



**March 25, 2026**  
**Arena Theater Board of Directors**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**1. Call to Order @ 6:02 pm**

**2. Roll Call**

**Present:** Lisa Joakimides, Michael Beattie, Mark Vanderwoude, Tim McMurtry, Steve McLaughlin

**Via Zoom:** Blake More, Paul Andersen

**Absent:** Fer Dumpert, Tracy DuPont

**Staff:** Shauna Boyd & Dagmar Moseley

**3. Privilege of the Floor/Correspondence**

**4. Approval of the Agenda** Steve moved approval, Michael seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**5. Approval of the Minutes of the February 25, 2026 Meeting** Approval tabled until April meeting.

**6. President's Report** Lisa remarked that she thought that the Board retreat/strategic planning session was very effective, generating lots of concepts that will benefit the theater going forward. She also extended appreciation for Shauna's efforts to create notes for the Board and all of the committees to use throughout the year. She mentioned that recent live events had been financially successful and very well attended, which was incredibly heartening. Lisa let the board know that she would be representing both Arena Theater and Lisa's Luscious Kitchen at an upcoming Career Day event at Point Arena High School on April 1 and invited them to join her. The President also provided an update on a potential shuttle service for evening events, following up on a suggestion from Mark; the new Senior Center Director, Brian, is receptive and will present the idea to his board. The concept, still exploratory, could include north/south routes and a fee-based service, with board discussion noting logistical considerations and potential modest attendance benefits.

**7. Secretary Report** Nothing to report

**8. Treasurer's Report** Mark reported that in February, net income was -\$7,100, approximately \$2,000 lower than the same month last year. Year-to-date results remain positive at \$5,800, compared to \$1,300 at this point last year. Cinema operations continue to project a year-end loss of approximately \$23,000, indicating a need to consider potential incentives or adjustments. February cinema performance improved compared to February of last year.

**9. Standing Committee Reports**

**a. Membership/Fund Development** Steve reported that total membership increased to 491 at the end of February, up from 441 the previous year. Research indicates a positive trend, with approximately three times as many members upgrading their membership levels as

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downgrading. Preparations are underway for the annual meeting, with a March 31 deadline for candidate statements; sufficient candidates are expected to fill all board positions. Voting will close at 7:30 p.m. during the meeting on April 29, with both in-person and online votes counted. Planning is underway for the April 18 Cocktails & Casablanca fundraiser, featuring cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and a film screening. Michael will oversee bar operations, with additional volunteer support offered. Donations of beverages, food & supplies are being coordinated, and a raffle (approximately \$5 per ticket) will be held featuring a donated jewelry prize. Attendance logistics, ticketing (including credit card capability), and event timing were discussed, along with possible adjustments based on expected turnout. Additional ideas included enhanced entry presentation (e.g., carpet runner) and coordination with partners for future events.

**b. Programming**

**Cinema** Dagmar discussed ongoing challenges with cinema attendance, noting that even popular categories such as children's films are not consistently drawing audiences. Contributing factors include timing (audiences seeking films immediately upon release), mixed reviews, and limited interest in certain titles. Despite this, attendance remains steady overall. The upcoming schedule includes the Oscar-nominated animated short films beginning March 27, with three showings (reduced from four). It was noted that two of these shorts were previously featured at our 2025 short film festival. Additional programming will include EPIC (Elvis), a Pixar children's film (Hoppers), Project Hail Mary, and a potential two-week run of a Michael Jackson feature.

The recent screening of *The Last Class* performed well financially, generating approximately \$201 in profit with 97 attendees and a 50/50 revenue split. A promotional "golden ticket" initiative was implemented for the local schools, resulting in four students from three different schools attending the documentary for free. A planned Q&A speaker was unable to attend due to a medical emergency; however, attendees participated in an active discussion. The Board noted strong community engagement and overall positive reception of the event.

The Cult Classics summer schedule is in development, with final selections still pending. *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* is confirmed for June and *Repo Man* for July; August remains undecided. A previously anticipated title (*Endless Summer*) is no longer available, and *Point Break* is being considered as an alternative.

