

## MEAFORD INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2023

2023 marks the 17th anniversary of the *Meaford Culture Foundation*, a **not-for-profit, independent, charitable organization dedicated to the preservation and advancement of arts and culture** in our community. Staffed entirely by volunteers, The Foundation raises funds that are allocated for improvements to *The Meaford Hall Arts and Cultural Centre* and to our *Community Outreach* programs which support a wide range of local arts and culture activities. *This includes all funds raised at the annual Meaford International Film Festival*. Since 2006, MCF has allocated over **\$654K** to Meaford Hall, and over **\$268K** towards local cultural initiatives!

### Meaford Hall Capital Investments

The Foundation has made good use of the funds it has raised – see the list starting on page 2 for funding invested in the Meaford Hall Arts and Cultural Centre. These improvements have helped the Municipal Staff, who run the Meaford Hall, to offer bigger, better and more diverse functions and activities. In addition, Meaford Hall plays a pivotal role as the venue for the clubs, groups, and organizations that benefit from our annual *Community Outreach* grants and bursaries. MCF recently committed 65K for a new film projector, tech equipment and outdoor sign. Full list is attached.

### Community Outreach Program

The Foundation has, over the past 14 years, been increasing funding for community arts and culture activities through our Community Outreach program. MCF strives to provide ongoing support to various Community cultural projects with an emphasis on youth. Your dollars and volunteer hours are helping youngsters of all ages accrue the real benefits associated with their exposure and involvement in arts and culture and to level the playing field for families in need. However, this year we are pleased to report that local children have been enthusiastically participating in our “after school” music program. We are once again contributing to the Municipal summer arts camps for youth. Additionally, we are in the process of creating scholarships for students pursuing a study in the Arts & Culture fields. Students from Meaford and the Town of Blue Mountains benefit from our Outreach Programs

### Donations and Volunteers

Our annual fundraising relies almost exclusively on the generous support of our patrons, our donors, sponsors and the many volunteers who simply embrace and want to support our community arts and culture. In addition to the tax receipt, for the community minded, there are some intangible benefits from donating or volunteering your time to the Foundation. These include a vibrant arts and culture community that instills community pride; attracts tourists and hence tourist dollars and makes Meaford a potentially attractive destination for people looking to visit, work and/or relocate.

### MIFF Sponsorship

Donations to the Foundation may also be in the form of a Meaford International Film Festival (MIFF) sponsorship. In recognition of your support, we offer as follows:

**\$1000** minimum MIFF one-night sponsorship

- Your logo on our web page, brochures, posters and Facebook,
- Two MIFF film tickets
- On screen recognition night of sponsorship
- Poster at After-Party entrance
- Invitation to be a ‘greeter’ post-film at the

**\$5000** minimum MIFF Festival four-night sponsorship.

- Your logo on our web page, brochures, posters and Facebook,
- Two Festival packages
- On Screen recognition-all four nights
- Poster at After-Party entrance
- Invitation to be a ‘greeter’ post-film, at the party

party tent entrance

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tent entrance

### **MEAFORD CULTURE FOUNDATION/MIFF VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

- Board Member for the Meaford Culture Foundation
- Volunteer for MIFF
- Help on Committees such as fundraising, marketing, website management and communications
- Work in supporting Community Initiatives in the Arts and Culture area
- Volunteer for many of the staff duties for one or more of our 4 nights providing Food services such as Food Lead or Servers for dinners before the play (5 required per dinner), making popcorn, counting ballots, organizing- 3 hour shift
- Volunteer Servers for After Party events each night at MIFF-3 per evening- upto 3 hours
- Entertainment at MCF events and MIFF
- Bartenders
- Escorts for our student Film Makers

### **Meaford Hall Investments made by the Meaford Culture Foundation up till 2022**

- A baby Grand Piano in the Opera House
- A state-of-the-art High Definition digital projector in the Opera House
- A new sprung floor for the Opera House Stage
- An upgraded sound system in the Opera House
- A fully serviced refreshment bar in the North Gallery
- New Drapes for both North and South Galleries with special UV protection to protect art.
- TV's throughout the Hall to monitor performances and inform patrons of upcoming events
- Contributions of 145,000 toward the renovation/installation of the 2017 Opera House balcony •
- \$30,000 towards live summer theatre at the Hall
- Blackout curtains and speaker system in the Opera House
- New projector, screen and assorted tech equipment including hearing assist software.
- New digital outdoor sign.

### **Examples of Community Outreach Initiatives Supported by the Meaford Culture Foundation**

- During COVID, MCF supplied school and arts supplies to low-income families so they could replicate at-home learning
- During COVID, MCF supported local musicians by paying their fees for online music performances at Meaford Hall and with Chris Scerri presents
- GBSS (now GBCS) music and drama programs, including GBSS Idol, GBSS Francophone Festival, Pursuits Film Festival
- GBSS (now GBCS) Senior Orchestra; professional CD recording for competition done in the Opera House
- Literary Festival including 'Gotta Keep Reading' together with the Meaford Library
- A John Muir Celebration at the Museum
- Community Amateur theatre – adult and youth
- Bursaries/subsidies for music and drama summer camps
- Free admission to theatre experiences for school children

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- Earth week Film and interactive discussion
- Youth Film and Theatre camps, Summer Art Camps
- Art Classes for Children on the Autism Spectrum
- Concerts featuring local musicians
- Meaford Dragons' sponsorship
- Art Exhibitions
- Northbound – music and media show about the Arctic
- Funding for a local student an up-and-coming singer, Emma Wright aged 15, to provide musical accompaniment for her performance at Boots & Heart Country Music Festival.
- Sponsor local singers to perform the National Anthem at the Knights of Meaford Home Games.
- Georgian Bay Story Slam
- Local competitive dance bursaries
- Sponsorship of the entertainment for the Meaford Christmas On The Bay Christmas Market
- \$10, 000 to Meaford Library for two literacy stations

*Students from Georgian Bay Community School, Beaver Valley Community School, Admiral Collingwood Elementary School, Home Schooling and First Nations have all had the opportunity to participate in all the youth focused activities listed above.*