

# **CFAC Beginning Renovation Update**

***2021-2022***

The Community Choir's long term plans include both interior and exterior projects. Current efforts are focused on installing universal access to the building and then on stabilizing the building's exterior and replacing the roof.

Nevada's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), through its Commission on Cultural Centers and Historic Preservation (CCCHP program, awarded the WPCCA a grant of \$229,000 in its 19-20 grant cycle to complete Phase One of installing universal access that complies with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) guidelines. Architect Mercedes de la Garza, working with NV SHPO, designed an elevator entrance in the northwest corner of the CFAC. Schell Creek Construction began work on installing the shaft, which has included upgrading the electrical connections, building an elevator machine room, increasing structural supports and creating an exterior entrance on Ninth Street. Work on this project was successfully completed by the end of July 2023.

The WPCCA's next project, which is scheduled to begin in October 2023, is the demolition of the three roofs presently on the CFAC, the abatement of the asbestos shingles which comprise the current top roof layer, and the construction of a new roof which meets the historic guidelines necessary for the building, since it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The roof design was completed by Encompass Studios in Las Vegas, and the roof replacement will be done by Fong Construction. Nevada Division of Environmental Protection and the EPA's Brownfields program are also involved in the abatement work as well as partially funding this project. Other funders of this project include White Pine County, the City of Ely, KGHM Mining, Calibre Mining, E.L. Cord Foundation, Bill Hohlt, and White Pine County Tourism and Recreation Board.

The WPCCA has also received funding from Nevada SHPO's CCCHP program in its 21-22 grant cycle to stabilize the foundation of the CFAC. K2 Engineering has completed the engineering design, and the choir hopes to begin work on this project later in the fall of 2023, partnering with Madole Masonry to complete the work.

Future projects necessary in the CFAC's renovation will include replacing the current (very leaky) kitchen roof, repairing the exterior masonry, completing Phase Two of the ADA access project (installation of the elevator and completing ADA requirements such as elevator access ramps), and working on seismic stabilization such as tying the floor and roof to the CFAC's walls.

And then...we can start on the interior renovations!! But that is a story for another day.