

The Newsletter of Historic Seattle

Showbox Controls Delayed Again

ON FEBRUARY 10, SUPPORTERS OF OUR CAMPAIGN TO SAVE THE SHOWBOX gathered at the beloved cultural landmark for our sixth annual Heart Bomb, a display of affection for places that matter. We took to its legendary spring-loaded dance floor to craft valentines that raise awareness of this historic but endangered place.

You may be wondering why The Showbox, which was designated a landmark in 2019, is still under threat of being redeveloped. The harsh reality is that landmark designation isn't enough to save a historic building from being demolished. Seattle's landmarks ordinance prevents the protections known as "controls" from infringing on a property owner's "reasonable economic use." The term "reasonable" lacks clear definition within the ordinance.

The controls and incentives process, in which the Landmarks Preservation Board (LPB) staff negotiates with the owner of a newly designated landmark, continues to be delayed by the owner of the Showbox property. At the LPB's February 19 meeting, legal counsel for the property owner requested yet another extension to negotiate controls and incentives – their third such request since the building was landmarked.

We know that the property owner doesn't want controls placed to protect the building, but how long must this drag on? Unfortunately, the landmarks ordinance doesn't establish a deadline, leaving the LPB and City staff's hands tied. The LPB granted an extension until May 20, but it's currently unclear whether they will be able to make a recommendation on controls and incentives at that meeting.

Historic Seattle, Seattle Theatre Group (STG), and Friends of The Showbox have called for controls on the property and no further delays in the process. Landmarking is recognized through decades of case law as an established and important public benefit, and it would benefit the public to confidently know that our landmarks will in fact be protected.

Thank you to those of you have written to the LPB in support of controls on The Showbox. If you haven't already done so, please visit our website to learn how you too can advocate for controls. Landmarks deserve protection, not plaques!



| Supporters gathered at The Showbox for our 2020 Heart Bomb, crafting valentines to raise awareness of our campaign to save this cultural landmark.

On the Horizon: May is Preservation Month!

DID YOU KNOW THAT MAY IS PRESERVATION MONTH? We plan to get off to a strong start when we visit McMenamins Six Arms for our third annual Friends & Family Night on Tuesday, May 5! We hope you'll join us for cocktails and conversation with our staff, all for a good cause! A generous 50% of the night's proceeds will be donated to Historic Seattle.



Immediately following Friends & Family Night is GiveBIG 2020 on Wednesday, May 6. As you make your contributions on our city's biggest day of giving, we ask you to support Historic Seattle. **Your community needs you now more than ever – please give generously.**

May 5 | Friends & Family Night at McMenamins Six Arms | 300 E Pike St

As of press time this event is still planned for this date. Please check our website for the latest information.

Call for Preservation Award Nominations

EACH YEAR, AT OUR ANNUAL PRESERVATION CELEBRATION BENEFIT, Historic Seattle presents awards to honorees selected from nominations received in the following categories:

- Best Preservation Project
- Preservation Champion
- Community Investment
- Preserving Neighborhood Character
- Community Advocacy
- Best in Neighborhood*

* a rotating category specific to the neighborhood where the annual benefit is held

The deadline for nominations is April 30. Please visit historicseattle.org for more information about categories and rules.

Later this spring, we'll announce this year's Benefit date and location and share ticket, table, and sponsorship information - so stay tuned!



Awards for honorees at our 2919 Preservation Celebration Benefit. Image courtesy of Sticks & Stones Photography.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Many of our spring programs are impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. If you have registered for an event that is postponed or canceled, we will contact you directly with updates. Please visit our website for current information on the status of future events. Thank you for understanding the importance of prioritizing the health and wellbeing of our community. We look forward to seeing you again when it is safe to gather.