Request for Expressions of Interest

W.H. Leard Building/Souris Show Hall

April 8, 2021

The Souris Show Hall Foundation has received funding from the Department of Canadian Heritage as well as PEI Rural Development to conduct a feasibility study exploring the transformation of the Souris Show Hall and the adjacent historic W.H. Leard building into a Cultural Hub.

It is the vision of the Foundation that a Cultural Hub will serve the Town of Souris and the wider Eastern Kings region and contribute in a meaningful way to the revitalization of Souris as a cultural, tourist and economic centre.

Project Background:

The Souris Show Hall is one of the oldest continuous running theatre in PEI and was built in 1890 by the Benevolent Irish Society (BIS) and is currently owned by the Souris Show Hall Foundation, a registered charitable organization. Adjacent to the Souris Show Hall is the historic W.H. Leard building, located at 80 Main Street, Souris, PEI. The building has been vacant for many years and is in need of restoration. The Leard Building is a designated Heritage building which is important to the history of Souris and it is our hope to preserve its history while serving the needs of the community.

The study will explore the viability of combining the two buildings into a year-round cultural hub (serving music, dance, theatre, film, artisans, visual artists, entrepreneurs and complementary for-profit businesses) that would service the Eastern Kings region through community engagement sessions, detailed needs assessments from potential user groups, market research, architectural renderings, concept drawings, and cost estimates for repairs, renovations and equipment upgrades.

Further, we will identify a sustainable operating model as well as a governance model that serves the interests of the Town of Souris, the Eastern Kings Region, artists, user groups and the wider community as a whole.

We welcome any interested groups/organizations/businesses (including retail and food service) that have further interest in this opportunity to get in touch with us to share feedback and explore synergies as the project moves forward in the form of a non-binding Expression of Interest as outlined below.

For more information on the proposed project, please contact Katharine Roney, Chairperson, Souris Show Hall Foundation at: roneykathy@gmail.com

Expression of Interest Should Be Addressed To:

Souris Show Hall Foundation

Within the Expression of Interest, Please Indicate:

1) Name and Purpose of your organization/business and brief background on your organization/business.

2) Please include the full name, address, and appropriate contact information.

(A) IF YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED IN EVENT RENTALS / BOOKING FACILITIES and PERFORMANCE/REHEARSAL SPACES at the SOURIS SHOW HALL or the proposed LEARD BUILDING:

3) In your own words, detail the value you see in booking either venue for meetings, performances or events. You may wish to articulate how either venue responds appropriately to the need for not-for-profits arts and community space within Souris and the Eastern Kings Region.

4) Indicate if physical accessibility and or other forms of accessibility are deciding features for your organization when booking space for public meetings and events. You may wish to indicate why these features are important to your organization, or how either facility responds to the needs of the community by creating more accessible space.

5) If Applicable, please detail the following:

   (a) The type of performances presented (please be as specific as possible- outlining one-offs, festival programming, seasonal, etc.)

   (b) The organization's preferred seating capacity/arrangement for events or performances

   (c) The average number of dressing rooms required

   (d) What support facilities may be required

   (e) How many performances or events would be presented in a year

   (f) How many additional days in the performance space would be required for set-up/rehearsals etc.

   (g) The amount of rent the organization would be willing to pay for use of the performance space

   (h) The months during which the organization would be most likely to use the facility

(i) Would there be need / use for a box office facility?

(j) What is the average price of tickets?

(B) IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A TENANT of the proposed Leard Building:

6) In your own words, detail the value you see in having a location within the Leard Building.

7) Indicate your interest in accessing affordable administrative space, and access to shared facilities within the building. These shared facilities could include offices, board room/meeting rooms, co-working common space, administrative capabilities, WiFi, printer/copier, etc.

8) If possible, indicate the proposed square footage and facilities you have expressed interest in, and what amount you or your organization is willing to pay for that space.

9) The proposed timeframe for completion of the Leard Building is Spring 2022. Please indicate, if possible, if this suits your parameters for space acquisition.

(C) IF YOUR ORGANIZATION WANTS TO EXPRESS GENERAL SUPPORT FOR THE PROJECT:

10) From your organization's perspective, show how adding new arts and culture space will help Souris and Eastern Kings build a stronger arts community and creative economy.

