



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

People stand under paintings on the walls of the Liberty Theater. The paintings were cleaned but not retouched during the renovation.

Theater: 'Oh, my goodness This is so beautiful'

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An evening concert featured Ken Lavigne, a Canadian tenor, who brought his touring "The Road to Carnegie Hall" show.

Rosemary Baker-Monaghan, the Liberty's executive director, described the theater as the "community's treasure."

She said she has often heard stories from colleagues at League of Historic American Theatres conferences about cities with memorable theaters that had been torn down over the years.

"And Astoria doesn't have to say that," she said. "It could

have gone either way."

The theater's actual 90th anniversary is on April 4 and the 10th anniversary of the reopening is on June 10th.

"My favorite thing, if someone has never been in here, especially if they're from Portland, is to bring them in and take them up the ramp with minimum lights on and have them go into the balcony and sit down and then turn on the lights," Baker-Monaghan said.

"Because the reaction is always the same: 'Oh, my goodness. This is so beautiful. I had no idea there was something like this in Astoria.'"



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Tables are set up in the McTavish Room for a celebration dinner during the Liberty Theater open house event Saturday.



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People watch a puppet show performed by Jeanne Rich and Jackie Welborn, behind the curtain, and Doug Rich, during the Liberty Theater open house event Saturday.

Park: She hopes to find time for another volunteer project across another border

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The Portland chapter has active projects in Ecuador, Tanzania and Haiti. All the engineering is done in the United States, then travel teams go down to help build the projects.

Before traveling to Paufi, a small coastal village, the Portland chapter coordinates with its partner nongovernmental organization, Ecuador Tierra Viva, to assess the needs of the community.

The focus of the trip in No-

HOW TO HELP:

Those interested in donating to the Portland chapter of Engineers Without Borders can visit www.ewbportland.org/donate. To volunteer, visit at www.ewbportland.org/involvement

member was to help build a rainwater catchment.

Park said the village had no pure drinking water and relies on

fresh water being hauled in by trucks. Since the village is on the coast, much of the water available is undrinkable salt water.

The travel team worked with locals to revitalize an out-of-service 21,000-gallon water tank, built by a previous nonprofit. By the end of the two weeks, the group had developed an operational rainwater catchment now collecting water to help sustain the village during the dry season.

During her time in Ecuador, Park was amazed at how friendly everyone was to her and the

travel team. She especially noticed the hospitality while going door to door for an initial assessment on one of her first days in town.

"We went around house to house to know the needs of the community. It was the friendliest community I've ever been in in my life," Park said. "Everyone wanted to see us and chased us down to ask when we were coming to their house."

The locals invited Park and the team to the beach one day, which Park said was gorgeous.

Between swimming in the ocean and relaxing on the beach, Park soaked in the culture. She noticed how the locals dug out canoes to fish or went into the forest with machetes and came back with food. Much of the travel in Paufi is done on the back of farm trucks on bumpy roads.

Overall, Park said, the experience was perfect for her by mixing her love of travel with her passion for environmental engineering. She also learned from other engineers in the group.

Now back home in Rainier, Park is busy with post-assessment paperwork from the trip. She meets every other week with the Portland chapter, which she joined in June.

Soon, she hopes to find time for another volunteer project across another border.

"I would like to go again. It's a matter of when we get the next project planned," Park said. "We are doing post-assessment, then the next phase is figuring out the next project."

— Kyle Spurr

Teens: Total project budget was \$12,000

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and members from the city of Astoria, Clatsop County, nonprofits, the downtown association and the community at large.

Over a five-year period, the program brings together a diverse cross-section of the community to teach leadership skills. Three separate cohorts of about 30 people each within that five-year period take classes and raise at least \$5,000 for a community project, in exchange for a \$5,000 match from the Ford Family Foundation.

A first cohort in 2010 installed the disc golf course near the Clatsop County Fairgrounds. The second in 2012 used their fundraiser for work on the disc golf course.

Charlene Larsen, a local recruiter for the leadership program, said an initial idea for the third cohort in 2014 was to increase the nine-hole disc golf course to 18, making it a draw for regional tournaments. But Larsen said the teen members of this cohort spoke up, wanting a space of their own.

"There really aren't a lot of areas where they can go and hang out, and not have to spend money," said Madeline Ishikawa, a member of the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce (CREST) and the leadership program.



EDWARD STRATTON — The Daily Astorian

Christine Tapales, left, and Morgan Postlewait, juniors from Warrenton and Astoria high schools, respectively, helped develop the new teen center at the Astoria Recreation Center.

The city's previous teen center was hidden in the basement of St. Mary Star of the Sea. Ishikawa said it gave the impression that teens aren't a high priority.

Once it had decided to pursue improving the teen center, 2014's cohort created a raffle for prizes including a cruise with Columbia River Eco Tours and stays at the

Cannery Pier Hotel. They raised \$3,500 through the raffle. In-kind donations and donated labor helped reach the \$5,000 mark, said Astoria Parks and Recreation Director Angela Cosby, a member of the cohort. The total project budget was \$12,000.

Jess Hampton, a coordinator with Rural Development Initiatives overseeing



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In one of her first ribbon cuttings as mayor, Arline LaMear helps open the teen center Friday evening at the new Astoria Recreation Center, backed by members of the coalition that worked together to raise funds and secure a grant from the Ford Family Foundation to develop the center.

the leadership program in northwest Oregon, said although Astoria's five-year cycle in the program has come to an end, it has an opportunity to reapply.

Cosby's department now takes over the teen center at 1555 W. Marine Drive, which is free and meant for youth in middle and high school. It is open from when school is out for the day to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, but is closed on weekends.

For more information, visit www.astoriaparks.com



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Members of the wide-ranging coalition behind the new teen center in the Astoria Recreation Center scrunched in between its foosball table and gaming area Friday for a photo.