sodt@seattle.gov) to support the controls necessary to protect the building or attend the Landmarks Preservation Board meeting now expected to take place February 19, 2020.**

For more information or help with wording, visit our website.

### Celebrating Preservation in Georgetown

**ON SEPTEMBER 19, WE HELD OUR ANNUAL BENEFIT AT THE GEORGETOWN BALLROOM – AND YOUR GENEROSITY HELPED US RAISE A RECORD \$59,000!** Thank you for your continued commitment to saving meaningful places that foster lively communities.

In addition to enjoying a performance by Benjamin Gibbard of Death Cab for Cutie and The Postal Service, as well as remarks from Cynthia Brothers of Vanishing Seattle, it was our privilege to recognize the following honorees with Preservation Awards: The State Hotel (Best Preservation Project), Friends of Little Saigon (Community Advocacy), Alki Homestead (Beth Chave Community Investment), the Washington Street Boat Landing, Ainsworth & Dunn Building, and Fire Station 5 (each for Preserving Neighborhood Character), Bob Hale (Preservation Champion), and Sam Farrazaino (Best in Neighborhood: Georgetown).

This was our first year featuring a specific neighborhood – Georgetown – for the benefit and other public programming. Next year, we will spotlight a different neighborhood and hope you will join in the fun to learn more about the places that make our city so special.



*Pictured from top: a call to action on The Paramount's marquee; The Lake Union Partners project team celebrates being awarded Best Preservation Project for their adaptive reuse of the landmark Eitel Building as The State Hotel. Photo courtesy of Sticks & Stones Photography.*

## Preservation in Action!

**KING COUNTY'S PRESERVATION ACTION FUND (PAF) WAS ESTABLISHED IN 2015** and is jointly administered by the King County Historic Preservation Program, 4Culture, Historic Seattle, and the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation. The goal of the PAF is to proactively save endangered places that are landmark-eligible or already landmarked in King County but outside of Seattle.

One such place is the Ronnei-Raum House, a 1904 cottage in Fall City that was home to the caretaker of Fall City Masonic Lodge #66 (located next door) for decades. Earlier this year, Historic Seattle used the PAF to purchase the house. This is a double-win for preservation – while we work to restore the house, the Masons will use the proceeds from the sale for work on the lodge. In October, the house was designated a King County landmark and we are currently working to get our building permits approved.

We hope to begin work on a to-the-studs renovation of the house in the spring of 2020. The interior will be reconfigured with a new floor plan, the exterior will be restored, and the house will be set on a new foundation. Our goal is to complete the project within six months, after which we will put an easement on the house and sell it – returning the money to the PAF to reinvest in the next project. Before selling the house, we also hope to open it up for supporters like you to visit!



| The Ronnei-Raum House as it appeared in 1950. Photo courtesy of the Washington State Archives, Puget Sound Branch.

**Do you know of an endangered place in King County that might be eligible for the Preservation Action Fund? If so, please email Historic Seattle Executive Director Kji Kelly at [kjik@historicseattle.org](mailto:kjik@historicseattle.org).**

## On the Horizon: 2020 Education Programming

**WE CAN'T WAIT FOR YOU TO SEE WHAT WE HAVE IN STORE FOR 2020!** Keep an eye on your mailbox for our winter / spring 2020 program guide, to be released in January.

Beginning in 2020, our quarterly Members Meetings will be held as business-focused meetings at our headquarters (the Dearborn House on First Hill) rather than as part of another education program. By making this change, we'll be able to provide more in-depth opportunities to share news about our work and preservation in general with you. We'll have more to share about this change in the coming months.

**Our education programming would not be possible without your generous support. We hope that you have enjoyed this year's programs and are looking forward to sharing next year's events with you soon!**



| A warm and cozy display of one of our Save the Showbox open letters above the Dearborn House mantel, and the Dearborn House on a snowy day.

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