



January 28, 2026
Arena Theater Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order @ 6:01pm

2. Roll Call

Present: Lisa Joakimides, Michael Beattie, Mark Vanderwoude, Paul Andersen, Tim McMurtry, Steve McLaughlin, Fer Dumpert

Via Zoom: Blake More

Absent: Tracy DuPont

Staff: Shauna Boyd & Dagmar Moseley

Guest: Lauren Sinnott

3. Privilege of the Floor/Correspondence

Lauren Sinnott recounted her experience creating large-scale community history murals, including a block-long mural in Ukiah featuring over 200 portraits, and described a similar concept for the theater. She proposed a series of at least ten marine-grade plywood panels installed along the lower portion of the north wall, depicting key themes from Point Arena and the broader South Coast region. The project would involve community outreach, consultation with local historical sources, and public input before finalizing designs. Although she did not receive the grant funding she had applied for this project, Lauren indicated she would be glad to donate her time and potentially have materials donated to offset any out-of-pocket costs. Sketches would be developed and presented to the Board for review and approval before painting begins.

Board members asked questions regarding subject matter, design process, attachment methods, weather protection, and maintenance. The artist explained that panels would be properly primed, sealed, and coated for durability and that installation methods would be carefully considered to protect the building. Members expressed general support for the concept, noting the importance of thoughtful installation and continued Board review as the project develops. Several members voiced enthusiasm for a historically focused mural that reflects the theater and the region.

- 4. Approval of the Agenda** Steve moved approval, Michael seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- 5. Approval of the Minutes of the December 3, 2025 Board Meeting** Mark moved approval, Tim seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- 6. President's Report** Lisa noted that plans are progressing toward holding a Board retreat, tentatively rescheduled to March. She emphasized the importance of moving forward with the retreat given the strength of the current Board and the need to engage in long-term planning. Members were thanked for their flexibility in adjusting schedules to potentially meet on Sunday, March 8. The President encouraged Board members to begin thinking about their vision and goals for the theater in preparation for the retreat.
- 7. Secretary Report** Nothing to report

8. Treasurer's Report Mark reported that for the month of December, the Theater showed a net gain of \$10,108, compared to \$9,340 in December of the previous fiscal year. On a year-to-date basis through December, the Theater reported a net gain of \$16,374 for the first eight months of the fiscal year, compared to \$7,763 for the same period in the prior year. The Treasurer then opened the floor for questions.

9. Standing Committee Reports

a. Membership/ Fund Development Lisa noted that membership remains strong, with 312 members representing 502 memberships, reflecting solid community support. A discussion was held regarding potential membership dues increases for the first time in many years; however, all the board directors agreed that a significant increase could limit financial accessibility for theater members during this challenging economic period, while implementing only a modest increase would generate minimal additional revenue, which wouldn't make the additional costs of the change worthwhile. Therefore, no changes to the membership structure were recommended. The Fall/Winter fundraising letter generated \$8,490 so far, with \$1,107 in printing costs. The Annual Membership Meeting and Board Election will be held April 29 at 6:00 p.m., with candidate statements due March 31. A grant application for up to \$6,000 was submitted to the Community Foundation for light board upgrades. Michael also reported the discovery of approximately 200 Dan Hicks and the Hot Licks posters, including about 100 signed copies. The Board discussed selling select posters as a fundraiser, with Blake offering to coordinate sales; the posters will be stored securely while the next steps are determined.

b. Programming

Cinema Dagmar reported that *Hamnet* will begin shortly, followed by *A Private Life*, with February screenings including *Dead Man's Wire*, *Arco* and *Wuthering Heights*. Attendance data reviewed at the January 12 Cinema Committee meeting confirmed that Fridays remain the strongest night. Adjusted pricing on other days has not significantly increased attendance, and the Committee will continue monitoring trends. The Board discussed the possibility of screening *Sinners*, noting distribution limitations for small theaters. A one-night screening of a major award winner is being considered, subject to availability and cost. A tentative March 7 screening of *The Last Class* is in development which will include a virtual Q & A with the documentary's executive producer after the showing. It will be a 50/50 box office split and will have a sponsor.

Film Festival Shauna reported that we are working on creating a special encore screening of selected local short films from the past three years as a possible fundraiser, with scheduling options under consideration.

Live Shauna reported a brief pause in live performances. The next show is February 28 featuring Peter Antoniou, with strong advance sales (approximately 113 tickets sold) and an expected sellout. Attendance reflects both local and out-of-area audiences. March performances include

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Bella Rayne on March 14 to launch the Blues on the Coast series and Burning Down the House playing on March 28 with Steven Bates as the opening band. Four of the five Blues shows are already booked, with additional summer programming under discussion. A community Talent Show is planned for May 2, with Blake serving as emcee.

Telecasts A recent screening of *Life of Pi* broke even. The Theater is now working directly with NT Live for future telecasts.

Publicity No report.

Film Club Steve reported that the Film Club has selected its last six films, which began with Rear Window and will continue in February with its "Breakfast series," *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, followed by *The Breakfast Club*.

