



How We Got Here

As of Wednesday, July 2 Douglas County officially owns the Minden theater.

Commissioners approved the \$2.9 million purchase of Carson Valley Cinemas on Feb. 20 after the property owner said the theater would likely close this year.

On June 25 Douglas County commissioners approved a contract with the nonprofit Carson Valley Arts Council to operate the theaters for the next five years, with an additional three-year option.

The transition in ownership won't have any immediate effect on the theater's operation. It will be quite a seamless transition. The public is going to see the same people operating the cinema complex. There will be eight screens still running new release movies.

For the first year, there will not be a big change in the theater's operation until the arts council and the county have an opportunity to hire an architect and reaching out to the public to determine what residents would like to see in what will become a Cultural & Performing Arts Community Center.

What's Coming

Ultimately the design will likely include a stage that's probably four times larger than what exists at the CIVIC Hall, with a fixed seat performance hall designed for music, dance and theater. Each one of those disciplines requires different amenities backstage, including dressing rooms, green rooms, lighting and sound. All that will ultimately be included in the final design.

The cinema building exceeds 20,000 square feet, but until the public process begins, it is unknown how much of that will be devoted to the performance venue.

It is anticipated that there will be other forms of art that will be supported at this facility, whether it be gallery space, classroom space for the visual arts, and potentially offices for the arts council and some of their partners. The hope is that the future facility will meet the need for our local organizations that are looking for a place and to perhaps work with the Douglas County School District to provide a venue for their music and performing arts programs.

The theater was purchased using funds generated during the pandemic from transient occupancy taxes that are restricted to use for recreation and tourism.

Early Conceptual Design