Please submit your (non-binding) Expression of Interest to:

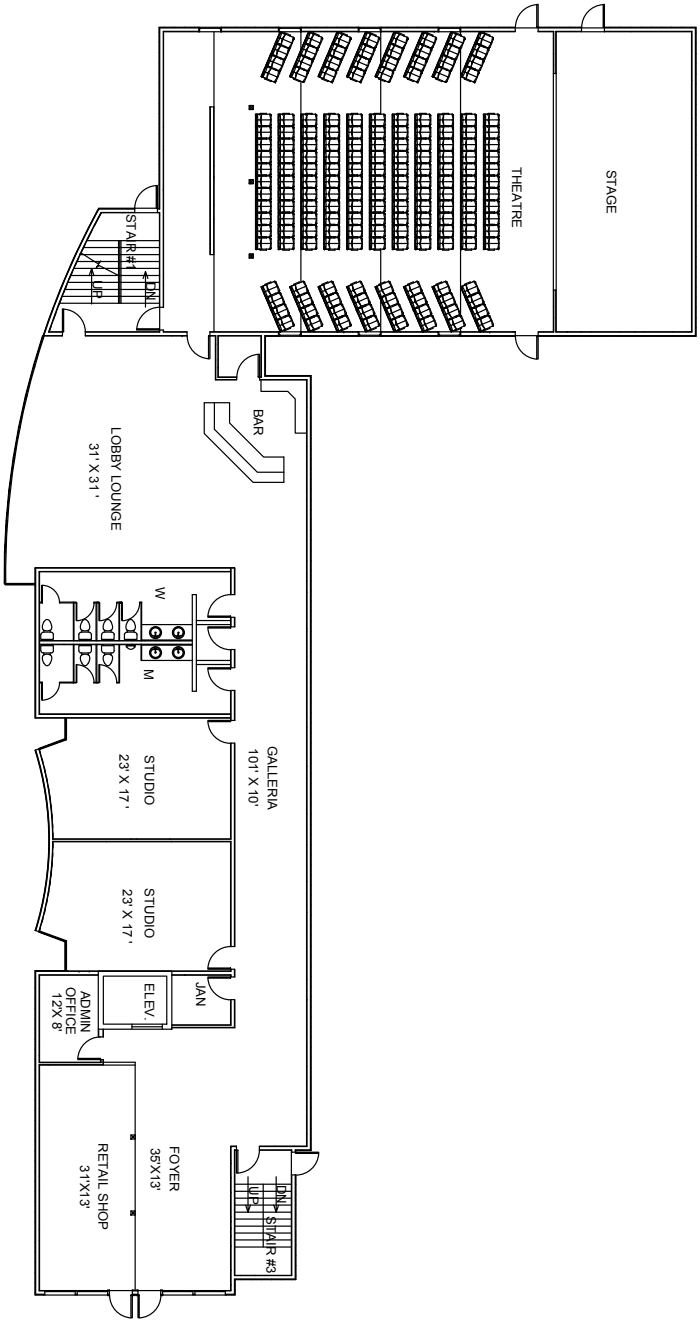
Kathy Roney, Chairperson, Souris Show Hall Foundation

roneykathy@gmail.com

12 Chadam Cres
Charlottetown
C1A 0H2

Please submit your Expression of Interest by May 10th, 2021. The attached floor plans and concept drawings are subject to change based on user/tenant feedback and funding and are meant to serve as a visual aid for potential user groups/tenants in preparing their Expressions of Interest.

Souris
Show Hall
Souris Show Hall



Project : SOURIS SHOW HALL	Scale AS NOTED	CHANDLER ARCHITECTURE DESIGN MATTERS	
	Date ____ __/ ____	92 Queen Street PO Box 550 Charlottetown Prince Edward Island, Canada C1A 7L1 Tel: 902 628 6656 Fax: 902 566 5234 www.chandlerarchitecture.com	
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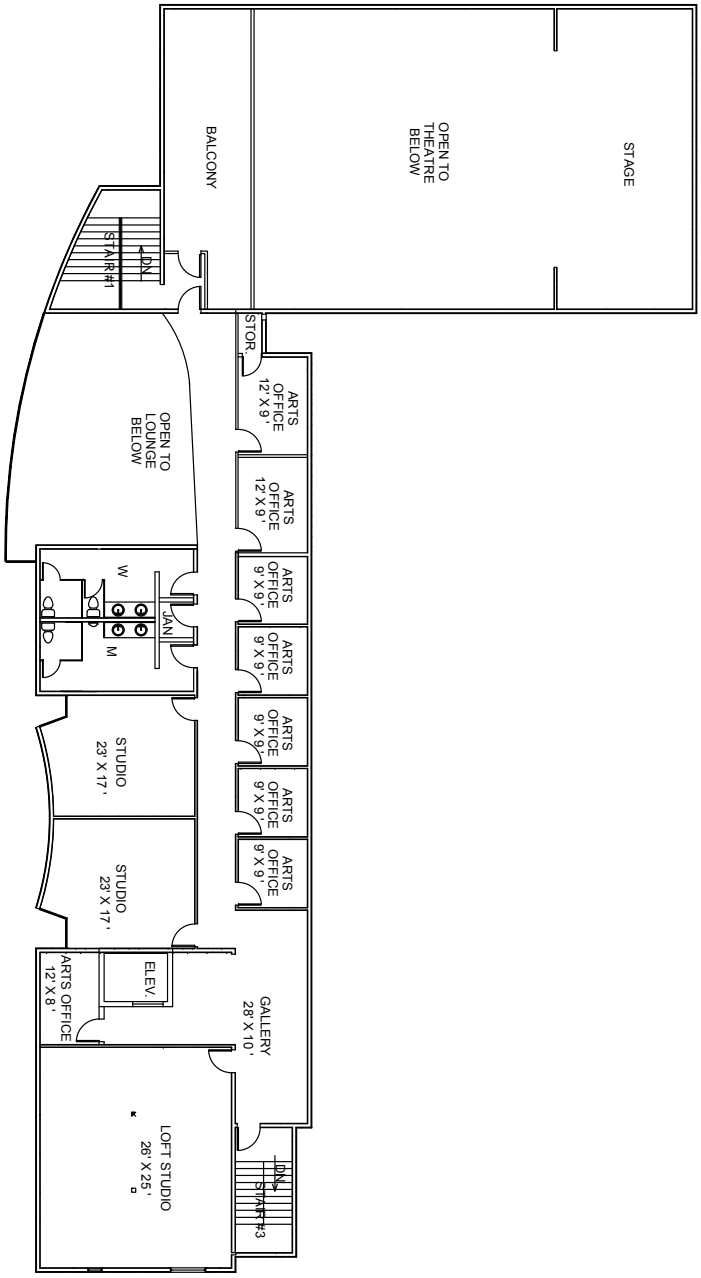

