

Purpose and Scope of Alan Harvey Theater Project

On January 22, following a two-year process of investigation, concept design, and estimation of costs to bring the District's Alan Harvey Theater into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and other fire/life/safety codes, the Board of Education voted unanimously to submit a bond measure to the Piedmont voters. On June 3, 2014, voters will be asked to approve the sale of up to \$13.5 million in general obligation bonds to pay for these accessibility and other improvements.

AHT is deteriorating and overdue for improvements to bring it up to current accessibility codes, including access to the stage, seating, bathrooms, control room, and orchestra pit. Because of inaccessibility, the District may be required under federal law to close the theater. The accessibility work cannot be completed piecemeal – state and federal law require that all accessibility improvements be made at the same time.

In addition to upgrades that are *legally required*, the proposed project would include repairs that are *needed* to maintain and preserve the theater, and improvements *requested* for the instructional and performing arts programs. These requested improvements include a new classroom and new lighting and sound systems.

Some observers asked if the District could satisfy the ADA and other legally required work without the requested classroom addition. However, the classroom addition is the key to achieving accessibility, because the addition houses the elevator that makes the seating, stage and orchestra pit accessible. For this reason, the addition is inseparable from the other accessibility work.

It is not feasible to complete the legally required work without new theater seating, lighting and sound systems because the existing systems are deteriorating, expensive to maintain, and not compatible with newer components, and it would not be cost effective to try to remove, renovate, restore and return them to service.

The Board held three meetings to discuss the AHT project, on December 11, January 8, and January 22. These meetings may be viewed at <http://www.ci.piedmont.ca.us/video/>

More information about the AHT project may be found at <http://www.piedmont.k12.ca.us/news/alan-harvey-theater>

Questions and comments about the proposed AHT project may be sent to aswenson@piedmont.k12.ca.us.