

ECPA PRESS BACKGROUND and FAQ's

ECPA stands for Elmhurst Center for Performing Arts

ECPA began as a grass-roots initiative among Elmhurst residents with varied interests/experience in theater, music, dance, and comedy. The organization registered as a not-for-profit 501(c)3 in April 2016.

ECPA Mission Statement:

ECPA, a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization, dedicated to building a center for theater, music, dance and comedy, where artists and patrons share their love of the performing arts.

Elmhurst Centre for Performing Arts (ECPA) has the primary goal of creating a vibrant theater complex in Elmhurst City Centre – a long-term investment for the community with strong ties to local businesses and residents.

ECPA vision for Performing Arts building:

- 50,000 square foot building will house a state-of-the-art performing arts center with theaters, office space, event/rehearsal rooms
- 550-seat auditorium theater utilizing state-of-the-art theater construction. Split seating with potential mezzanine level that can be blocked off for more intimate space
- 130-seat Blackbox (with movable seating and modular staging blocks)
- Versatile state-of-the-art acoustics plus expert sound and lighting technology
- Classrooms for educational purposes
- Vibrant “storefront” lobby space with café and bar, plus casual seating that can be cleared for impromptu lobby performances
- Box office, catering kitchen for special events, office and meeting space

ECPA backed by experience expertise:

- Jeff Budgell (Chairman of the board) is Principal Architect and Managing Member at Architects' Studio, based in Elmhurst. He also serves as Board President of Elmhurst City Center.
- Laura Michaud (Treasurer) is the Chairman of the Board and Co-founder of Stage 773, a large vibrant performance complex in the Belmont Theater District of Chicago. She is an Elmhurst business owner whose company assists family owned businesses through transitions and conflict management.
- Tom Marcucci (Board Member) is a lifelong resident of Elmhurst and its longest serving mayor. He was instrumental in Elmhurst's central business district's revitalization and continues to be as a board member of ECPA. Tom is also a business owner of Gonnella Bread.
- Doug Peterson (Board Member) is an Elmhurst based business owner and entrepreneur, whose companies include Chicago Records Management, Inc. and Tailgate. Doug has a long-standing passion for the arts and experience in performance and production.
- Rebecca Marianetti (Board Member) is the Choral Director and Theatre Director at York Community High School. An award-winning educator where most recently she received 2018 Best Direction of a Musical in Illinois from the Illinois High School Musical Theatre Awards and Best Musical Theatre Production in the state for Tuck Everlasting. She also serves on the board of *Spirito!*

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- Steering committee expertise includes professionals in the following industries: Performing Arts Management; Marketing/Communications; Publishing; Architecture/Engineering; Education and business.

FAQ's

The dollars and cents:

- ECPA's goal is to build a performing arts center with private and commercial funding from donors, grants and naming rights.
 - A cultivation study is underway, to determine an optimal funding plan.
 - An initial amount of fundraising is needed to procure the property after which a full capital campaign will be initiated.
- Johnson Consulting conducted a financial feasibility and economic impact study which indicated:
 - \$49.50 will be spent in the community for every theater goer.
 - Once up and running, ECPA will help generate \$7.8 Million in additional spending each year in the community.
 - There will be \$2.6 Million of increased earnings for additional employees needed in the community from 56 additional full-time jobs.
 - An additional \$668,000 in sales tax will be generated yearly.

The location:

- The location at 109-119 West First Avenue, Elmhurst is ideal due to its accessibility to public transportation, especially the Metra train and to the Elmhurst restaurants, bars and shops.
- All this allows the patron experience to be memorable and enjoyable.

Project Notes:

- This project is a long-term project.
- If the land is secured, ECPA will create plans, raise the appropriate amount of funds through a capital campaign, obtain grants and more, which will need to happen all before the project can begin. Given the long-term nature of the project and the goal of building management, the tenants residing in the current space will not be impacted by the plan for many years.

For more information, visit www.ecpa-elmhurst.org or contact Laura Michaud at 630-927-5555 or ecpaelmhurst@gmail.com. Board members are available for press interviews.