

STRENGTHEN GROW·EVOLVE

Building the Greatest Small City for the Arts

Strengthen Grow Evolve — an ambitious joint capital campaign led by Iowa City nonprofit arts organizations FilmScene and The Englert Theatre — was announced to the public in April of 2018 with \$2.7M raised. Endorsed by a \$1M gift from the City of Iowa City, SGE invited supporters to be a part of “**Building the Greatest Small City for the Arts**”, via the celebratory kick off in which a brass band led participants from a program on the historic Englert stage to the new cinemas at FilmScene at The Chauncey.

The goals of Strengthen Grow Evolve:

- To **strengthen** FilmScene’s Ped Mall location and The Englert Theatre, a 730-seat community arts center and performance space, through historic preservation of existing facilities and modernization efforts improving audience experience and accessibility, and enhancing lighting, sound, and stage production to deliver that all important nightly, “wow.”
- To **grow** into a new, world-class, three-screen cinema, FilmScene at The Chauncey, a landmark architectural space in the heart of downtown Iowa City featuring 225 seats across three spaces with cutting-edge projection and sound, additional educational and office space, and increased comfort and amenities for FilmScene’s 365-days-a-year moviegoing patronage.
- To **grow** festival efforts, through nurturing the Englert’s existing music, literature and community mainstay Mission Creek Festival as well as Witching Hour, which explores the creative process, and by creating Refocus Film Festival, presenting films inspired by and adapted from original text, a unique film event for our City of Literature.
- To **evolve** access and engagement with the arts for all by hiring a Community Engagement Director dedicated to fostering deeper artistic connections with our local K-12 schools, universities and colleges, neighborhoods, and the diverse cultures of our community and expanding arts education workshops and teaching artist visits to our schools.
- To **evolve** cultural collaboration by deepening important partnerships with the Bijou Film Board, SCOPE Productions, and other University of Iowa organizations and working with a collective of local cultural nonprofits to share ideas and best practices and envision a collective future for our entire region.

Final Support

\$5,483,693 in cash

\$1,675,534 in kind

from

2,025 donors