



**TABOR**  
OPERA HOUSE  
PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

# 2024 Annual Report

# NOTES FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

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Greetings Tabor Community and Stakeholders,

I was thrilled to start my position as Executive Director in May of 2024. After bidding our first Executive Director, Sarah Dae Delozier a fond farewell to her new home in Hot Springs, AR, we got to work producing the summer season in partnership with Lyric Theatre of Leadville. We pulled out our historic "woods" scenery as a backdrop for our community musical *Into the Woods* – a production brought to life by nearly 20 locals. We enjoyed an expanded season of music, documentary film, tours, youth, and community events.

We executed a fifth construction season which included refurbishing our Juliet balcony, and repairing the aging cornice at the top of our facade. It was just in the nick of time as bird nesting behind the cornice over the last decades had started to erode bricks under the tin sheathing.

This year we dove in to investigate failures of our 27-year-old roof, commissioning Wiss, Janey, Elstner to conduct an in-depth roofing study suggesting we should begin to plan for replacement. We commissioned Construction Drawings and began fundraising!

Our board and committees made significant progress on our long-term Capital Campaign Planning, detailed on page 9.

With your support we will continue to rehabilitate the Tabor Opera House for generations to come. We are so glad you are part of our team, family, and story.

**Sara Edwards**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TABOR OPERA HOUSE

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# BY THE NUMBERS

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In 2024, the Tabor Opera House **exceeded our fundraising goal** raising **\$194,246.93**, which helps us continue providing the robust programming you've come to expect, and pursue our short and long-term rehabilitation plans. In 2025, our goal is to finish the construction of our exterior storefront, and prepare to replace the roof in 2026. The increased support we received in 2024 will also help us expedite the recommendations from our 2024 Capital Campaign Feasibility Study, which guides our interior restoration fundraising efforts. The sooner we secure the necessary funds for this essential work, the faster we can enhance and revitalize our indoor spaces. With your support, we're confident we'll make significant progress in 2025 toward our shared vision of a fully rehabilitated Tabor Opera House. Thank you for dreaming big with us!

265

INDIVIDUAL  
DONORS

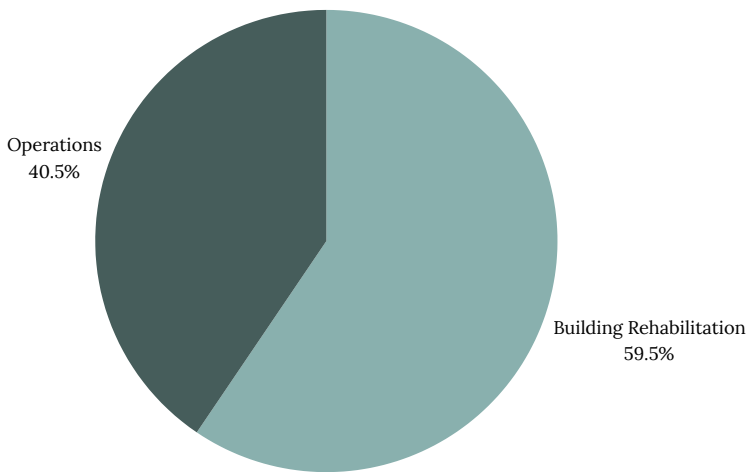
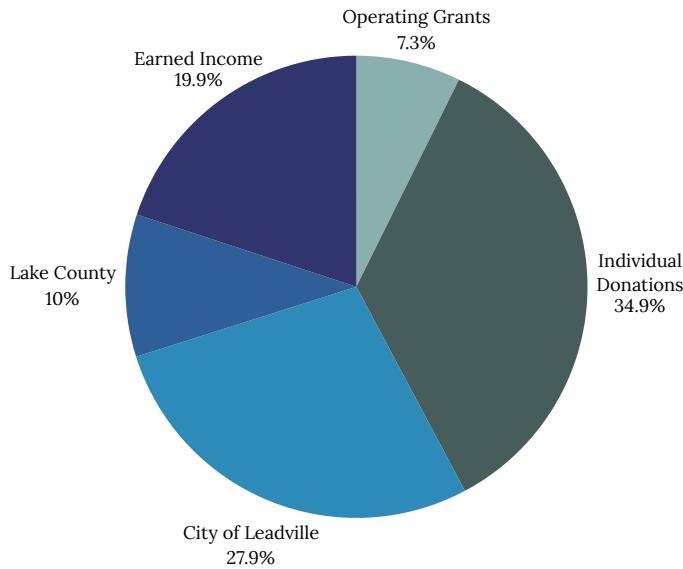
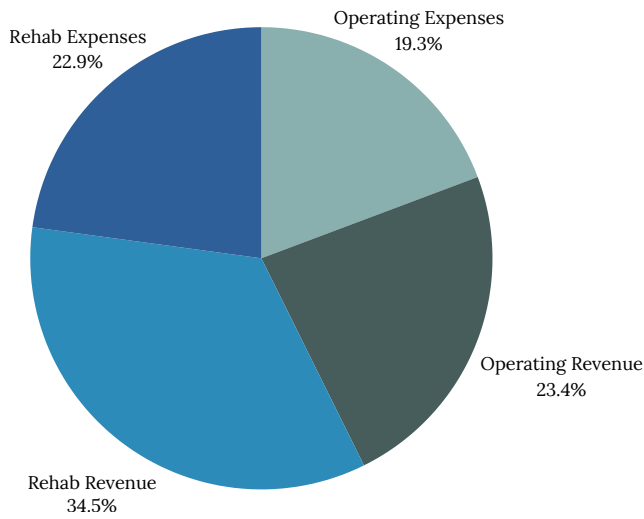
16%