**Film Festival** Film Festival submissions are now open on Film Freeway, earlier than in past years to allow additional outreach time. No submissions have been received yet. Annelise is developing a simplified logo based on last year's lighthouse image for use on promotional materials. Planning is underway, with a meeting scheduled next week as preparations begin to ramp up.

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**Live** Recent live events, including the psychic comedian Peter Antoniou(226/\$1,913) and Bella Rayne, the opening act for the Blues on the Coast series (190/\$1,726), were successful, profitable and well attended; each show drawing a strong, diverse audience. Upcoming programming includes Burning Down the House, with 44 tickets already sold, our annual Talent Show on May 9 (rescheduled from May 2), and the Rose City Band on May 13. Additional programming is light until May. Looking ahead, another psychic comedian who incorporates tarot has been booked for October. Promotional efforts are ongoing. The Board discussed developing regional booking partnerships to attract touring acts.

**Telecasts** Recent opera programming drew approximately 75 attendees. Two additional opera screenings are scheduled in May, concluding the current season, which has been reduced to eight performances annually. A National Theatre Live screening (*The Fifth Step*) is scheduled for April 11.

**Publicity** No report

**Film Club** Film Club will conclude its 2025–26 season on April 13 with a screening of Easy Rider. Recent screenings—including Rebel Without a Cause, The Breakfast Club, and Saturday Night Fever—prompted strong audience discussions. It was noted that Saturday Night Fever (R-rated version) was more serious and socially grounded than expected, contributing to meaningful post-film dialogue. Overall, the series was well received, and there is growing interest from participants in suggesting films for the next season. Plans are underway to continue showcasing classic films in a theater setting.

- c. **Personnel** Blake raised the idea of organizing a staff appreciation event and asked whether it should be scheduled before or after upcoming board elections. The Board discussed timing and capacity, noting April scheduling constraints and the need for broader planning. It was agreed that the event could be deferred and incorporated into larger follow-up discussions and action items from the recent board retreat. Brainstorming and ideas are encouraged, with further consideration to take place at a future meeting.
- d. **Facilities** Tim provided an update on recent upgrades, including installation of a new dimmer switch, repair of a damaged column, and cleaning of front windows. A shipment of termite treatment was received, with application planned, and rodent-proofing work was completed in parts of the basement. Upcoming work includes repainting the rear stairs. The condition of theater seating was also discussed; while frames remain sound, cushions are worn and options for refurbishment or replacement, including local upholstery services, are being explored.

**10. Old Business**

- A. **Board Retreat Follow-Up:** Shauna noted that the strategic planning notes were distributed via email with the agenda and are available in hard copy upon request. Key next steps identified at the retreat include clarifying roles and responsibilities, refining committee structures, and

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developing two to five prioritized action items for the coming year with measurable goals and accountability. Additional ideas discussed include sharing retreat outcomes through social media and the theater's emails, and potentially producing an annual report for broader communication with our membership base. It was suggested that committees use the next few months to define their action items and begin implementation, with regular progress updates incorporated into future meetings. The upcoming Annual Membership Meeting will include a general presentation on retreat outcomes, possibly incorporating updates into the President and committee reports.

- B. Finance Committee Cinema Showing Recommendation:** The Board discussed a motion to reduce cinema screenings to three per week for the upcoming fiscal year. The proposed change is intended to address ongoing cinema losses, with estimates suggesting a potential reduction in annual losses. Members discussed maintaining limited flexibility for occasional additional screenings if warranted by strong audience demand, while emphasizing the importance of consistent scheduling and clear communication to patrons. It was noted that consolidating audiences into fewer showings may improve attendance per screening. No formal vote was taken due to absent members; the Board agreed to proceed with an email vote, with a 72-hour response window, to finalize an official motion.

**Email Motion (Cinema Reduction Vote):** Number of allowable Cinema first-run movie showings per week for the 26/27 fiscal year (May 1st, 2026 - April 30th, 2027).

