



Dear Paramount Subscribers and BOLD Patrons,

For over 15 years, the Aurora Civic Center Authority (ACCA) and the City of Aurora have worked hand-in-hand to help downtown Aurora thrive through the power of the performing arts. From Mayor Tom Weisner to Mayor Richard Irvin, and now under Mayor John Laesch, our partnership has remained strong—rooted in a shared belief that the arts are essential to Aurora’s identity, economy, and community.

Thanks to that shared vision—and your steadfast support—we’ve achieved more than we ever imagined. Paramount Theatre is now home to the largest Broadway subscription base in the nation, with more than 40,000 subscribers. We’ve opened two new venues, launched the Paramount School of the Arts, and transformed the cultural landscape of Aurora, with over 900 performances scheduled in 2025 alone. Every step has been driven by our mission: to make live theatre accessible to everyone, spark understanding across generations and cultures, and to be a catalyst for transformation.

Today, we face a serious challenge. The City of Aurora is grappling with widespread budgetary constraints. While final numbers are not yet confirmed, we’ve been advised that our previously communicated municipal support could be reduced by up to 65%. This change comes after we’ve already committed to programming and budgeting for 2026.

To help clarify: ACCA, as a municipal corporation, operates differently from many other theaters in the region. While we are grateful for federal COVID relief funds previously allocated to us—such as **American Rescue Plan Act** and **Shuttered Venue Operators** grant—we want to be transparent: ACCA has **not** received a direct operating subsidy from local property taxes.

Even as we’ve grown from a \$3.5 million organization in 2010 to a \$30 million one in 2025, we’ve remained committed to accessibility—keeping ticket prices affordable and offering “Pay What You Can” performances. While increasing prices might seem like an easy solution, we believe it would undermine the very foundation of inclusivity of our community that makes Paramount special.

Furthermore, as the stewards of ACCA/Paramount Theatre, we have a responsibility to protect the long-term health of our organization and our mission, to continue to effectuate positive change within the city in which we operate. In order to respond responsibly to these newly imposed financial realities, we must make difficult choices. We acknowledge the gravity of these difficult decisions that will undoubtedly adversely affect our patrons, students, employees, the downtown community, and all Aurora residents, both theatre and non-theatre goers.

Following the final performance of True West on August 31, the Bold Series will be placed on hiatus. This means we will be reducing our overall programming from 900 to approximately 700 performances annually, and the upcoming productions of *Covenant* and *Ride the Cyclone* are canceled. Those with tickets will be refunded. The box office will be in contact soon.

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This decision was not made lightly. The Bold Series has been a vital and vibrant part of our programming, offering compelling, provocative, and important work in an intimate setting. We are immensely proud of the stories told on the Bold stage and the artists who brought them to life.

Unfortunately, further reductions—in both theatre and school programming—may be necessary in the weeks ahead as we work through this fiscal reality.

We know this is disappointing. It is heartbreaking for us, too. Yet we remain hopeful. The City's financial outlook and willingness to support our programming may shift in the future, and we are optimistic that—when it does—we will have the opportunity to bring back the Bold Series and other programs that serve our mission and our community so deeply.

We're beyond grateful to our volunteer ushers, all of our part-time and full-time staff members, who together have created and fulfilled our dream to build this organization and effectuate the positive change in our downtown. And we are deeply grateful to you—for your passion, your presence, and your belief in what live theatre can do to enrich our community.

On behalf of our entire board and staff, thank you for standing with us. Paramount's Broadway Series, our education programs, and our commitment to downtown Aurora's future continue—and with your support, they always will.

With sincere gratitude and hope,

Jonathan Hylton
Chairman

Gina Moga
Vice Chairman

John Savage
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Cynthia Latimer

Christine Goerlich Weber

Aurora Civic Center Authority / Paramount Theatre Board of Directors

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please visit: ParamountAurora.com/acca-financial-facts