INCREASE IN TOTAL  
INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS

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1,826 VOLUNTEER HOURS

*For a value of over \$58,432*



## 2024 REVENUE & EXPENSES

Revenue exceeded expenses by \$350,968\*

**Total Revenue:** Operating, \$521,820.15 + Rehab, \$768,742.90 = \$1,290,563

**Total Expenses:** Operating, \$429,958.39 + Rehab, \$509,637.00 = \$939,595

\*Revenue for Building Rehabilitation is earned over several years and expended when construction occurs, explaining large revenue surplus in some years that is restricted until a rehab phase begins.

### Volunteer In-Kind Hours

Hours: 1,826  
Value: \$58,432

## 2024 OPERATING REVENUE

The total revenue from operating grants, individual donations, city funding, county funding, and earned income is \$521,820.15.

Operating Grants: 30,999  
Individual Donations: \$194,247  
City of Leadville: \$140,000  
County: \$50,000  
State/Colorado Creates: \$8,500  
Earned Income: \$98,074

## 2024 EXPENSES

The total expenses for building rehabilitation and operations amount to \$939,595.

Building Rehabilitation: \$509,637  
Operations: \$429,958.39

# FRONT FACADE RESTORATION

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Last summer, scaffolding dominated the front facade of the Tabor, and much of the restoration work happened high above Harrison Avenue and behind the scenes.

Spectrum Contractors restored the ornamental tin cornice on the upper west side of the building, rehabilitated the brick and masonry, and reinforced the wooden framing.

The balcony also received some much-needed attention. Skilled restorers replaced much of the rail and support beams, and the original balusters were refreshed in Denver and restored to their location last fall.


Unforeseen circumstances necessitated emergency roof repairs last fall, which TOHPF funded via grant from Colorado's Department of Local Affairs (DOLA).

This incident catalyzed deep research and discussion about the state of our roof. Its age and condition dictates that we prioritize roof replacement before embarking on the full interior restoration. Our goal is to replace the roof in 2026.

In September, Matt Renoux of Denver's 9News came to Leadville to learn about our restoration efforts. He interviewed Tabor Opera House Executive Director, Sara Edwards, who was thrilled to share our story and progress with him.



# PLANNING OUR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



By now, we hope you've heard about our vision for a fully rehabilitated Opera House that can serve as a year-round cultural space and economic engine for Leadville community members, youth, and visitors.

