



LOS ANGELES COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT

2013

A Hollywood Hills Gem: Renovating the Ford Theaters



The historic John Anson Ford Theater received more than \$17 million dollars from L.A. County for its upgrades. Built in 1920, the 93-year-old theater features dance, music, and theatrics that truly reflect the full culture of L.A.'s diversity.

This Hollywood Hills gem held a party to kick off their new season, to commemorate 20 years of oversight by Los Angeles County, and to celebrate the completion of Phase I of the renovations. Laura Zucker of the L.A. County Arts Commission noted that this is "when the L.A. County Arts Commission started being responsible for programming the theaters"

Arthur Trowbridge of the Ford Amphitheatre described some of the renovations. "We just removed all of the seats. We removed the old waterproofing that was on the floor of the seats, because the floor of the seats here are actually the ceiling for all the rooms in the little theaters that are downstairs. So we re-waterproofed everything, brought in new seats, put in all new seats. We increased our ADA seating capacity."

County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, who helped make the renovation funds possible, was honored by the Ford with two new seats named after him and his wife Barbara.

The second Phase of renovations should begin by the end of 2013.

Laura Zucker of the L.A. County Arts Commission described what the second phase would entail. "Some of the things we know we want to do is really improve the soundwall at the back of the theater, so there's a little less ambient noise coming from the freeway. We need still to do a lot of work on the stage, and drainage of the hillsides. So there's a lot more exciting improvements to come."

The celebration also inaugurated a new signature series of concerts named after the retiring Supervisor. The Zev Yaroslavsky Signature Series featured two special concerts: the first was held on June 9, 2013, featuring Mandy Patinkin and the Pasadena Pops. The second was held on August 10, 2013, featuring Complexions Dance Company with L.A.'s own Lula Washington. All proceeds raised money for the Ford Theater Foundation. Laura Zucker of the L.A. County Arts Commission: "First one is June 9th, is Mandy Patinkin and the Pasadena Pops. And then August 10th, the Dance Company with Lula Washington,"

Adam Davis of the Ford Amphitheatre says, "We support local artists. And we would love to have you come down and support our local artist. These are professionals in Los Angeles that are doing their craft. Where else can you come sit out under the stars, in a really intimate setting—less than 1200 seats, to see world class artists that originated right here in Los Angeles. This is the best place to do it. Come bring a picnic, come bring your family—it's a lot of fun."