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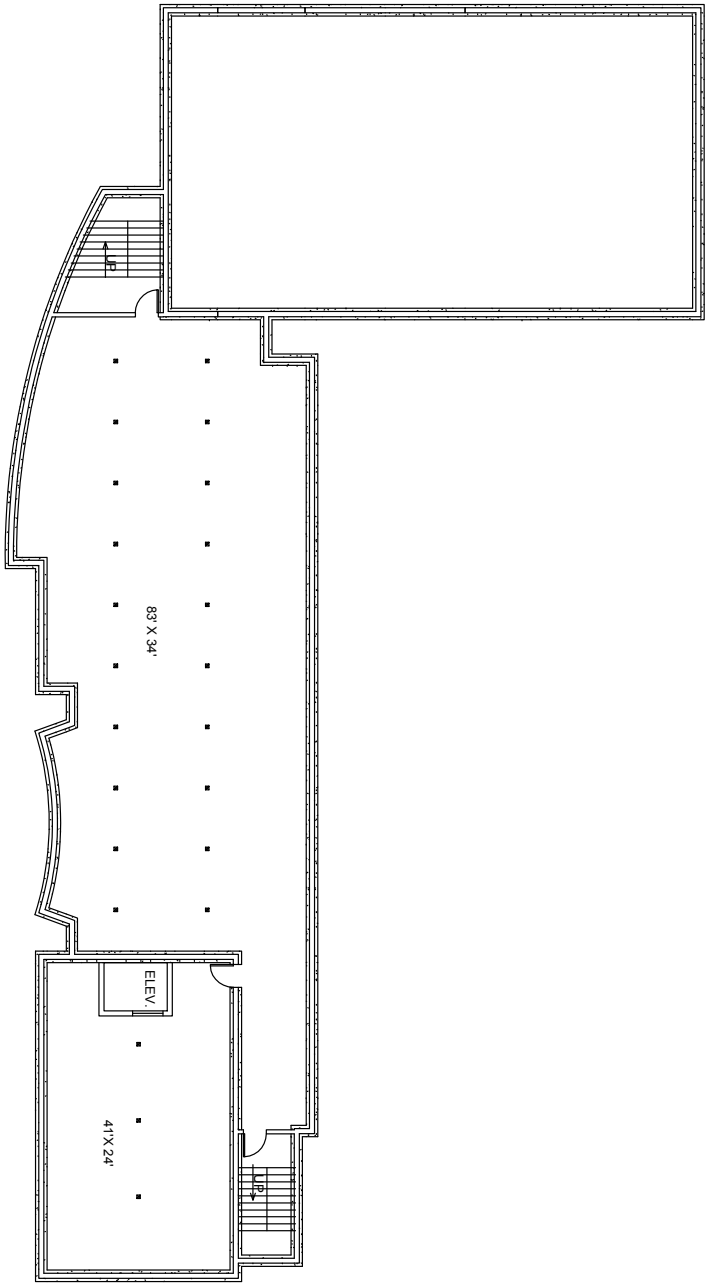

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	Date ____ __/ ____	92 Queen Street PO Box 550 Charlottetown Prince Edward Island, Canada C1A 7L1	
Sheet Title : _ _	Drn BY ___	Tel: 902 628 6258 Fax: 902 566 5214 www.chandlerarchitecture.com	
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