

Windham Community Theater

Town Hall Gymnasium
Windham, ME 04062
(207) 776-8629

Community Theater

November 08, 2024

Overview

Windham Center Stage Theater (WCST) was in operation within the town hall for almost 50 seasons before ceasing its program. Theater is a big part of the Windham community, with many local actors, directors, designers, and writers of all ages participating in town adjacent productions. Our middle school and high schools operate grand programs that are celebrated by community members and students. It is important that we retain a community theater presence in our town to allow those who wish to participate, and those that wish to celebrate, theater and the performing arts.

Goals

1. **Continue offering local performances that include children's shows and adult shows, on a quarterly basis.**
2. Allow educational opportunities to younger community members, such as high school students, to play a part in the production of shows, not just acting.

2

3. Be a true community theater that places emphasis on Windham residents participating in the theater, and Windham residents attending performances.
4. Offer pre-middle school age children a local theater program to participate in, that is all inclusive and little or no cost.

Specifications

In response to your specific questions:

Milestones

1. Plan performances

- a. Board to plan a fall 2025 performance as the first return performance of the theater.
 - b. Board to plan 3-4 performances for a 2026 season.
2. Attract and retain current middle and high school students looking for consistent opportunities to help produce a show.
 3. Establish permanent board of all windham residents to oversee the operations of the theater and keep ongoing open dialogue with town office.
 4. Establish funding for theater that allows for most performances to be free of low cost to participate in and for the public to view and support.

Other:

The theater would like to retain full and exclusive access to the upstairs area of the gym. We would also like to continue having access to garage bay for set pieces storage. This would be important to ensure a successful program.

It would also be important to have access to the gym when available against other activity schedules, for both rehearsals and certainly performances, for low to no cost. The theater would then ensure those savings are passed onto participants and audience members.

I respectfully request that the town allow this new organization and board the opportunity to prove itself by the scheduled 2025 and 2026 performance schedule mentioned above. We can certainly agree to take this partnership one performance at a time and re evaluate any arrangement on an annual basis.

In the event the town determines our request should be rejected, I would then strongly encourage proactive outreach to area community theaters, such as Gorham Arts Alliance, Schoolhouse Arts, Cumberland County Children's Theater, and Crescendo School of performing Arts, to permanently offer any and all physical assets. The local schools may have use for the equipment also, particularly the set pieces, costumes and props.

Thank you for your open line of communication so far, and for your consideration in allowing theater to continue in the town hall location. Please contact Joe Gouzie with any questions @ 207-776-8629 or jgouzie@yahoo.com.