

PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT PAPER MILL'S NEXT ACT CAMPAIGN AND PLANS

WHY IS THERE A NEED TO RENOVATE PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE AND ITS CAMPUS?

Maintaining a more than 86-year-old theater comes with many challenges. The needs of our performers, students, as well as our patrons and staff, have outgrown our facility in its current state. When you look behind the doors, you will see years of wear and tear.

Faced with numerous facility challenges over the years, the Board of Trustees and the leadership of Paper Mill Playhouse identified areas for improvement. We are seeking solutions for:

- Aging equipment
- Crowded lobbies
- Insufficient restroom facilities
- Accessibility issues
- Out-of-date HVAC and mechanical systems
- Leaking roofs and flooding
- Dated interior finishes
- Cramped spaces for growing artistic and education programs
- Improved public spaces, additional meeting space, and increased capacity in the restaurant

Modernized facilities represent the evolution of Paper Mill Playhouse as an artistic and cultural center that will take us into the future.

A major focus of our project is ensuring that our facilities and entire campus are more accessible, safe, and welcoming to all.

Our current outdated infrastructure in the lobby of the theater constrains audience flow and creates accessibility issues for our Patrons. In the third phase of our project, new and updated facilities will dramatically improve accessibility, comfort, and the entire patron experience.

Overall site improvements are also being planned. While the number of parking spaces will remain the same, there will be significant upgrades to our parking lots including more accessible parking spaces, improved safety, and better lighting.

Updates to our courtyard, the brookside walk and retaining wall, and surrounding gardens, as well as expanded signage and new accessibility ramps and entryways, will enhance the overall patron experience as we welcome them to our campus.

The footprint of our current campus size will remain the same.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO PRESERVE AND CELEBRATE THE HISTORY OF PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE?

We are using our rich history as a catalyst for the future.

An iconic image to so many, the historic theater façade of the original theater will be rebuilt as the southern facing wall of the F. M. Kirby Carriage House, creating a gateway to the Paper Mill campus and our central courtyard.

A monument to our past, this new gateway will honor Paper Mill's legacy while creating a vibrant, welcoming, and accessible space for patrons and community to gather.

We are also looking for opportunities to preserve parts of the original building such as the fireplace mantel and a repurposing of the original hand-hewn brick.

WHAT IS THE RENOVATION TIMELINE, AND WILL THE THEATER SHUT DOWN DURING CONSTRUCTION?

Our renovations plans will take place in three phases over a four-year period, with a goal to be completed by the 2027-2028 season without interruption to our performance schedule.

Behind-the-scenes renovations began during the summer of 2024 and will continue to roll out over the course of the next year. In early summer 2025, at the close of our current season, the F.M. Kirby Carriage House renovations will begin, and be ready to reopen in the late fall of 2025. Lobby, public spaces and campus renovations will begin in Summer 2026 and take place over a 14-month period.

During this time, it is our intention to continue to produce a season of shows that will be scheduled in tandem with the construction schedule, maximizing the renovation work during the summer months.

<https://papermill.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Our-Plans.pdf>

HOW MUCH WILL THE RENOVATION COST?

Based on current designs by KSS Architects, Paper Mill Playhouse estimates the project will cost \$48.7 million.

The cost for each component of the project will include:

- Lobby and Community spaces renovation and expansion - \$27,279,946
- All back of house improvements - \$1,849,893
- FM Kirby Carriage House renovations & expansion - \$8,653,508
- Master Campus improvements and upgrades - \$5,182,367
- Future Education Center - \$5,828,600

WHAT IS YOUR CAMPAIGN GOAL, HOW MUCH HAS BEEN RAISED, AND WHAT ARE YOUR SOURCES OF SUPPORT?

The Next Act Campaign goal is \$48.7 million, with over \$39 million raised as of December 2025.

Current sources of revenue include:

- The State of New Jersey - \$5.375M
- Department of Community Affairs - \$4.5M
- The Township of Millburn - \$7M
- Private philanthropy - \$21.1M (includes: Paper Mill board of trustees, individuals, foundations, and corporations)

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE?

Philanthropy is key to reaching this historic \$48.7M goal.

All contributions are welcome and will make an impact. Contributions from individuals, families, businesses, and foundations to Paper Mill Playhouse's Next Act Campaign may be made in a variety of ways including:

- Multi-year pledges
- Checks and online contributions
- Gifts of stock and securities
- Donor-advised funds
- Foundations
- Planned gifts/blended gifts/complex assets

Pledges have the option to be paid over multiple years, if applicable. Naming opportunities are still available and currently start at \$25,000.

Additional giving opportunities include but are not limited:

- Seat Naming – available now, starting at \$750
- Pavers/Bricks – \$2,500
- Other opportunities - TBA

To learn more or to have a confidential conversation about contributing to the Next Act Campaign, please contact Chase Law, Director of Development at CLaw@PaperMill.org or 973.315.1660.