How will the restored theater be used?

The Historic Lansdowne Theater Corporation (HLTC) has secured the region’s leading independent concert promoter to provide the core of the programming in the theater. In addition to the nationally-known adult alternative, classic rock and singer songwriters performing at the theater it will be used by local performing arts, civic and educational organizations.

Why now?

The HLTC purchased the theater without debt, rallied significant support from the general public and elected officials, secured an experienced professional to program the theater and completed significant repairs. The decay of the building has been slowed, but much more needs to be done. The community has embraced the project and is eager for the theater to be restored and reopened.

How much will this cost?

Total cost: $16.5M
Total raised: $16M has been raised or potential finance agreements in place, awaiting completion of fundraising goal.

Why is this important?

The Lansdowne holds great promise for the immediate & regional communities.

Makes the arts more accessible to all ages in Delaware, Chester, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties.

Preserving one of the last great theaters from the 1920s in the Philadelphia region.

Economic development throughout Lansdowne’s central business district and eastern Delaware County.

1 THEATER OPENED
June 1927 with 1358 seat capacity (first movie shown was "Knockout Riley")

2 THEATER CLOSED
After 60 years, theater closed July 1987 (final movie “Beverly Hills Cop II")

3 THEATER REOPENS
With your continued support, the Historic Lansdowne Theater will gain new life!
The theater is individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places, designed in the Hollywood Moorish style by William H. Lee. Interior design was completed by Harry Brodsky.

The theater has received significant funding from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program ($4M), Delaware County allocation of American Rescue Plan Act Funds ($2M) and a Federal Earmark ($1.5M). The project has received generous support from the PA Historical and Museum Commission; PA Department of Community and Economic Development; National Trust for Historic Preservation; National Endowment for the Arts; and The Presser, Philadelphia Dapplecroft, Broughton Foundations; and Ethel Sergeant Clark Smith Memorial Fund. Hundreds of individual donations from across the region and country have given generously to restoration efforts. The project is partially financed with long-term debt and federal historic tax credits.

The architectural plans, completed by Atkin, Olshin, Schade are 100% complete and the regulatory approvals by myriad of public agencies have been secured.

The construction manager is in-place and is gathering the final bids for the project.

The project has been endorsed by U.S. Senators Casey and Toomey, U.S. Representative Scanlon, governors Rendell, Corbett and Wolf; and Delaware County Council, Borough Council of Lansdowne, Borough Council of East Lansdowne and William Penn School District.

The Project has also been endorsed by the Lansdowne Economic Development Corporation, Lansdowne and Business Association, Gladstone Civic Association, and Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia.

**Liquor License**

The Historic Lansdowne Theater Corporation, the non-profit owner of the Lansdowne Theater, gained the right to secure a “performing arts liquor license” through voter referendum. The referendum passed with 85% of the votes cast in favor.

**The community has embraced the project and is eager for the theater to be restored and reopened.**

**On the Screen**

The Lansdowne appeared in “Silver Linings Playbook (2012) and “Dying of the Light (2015.) The theater has also appeared in commercials for AMS’s FearFest and in Tokyo Television’s “Vacations in Abandoned Places.” The theater was featured on NBC’s TODAY show.

**Awards**

The Historic Lansdowne Theater Corporation received Historic Preservation Awards from the Delaware County Heritage Commission and Delaware County Council in recognition of the restoration of the theater’s marquee in 2013 and the outdoor lobby in 2016.