*Via email on March 30, 2026, the Board voted 9-0 to reduce cinema showings to three days per week*

- C. Mural Discussion:** The Board discussed a proposal to create a mural on the exterior wall of the theater. Members expressed a range of views, including concerns about alignment with the Theater's mission, the appropriateness of the building as a canvas for general artwork, and the desire for broader community input. Several members indicated a preference for a more functional or theater-related design element, such as signage identifying the building, rather than a large-scale mural. A straw poll suggested limited support for proceeding with a mural as proposed.

**Email Motion (Large Wall Mural Vote):** Mural on the Arena Theater building green parking lot wall (A Mural being a Large Painting or Series of Paintings depicting the History of the Arena Theater as proposed by Lauren Sinnott)

*Via email on March 30, 2026, the Board voted 7-2 NOT to proceed with a large North wall mural.*

**(NOTE: 5 directors indicated interest in pursuing a smaller artistically rendered sign identifying Arena Theater)**

5 directors had mixed No/Yes or Yes/No votes with the following comments or suggestions:

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The 3 directors with No/Yes votes expressed interest in an artistic identifying sign for Arena Theater.

The 2 directors with Yes/No votes remained interested in the removable artistic panels telling the saga of Arena Theater and/or an artistically rendered sign identifying Arena Theater.

(Blake, Paul, Tracy, Fer, Lisa)

**Pertinent Comments made by the 5 Directors (in summation and in order as mentioned above)**

No but...Open to having an artistic sign-- approach a few artists for design submissions once we decide what we are looking for (Loves art, artistic touches on our local buildings always)

No but perhaps a Smaller sign, an addition that highlights the theater.... over by the NE panel near marquee

No but would like an artistically done sign that identifies the building as the Arena Theater or perhaps Welcome to the Arena Theater... not too large (not the whole wall)

Yes/No -- wished we had a more clear idea of Lauren's focus/design. Liked the idea of removable panels but didn't want a lot of human figures. Supports art and public art on buildings in general.

Yes/No -- like the concept of an artistic sign identifying the theater over by marquee, NE corner. Liked the idea of removeable panels delineating the saga/history of the theater

**11. Adjournment:** With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 pm

**Next meeting is the Annual Membership Meeting on April 29, 2026 at 6:00 pm.**

# Board Report

## Financial Report Fiscal Year

YTD thru Feb 26

YTD thru

Feb 25

CATEGORY	INCOME	EXPENSES	NET	NET
EVENTS	\$175,933	-\$168,994	\$6,939	\$2,798
OPERATIONS	\$66,450	-\$67,527	-\$1,077	- \$4,131
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$242,383</b>	<b>-\$236,521</b>	<b>\$5,862</b>	<b>-\$1,333</b>

### Included in Events: 2025

Cinema = -\$19,334

Nite/Cult = \$2,012

Film Club = \$967

Opera = \$3,519

Produced = \$6,475

Exhibits on Film = 0

NT Live = \$150

Rentals = \$1,420

Film Festival = \$11,648

Totals = \$6,857

### Included in Events: 2024

Cinema = -\$12,110

Nite/Cult = -\$93

Film Club = -\$228

Opera = \$2,190

Produced = \$4,377

Exhibits on Film = -\$433

NT Live = -\$219

Rentals = \$571

Film Festival = \$8,822

Totals = \$2,877

# Board Report

## Financial Report Fiscal Year

Feb 26

Feb 25

CATEGORY	INCOME	EXPENSES	NET	NET
EVENTS	\$15,839	-\$14,801	\$1,038	-\$3,416
OPERATIONS	\$3,067	-\$11,227	-\$8,160	-\$1,928
TOTAL	\$18,906	-\$26,028	-\$7,122	-\$5,344

### Included in Events: 2026

Cinema = -\$1,858

Nite/Cult = \$588

Film Club = \$438

Opera = \$0

Produced = -\$1,760

Exhibits on Screen = 0

NT Live = \$6

Rentals = \$116

Film Festival = 0

Total = \$1,038

### Included in Events: 2025

Cinema = -\$2,238

Nite/Cult = -\$712

Film Club = -\$78

Opera = \$0

Produced = -\$273

Exhibits on Screen = -\$140

NT Live = \$56

Rentals = 0

Film Festival = 0

Total = -\$3,415