Our board started small and strategic in 2016, working to raise funds for exterior renovation in three sequences, over six construction seasons. Our hope was to preserve the building envelope first, to protect the building from further wear and tear in our high mountain climate, and buy time for full interior renovation to expand access and use.

As we began the Exterior Phase 3 Construction in 2024, we realized it was time to start planning for the bigger future phases of interior rehab. We've always understood that we'd need to conduct a multi-year capital campaign to fundraise for full interior upgrades and rehabilitation. In 2024, we commissioned a consultant — Make Philanthropy Work — to conduct a thorough feasibility study for our future interior campaign. The study used surveys of our local community of patrons/supporters, interviews with regional funders/philanthropists, and research on the Tabor's administrative and fundraising practices to assess our readiness and feasibility for a successful interior campaign.

*The 6-month process concluded with a detailed report indicating we have a high likelihood of success for a sequenced campaign approach over the next 10+ years!*

The report recommended four near-term goals to enable our success with a campaign:

- 1) A campaign plan: teed up for 2025;
- 2) A customer database: teed up for research in 2025;
- 3) A capital campaign committee: teed up for 2025; and
- 4) Adding a dedicated fundraising staff member as soon as we can raise sufficient funds.

We look forward to fulfilling these goals, poising us to succeed in the next steps of our shared project!

# A YEAR OF DIVERSE PROGRAMMING

*From Into the Woods to Madams of Colorado to Mariachi*

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In partnership with Lyric Theatre of Leadville, the Tabor's 2024 season offered a diverse event lineup, bringing **17 engaging performances, films and events** to the Tabor stage. We'll highlight just a few of those programs here.

### **Into the Woods**

In July, a talented core of community members captivated audiences during a three-show run of the James Lapine and Stephen Sondheim timeless modern classic, *Into the Woods*. Lyric Theatre of Leadville produced the musical and Scott Carroll directed the all-local cast, which performed using backdrops from the Tabor Opera House historic scenery collection. The set used dates back to 1902, and had not been seen by the public in more than 30 years.

*Into the Woods* cast members included: Celesta Cairns, Devin Riggs, John Baker, Jude Hill, Luke Finken, Andrew Cummins, Troy Baker, Mae Finken, Sara Edwards, Sarah Bridge, Justyne Pereida, Merritt Baker, Mary Jelf, Donna Schaefer, Rodolfo Perez, Jen Sikoski, Kassandra Riquetti and Greg Labbe. Scott Carroll conducted a live orchestra, and Brett Finley, Todd Howe, Violet Hill, Kassandra Riquetti, Cleo Finken, and Ryden Hofer provided additional production support.



### **Madams of Central Colorado**

In August, the wildest women of the West spilled red-light district secrets of the old mining days for a rapt Boom Days audience. Tabor Opera House hosted the *Madams of Central Colorado* in partnership with Buena Vista Heritage. Patrons heard the fascinating history of Colorado's pioneering women, an engaging presentation that brought to life stories of the bold and enterprising women who ran brothels during the silver mining era.

### **Mariachi Los Correcaminos de MSU Denver Band**

In October, Tabor patrons heard the vibrant, soulful sounds of traditional Mexican music with the CSU Denver Mariachi Band. This event was hosted in partnership with Get Outdoors Leadville!, and 14 musicians brought energy and talent to a heartfelt performance on the Tabor stage.

### **Tabor Youth Collective: Mining for Meaning**

Since 2019, the Tabor Opera House has hosted the Tabor Youth Collective intensive theater workshop for youth. This summer, two charismatic teaching artists – T. Keely, Mary Kilburg – provided an enriching experience for local youth focused on theater, documentary storytelling, and performance, weaving elements of history, organic writing, poetry, music, and art. Students explored their creativity and personal stories, culminating with a performance on the Tabor stage for friends, family, and the public.



While so much effort and energy goes into each performance and program, much of the Tabor’s magic happens offstage. Every season, our dedicated team of docents provides engaging, educational tours, and last year, that team welcomed **over 1,300 tour guests**, who heard captivating stories of the Tabor’s rich history.

