



Press Release: December 16, 2022

Bring Magic Back to Downtown Portland

Help Northwest Children's Theater create a one-of-a-kind youth arts center in the heart of our city

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*Our mission—
to educate, entertain
and enrich the lives
of young audiences*

**Founding Executive
Director**

Judy Kafoury

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Artistic Director

Sarah Jane Hardy

Northwest Children's Theater (NWCT) is moving to Broadway! After 30 years at their historic home at the NW Neighborhood Cultural Center, NWCT is converting the fourplex movie theater located at 1000 Broadway into a multi-venue arts center for youth.

In its history, NWCT has educated and entertained more than 1 million children, parents, grandparents, teachers, and students. Now is the moment to secure that impact for the next generation with the creation of their new home. Located in downtown Portland, across the street from the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, their new home — The Judy — will welcome families back to the heart of our city, grow NWCT's mission, and guarantee a magical, inviting space for every child to grow, dream, and develop essential life skills.

The Judy will feature a 240-seat theater, 120-seat black box, multiple classroom studios, and a new 190-seat family cinema for classic musicals, movie sing-a-longs, birthday parties, and more! With onsite maker space, improved concessions,

and an attached parking garage, this new home will allow NWCT to grow their programs while also providing generous rental and partnership opportunities. The Judy is projected to open by April of 2023.

Overall, this capital project calls for a budget of \$6.3 million. This includes all renovation costs, project staff, new equipment, and startup capital to launch the venue. NWCT is in a strong position to reach the finish line, with \$5.2 already raised. During the month of December, donors can double their impact: Tom and Chris Neilsen have generously issued a \$50,000 challenge match for NWCT's 1000 Broadway campaign. Between now and the end of the year, they will match any gift to the capital campaign, dollar for dollar, up to \$50,000 total.

If you want to be a part of revitalizing downtown Portland and help more families experience theater magic, you can support NWCT's campaign to create a one-of-a-kind youth arts center. Donate today at nwcts.org/move.

About Northwest Children's Theater

NWCT has been a pillar of Portland's creative community for 30 years, presenting colorful, engaging, magical plays that kindle a lifelong love of theater. Their doors are wide open to every Portland family, and children are encouraged to see the theater as their own, both on stage and behind the scenes. This means prioritizing the child's perspective and emphasizing representation onstage and off. It means creating a program where no one is ever turned away for lack of funds, with many programs offered free to all, so that economics plays no part in deciding a child's creative trajectory. In a normal year, NWCT offers multiple professional productions, a year-round theater school, hundreds of school partnerships and residencies, and a robust pre-professional training program.

NWCT is committed to the creation of original plays, with a focus on stories that eliminate harmful stereotypes and emphasize the joy of imagination and personal empowerment. The theater forms

cultural partnerships with other organizations at the creative foundation, so that every facet of creation is informed by multiple voices. NWCT's longest collaboration is with Anita Menon and the Anjali School of Dance, who have joined them to create and present three award-winning original plays.

NWCT's Theater School offers camps and classes on weekends and during all school breaks. Camps have a reputation for being challenging, creative, and fun, and have been called "laboratories for empathy" by parents. Advanced students build skills both onstage and backstage, and have the opportunity to perform alongside professional performers and designers who double as mentors. NWCT's top-notch instructors and hands-on approach earned two distinctions in 2022: *NW Kids'* magazine's readers awarded NWCT Best Performing Arts Summer Camp, and *PDX Parent* magazine's readers honored NWCT with Best Performing Arts Camps and Classes.

Release Date

December 16, 2022

End Date

December 31, 2022

Media Contact

To set up interviews or discuss other possibilities for stories, please contact:

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