



MEET DENNIS MORGAN, PRESIDENT OF THE DALLES CIVIC AUDITORIUM BOARD

Dennis Morgan has had a connection to the Civic Auditorium for most of his life. In high school, he was a member of the Rec Council, a group of students who booked entertainment, managed events, and overall acted as a conduit to the City of The Dalles, who owned the building at the time. In 1995, he joined the Board of the Civic Auditorium Historic Preservation

Committee, founded in 1991, and has served on the board since.

Over the past 29 years he has seen the evolution from a “working board” to a managing board and witnessed a lot of changes from the “decrepit” condition of the building to almost the “Grand Old Dame” she was intended to be.

Dennis says the building and its history are near and dear to him and feels he wants to see the Civic return to its former glory. Getting the theater operational and fully functioning is the current priority and thanks to granting entities and the participation of The Dalles community, that goal is nearing fruition. Of course, a large and historic grand old dame requires a lot of love and attention in the form of continuing upkeep and maintenance. Dennis’s knowledge of construction and his connections in the local building trades is often sought out by the rest of the Board and employees as building issues arise.

Dennis has had the great satisfaction of seeing the progress and restoration of the building from nearly torn down, to seeing the Civic being used as the community asset it was meant to be. Watching the enjoyment of the Ballroom, Community Room and Fireside Room and Theatre, it’s what keeps him on the board. When asked what he would say to anyone considering joining the board, “it’s an opportunity to join a group of dedicated people and becoming a part of the Civic legacy”.

The theatre and the Gerald Richmond stage are dear to Dennis’s heart, both because of his many years with The Theatre Company of The Dalles and his

cherished friendship with Gerald, who was the lifeblood of the building, and their shared love of the Civic.

Dennis is an active member of Kiwanis and Rotary as well as many other community groups.

He has two sons and a daughter and 8 grandchildren who are the light of his life. He and his wonderful wife, Shannon, love the outdoors and spend as much time as their busy lives allow, travelling, rafting, bicycling, hiking, camping, skiing, and just being in the “great outdoors”.

His greatest wish is to “pass the baton” to the next generation of people who value the Civic Auditorium as much as he does and to see it fully functional and self-sustaining.