



Mary Chilton DAR Foundation Awards Dorothy Davenport Grant to Help Restore Historic State Theatre's Third Floor

SIoux FALLS, S.D. – September 15, 2022 – The Mary Chilton Daughters of the American Revolution Foundation is pleased to announce the recipient of its \$50,000 Dorothy Day Davenport Grant Award is the Historic Sioux Falls State Theatre Restoration Project.

"Dorothy Day Davenport was a woman of great vision and had a love of her hometown of Sioux Falls," said Judy Goetz, Chapter Regent. "We are excited to be able to honor her legacy by supporting the State Theatre as it continues to be restored."

The State Theatre is a nonprofit cinema that reopened to the public in December 2020, after nearly 30 years of being closed. Restoration of the main floor and infrastructure upgrades throughout the building are complete. Many areas of the building require additional construction, including the third floor.

"After years of research and feedback from the community a plan has been put in place to focus fundraising efforts to refurbish the third floor," said Allison Weiland, executive director of the State Theatre.

The third floor will provide a unique and central location for private events and corporate meetings. The space, which originally included an apartment, will be transformed into a beautiful and unique rental area.

Renovations will include restoring the original terrazzo floor, plaster and ceiling repairs, electrical and heating and cooling needs. An elevator was installed in 2019 in anticipation of the reopening of the third floor.

"The DAR Foundation understands the importance of historic preservation and the impact these restored and operating facilities have in the community. We are honored to be selected for the Dorothy Day Davenport Grant," Weiland said. "The DAR Foundation's investment will lay the framework for use of the third floor and continue our mission to further restore the interior and legacy of the State."

Joe Batcheller, president of the State Theatre Company, stated: "The Sioux Falls State Theatre Company is grateful for this generous grant from the Mary Chilton DAR Foundation. Their support will be a catalyst for refurbishing the third floor into a micro cinema, adding to the depth of programming that the State Theatre can offer the community. We couldn't be more excited!"

About Dorothy Day Davenport and The Mary Chilton DAR Chapter and Mary Chilton DAR Foundation:

Dorothy Day Davenport was an original founding member in 1915 of the local Mary Chilton Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR), a charitable organization established in 1890 to promote historic preservation, education, and patriotism. Members have an ancestral connection to men and women who had a patriotic role in the American Revolution. Dorothy Day Davenport was a member of the Board of Directors of the Sioux Falls Argus Leader and served as its President. Mrs. Davenport's bequest to the Mary Chilton Chapter made possible the formation of its Foundation in 1987. The foundation administers grants, and awards funds provided by her gift.

Since 1987, the Mary Chilton DAR Foundation has made over 500 grant awards totaling in excess of \$3 million. These awards have made a significant impact through community and statewide initiatives, helping preserve South Dakota's pioneer spirit, and democratic past, honoring veterans, and expanding educational horizons. Grant awards have been made to non-profit and civic organization projects and for educational programs, first-year teacher grants, and scholarships in Sioux Falls and South Dakota.

About the State Theatre:

The State Theatre opened in 1926 as Sioux Falls' best, state-of-the-art vaudeville and movie house. The entertainment center was built by M.L. Finkelstein and I.H. Ruben, who owned dozens of theaters in cities across the Upper Midwest. Eventually, it became primarily a movie house that showed popular films. The Theatre closed in 1990. In 2005, ownership was passed to the State Theatre Company, which is a 501(c)(3) organization. The State Theatre Company continued efforts to save and restore the building. The historic structure at 316 S. Phillips Ave. is now poised to come back stronger than ever.

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