

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THRASHER OPERA HOUSE ANNOUNCES, "CREATING AN ENTRANCE" RENOVATION PROJECT

GREEN LAKE, WI — The historic Thrasher Opera House is thrilled to announce a \$3 million renovation project, dubbed "Creating an Entrance," to its adjacent office building at 510 Mill Street in Green Lake, Wisconsin. The project is slated to begin in the spring of 2026 and will transform the venue into an even more vibrant cultural cornerstone for the Green Lake community.

Restored in 1997 by a group of enthusiastic community members, it has grown from a historic venue into a central hub for the arts, a space for connection, and a year-round economic driver for the area. This new project aims to update the organization's office building, gallery, and bar to keep pace with the nonprofit's significant growth.

A Welcoming New Space

The renovation will revitalize the exterior, gallery, and lounge, creating a more welcoming and functional space for both residents and visitors. The current eight stall parking lot will be transformed into an inviting outdoor area with a sculpture garden and mural, interactive outdoor instruments, covered seating, and a patio space. The project will also include a stunning new facade and digital displays.

Inside, designed for better guest navigation, will include a reception area, an art gallery and gift shop, along with movable gallery walls to accommodate diverse programming. The space will also feature sound panels and enhanced lighting to create an acoustically pleasant ambiance, as well as updated and ADA-accessible restrooms.

The lounge, upgraded to promote efficiency, will feature an L-shaped bar for more efficient service during intermissions. A warming kitchen will support events and rentals.

Investing in the Future

This ambitious vision is being funded by a combination of public and private support. The Thrasher Opera House has already raised more than \$2 million in committed private gifts, with all fourteen members of the dedicated board of directors making financial commitments to the project's success. This initiative is part of the organization's long-term

plan for stability and growth, with the new spaces expected to create additional revenue opportunities.

Quotes from Executive Director and Board President:

Rachael Avery, Executive Director:

“We’re so grateful for the incredible support Thrasher has received since its revival in the ’90s. Many rural towns have lost their historic opera houses, so we feel incredibly fortunate that ours has not only survived but truly thrived and gets this chance to add another chapter to its story—thanks to the passion and dedication of the local community and the patrons who’ve grown to love this place.”

“This is an exciting time for Thrasher and for Green Lake. We’re fortunate to have a gem like the Thrasher Opera House in our community, and we’re thrilled to transform the 510 building into a space that supports the growth of our nonprofit’s mission. We’re thankful for the strong support this community has”

“What started as a way to meet the needs of our growing mission has blossomed into a project that will energize our entire downtown. We designed the exterior to be a welcoming space for everyone—visitors and community members alike.

“One of the things we’re most excited about is that this renovation brings important ADA-compliant upgrades, ensuring the space is comfortable, easy to navigate, and welcoming to everyone.”

Michael Shohoney, Board President:

“As the Thrasher Opera House has grown from its truly humble beginnings, we realized that the public space in our Annex was not adequately meeting the needs of our patrons nor serving our mission as much as we desired. With that in mind, the Board of Directors took the bold step of embarking on this project; the goal of which is to provide our patrons the very best all-around experience while also putting a welcoming face on the venue for the public, including them as part of our mission.”

“The space, as designed, will change the landscape of downtown Green Lake by having a clean, bold façade and entrance along with a beautiful, inviting space for the patrons and public alike. This space will feature natural landscaping, sculptures, seating and gathering spaces for all to enjoy.”

“As the President of the Board, I am proud of the staff, Board of Directors and volunteers being on-board and fully invested in the future of the Thrasher Opera House and its

mission, “to promote the arts, provide a community gathering place and preserve the historic Thrasher Opera House.” This project helps us enhance and fulfill that mission”

Contact Information and Mission

For those interested in learning more about the "Creating an Entrance" project or to contribute, please visit www.thrasheroperahouse.com/creatinganentrance or contact Jason Mansmith, director of marketing, at (920) 294-4279 or jason@thrasheroperahouse.com.

Rachael Avery, Executive Director – rachael@thrasheroperahouse.com

Kayla Reeves, Box Office and Patron Services Director – kayla@thrasheroperahouse.com

Thrasher Opera House’s mission is to promote the arts and the power of live performance, provide a community gathering place, and preserve the historic Thrasher Opera House.

Built in 1910, restored in 1997, and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it is a charming, intimate, and friendly venue with excellent acoustics, seating two hundred. For more information, please visit www.thrasheroperahouse.com or find us

@thrasheroperahouse on Facebook and Instagram.