All told, last year’s programming attracted 5,000 visitors to the Tabor, and generated **over \$67,056 in tour and event ticket sales**.

Generous donations, grants, and sponsorships enabled us to provide **free events or complimentary ticket vouchers to over 1,400 guests**, giving everyone in the community the opportunity to experience the wonder of the Tabor Opera House.

# DEDICATED DONORS

*Tabor Opera House operations and rehab are made possible by our generous supporters*



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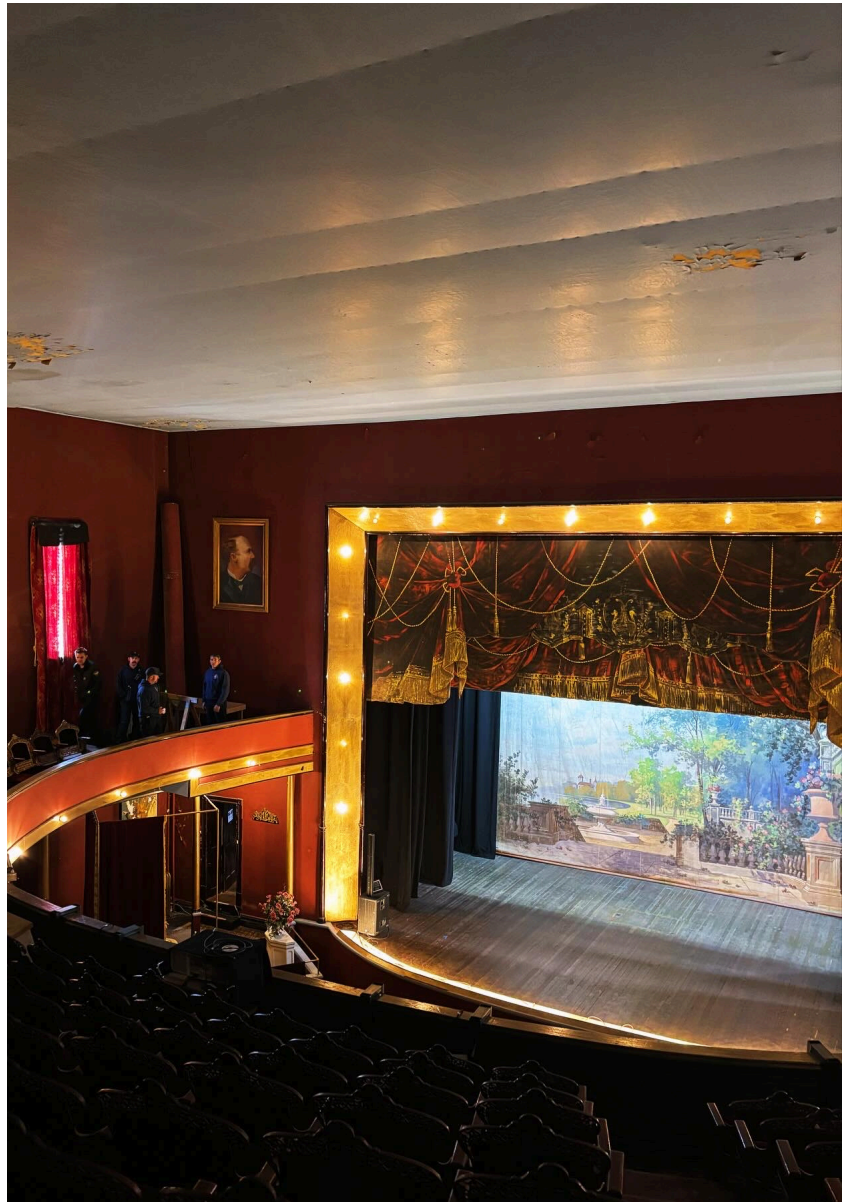


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*If you are a 2024 donor whose name was left off this report, please email Executive Director, Sara Edwards at [ed@taboroperahouse.org](mailto:ed@taboroperahouse.org) so we can make a correction. Thank you for your support!*



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