- c. **Personnel** Lisa reported that the Theater implemented its first Paid Time Off (PTO) program last year, with total usage coming in approximately 175 hours under projections. While the program had been estimated to cost approximately \$4,500, actual expenses totaled \$4,036 for all staff combined. Usage varied among staff members. Staff expressed appreciation to the Board for approving the PTO program, noting that it provided meaningful support for personal and family needs, and the Board reaffirmed its appreciation for Theater staff and their work. It was also noted that the Personnel Committee remains available to address any personnel-related matters as needed.
- d. **Facilities** Tim reported that the replacement of light sockets in the marquee is scheduled. Additional solar-powered night lights have been installed along the railing and at the rear corners of the building to enhance exterior lighting, and routine weed whacking of the parking lot area has started to occur monthly. General maintenance efforts are ongoing, with plans for an annual spring cleaning in April. It was also noted that some exterior light bulbs above the front entrance are currently out and will need replacement. Overall, the facility was reported to be in good condition.

Old Business

- 10. **Board Retreat Dates & Details** The Board discussed plans for the upcoming Board Retreat. After reviewing availability, members agreed to hold the retreat on Sunday, March 8, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Coast Guard House. The shorter timeframe was preferred to maintain focus and energy. Lunch will likely include deli sandwiches ordered in advance, which will allow us to accommodate any dietary needs. It was agreed that the existing Strategic Plan will be distributed in advance and used as a framework for discussion. Board members will assist in organizing the agenda, with the goal of engaging participants across key focus areas, including standing committees. The retreat will function as a working strategic planning session for the Theater's next several years.

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11. Cost to Repair Additional Epson Projector – Mark reported that our broken projector has been replaced with a refurbished Epson projector that carries a three-year warranty. The failed projector was sent in for evaluation, and the estimated cost to repair it is approximately \$1,700 due to a failed optical board. Additional information is pending regarding part availability, repair timeline, and potential warranty coverage on the repaired unit. Board members discussed the value of repairing the projector to serve as a backup unit, noting that a new projector costs approximately \$8,000 and the recently purchased refurbished unit cost approximately \$3,500. It was suggested that alternative parts pricing be explored and that further details be obtained before making a final decision. The possibility of seeking support from major donors to offset repair costs was also mentioned.

New Business

12. Finance Committee Recommendation, Motion & Vote – Mark noted that the Finance Committee presented preliminary concerns regarding ongoing cinema losses and discussed a proposal to reduce first-run film screenings from four nights per week to three nights per week. Year-to-date losses through December total approximately \$16,651, raising concerns about long-term sustainability. The Committee indicated that labor and film rental costs are the primary drivers of savings under the proposed reduction. It was noted that earlier in the fiscal year, the Board had agreed to test reduced showings during selected low-volume months; however, the current proposal would extend the three-night schedule more broadly, potentially beginning as early as February and continuing into the next fiscal year. Questions were raised regarding impacts on film booking timelines, distributor requirements for weekend showings, audience attendance patterns, and overall business model considerations. Staff emphasized that film availability and booking windows are variable and influenced by national distribution trends.

Board members expressed differing perspectives, including the importance of maintaining access to first-run films for the community, the unpredictability of attendance shifts when reducing showings, and the need to evaluate the financial impact carefully. It was also noted that fundraising efforts and broader strategic planning should be part of the overall solution. Given the absence of a full Board and the complexity of the issue, discussion concluded with agreement to table the matter until the next meeting for further review and potential action.

13. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm. Next meeting is February 28, 2026 at 6:00pm.

Board Report

Financial Report Fiscal Year

Dec 25

Dec 24

CATEGORY	INCOME	EXPENSES	NET	NET
EVENTS	\$11,025	-\$14,532	-\$3,507	-\$1,367
OPERATIONS	\$20,121	-\$6,506	\$13,615	\$10,707
TOTAL	\$31,146	-\$21,038	\$10,108	\$9,340

Included in Events: 2025

Cinema = -\$4,852

Nite/Cult = \$254

Film Club = \$95

Opera = \$553

Produced = \$453

Exhibits on Screen = 0

NT Live = -\$12

Rentals = \$0

Film Festival = 0

Total = -\$3,509

Included in Events: 2024

Cinema = -\$1,302

Nite/Cult = -\$383

Film Club = -\$11

Opera = \$642

Produced = -\$369

Exhibits on Screen = \$92

NT Live = 0

Rentals = 0

Film Festival = -\$35

Total = -\$1,366

Board Report

Financial Report Fiscal Year

YTD thru Dec 25

YTD thru

Dec 24

CATEGORY	INCOME	EXPENSES	NET	NET
EVENTS	\$145,666	-\$138,825	\$6,841	\$4,615
OPERATIONS	\$59,975	-\$50,442	\$9,533	\$3,148
TOTAL	\$205,641	-\$189,267	\$16,374	\$7,763

Included in Events: 2025

Cinema = -\$16,651

Nite/Cult = \$1,420

Film Club = \$434

Opera = \$2,695

Produced = \$5,804

Exhibits on Film = 0

NT Live = \$109

Rentals = \$1,324

Film Festival = \$11,798

Totals = \$6,933

Included in Events: 2024

Cinema = -\$12,044

Nite/Cult = \$109

Film Club = -\$55

Opera = \$1,353

Produced = \$6,542

Exhibits on Film = -\$222

NT Live = -\$246

Rentals = \$571

Film Festival = \$8,822

Totals = \$4,830