Where We Have Been
1999

A group of citizens interested in the performing arts explored the possibility of building a performing arts/convention center in Red Lodge. Preliminary work on a new build by new high school was explored.
2000

A Red Lodge Schools music teacher, Gregory Harper, left his estate to the City of Red Lodge for the construction of a performing arts center to benefit students and the community.
Performing artists from the area formed a planning committee and raised funds through small performances and other fundraising activities toward the goal of having performing arts center.
The Red Lodge Public Schools Foundation was formed and set an important goal to add an auditorium and gym to the buildings available for education in Red Lodge. The performing artists’ committee became a committee of the Public Schools Foundation.

2008
2012

Original School District and Main Street Business Request to the Foundation: Identify uses for the Old Roosevelt School that will economically benefit the community, especially during the shoulder seasons for local businesses, and will not cost the school district tax payers any money.

“A Place for Our Arts” steering committee was formed. The Foundation hired staff to drive the project.

The Foundation brought together all arts organizations, for the first time in 25 years, to consider a potential funding opportunity to develop a community center for the arts.
The arts community generated a list of current unmet needs for the arts, including: improved performance space (acoustics, stage, seating, and accessibility), education space, storage, and a commercial kitchen. An assessment was conducted and a current performance space inventory was created. Through evaluations at various performances located in all of the existing performance spaces. MSU-B college students assessed the evaluations. A tour of these same potential sites was conducted by an architect to support the evaluations made by the community.

A strategic planning session was held, utilizing all of the data gathered to identify the best location and space to focus on for an arts & culture center. The Steering Committee determined that the “Old Roosevelt” school building was the most suited to conversion to a performing arts or arts and culture center. Mentoring relationships were built with two Montana arts centers which have utilized an existing school building, the Emerson Center in Bozeman and the Shane Lalani Center in Livingston.
A generous donor came forth to create the Music from the Beartooths, a concert series designed to support the performing arts and build awareness of the need for performance space. This individual also donated a baby grand piano to the Community Foundation for public use.

Beartooth Front Community Forum held their annual forum to engage the community in the discussion about the potential uses of "Old Roosevelt." The results expanded the focus to include facilities for broader community needs in addition to performing arts.
2015

Arts awareness generated new grant making funds for the Foundation: The Emerging Artists Fund, and the Piano Fund. The Foundation sponsored four awards in the performing arts at the Boys and Girls Club annual COY (Celebrating Our Youth) awards ceremony.

Adler Architects, working with CTA, produced the comprehensive “Revitalize Old Roosevelt” Adaptive Re-Use Strategy and Action Plan.

Outcomes from the Foundation’s youth mentoring program provided evidence that youth are in need for arts space just as much as gymnasium space.

The Old Roosevelt Steering committee expanded its cross sector representation with 25 members and 3 subcommittees.

Red Lodge Public Schools
The Reuse Study was approved.

The Gymnasium conflict was successfully resolved. A gymnasium will not be part of the project going forward. We located other spaces to fill the community’s gymnasium space needs.

The Buy/Sell was finalized with a signed agreement between the school district and the foundation.

We received a Challenge Match of $100K towards the purchase price fundraising goal and received $13K towards that Match.

A historic preservation, pre-design workshop took place June 1st with the Historic Preservation Alliance Roadshow. Historic design elements were collected and will be utilized in final design.

Funding was received for the Old Roosevelt Design Phase from the Citizens’ Institute on Rural Design (CIRD) funded through the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA) The design workshop was held October 7-9, 2016 and provided expert presentations and community engagement activities in the areas of architecture, design, and programming.
$25K in funding was received for the Old Roosevelt Design Phase from the Citizens’ Institute on Rural Design (CIRD) funded through the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA). The design workshop was held October 7-9, 2016 and provided expert presentations and community engagement activities in the areas of architecture, design, and programming.
The Asset-Based Community Development Institute (ABCD) is at the center of a large and growing movement that considers local assets as the primary building blocks of sustainable community development. Building on the skills of local residents, the power of local associations, and the supportive functions of local institutions, asset-based community development draws upon existing community strengths to build stronger, more sustainable communities for the future.

https://resources.depaul.edu/abcd-institute/Pages/default.aspx
Community Development

Go to the people
Live among them
Learn from them
Love them
Start with what they know
Build on what they have;
But of the best leaders
when their task is done
The people will remark
“We have done it ourselves.”
Where We Are Going
PURCHASE THE BUILDING

Retain Current Renters
Take Down the Fence
Occupancy Review
Establish the Endowment
OPEN HOUSE - MAKE IT THE COMMUNITY'S

Thank the Supporters who made the purchase possible
Make it a community enterprise
Paint the first outdoor mural
Engage Volunteers in every aspect of its future development
DEVELOP THE PERFORMANCE SPACE WE HAVE

Rough-In the stage and lighting
Implement a speaker system
Purchase tables and chairs
PLANNING

Business Plan Development
Capital Campaign Development
Grant Writing
Engage potential conferences to come to Red Lodge
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Use the limited spaces we currently have available

Increase the capacity of existing arts and youth activities

Engage people and activities to use the space
RE-OPEN THE HISTORIC BUILDING

Heating restored
Fire Suppression and Alarms installed

The Legnini Family
DEVELOP OUTDOOR SPACE

Create a design through community engagement
Engage artists for sculptures
ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY

Create a cultural engagement plan
Present the Summer Theater Series
Extend Broadway’s walk ability by 3 blocks
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Sustainable community-utilizing existing Resources of this 1920’s historic building

Preserving the historic value clearly illustrating the tie between the past and the future
CREATE AND RETAIN LIVING WAGE JOBS

Incubate enterprises
Convert seasonal jobs into full time jobs
Thank You
to Our Sponsors for Making the Old Roosevelt Project Possible

Gregory T Harper Estate
City of Red Lodge

NorthWestern Energy

Challenge Match Donor
Sidney Frank Foundation
TIPPET RISE FUND

Red Lodge Public Schools Foundation

Red Lodge Public Schools

Beartooth Front Community Forum

The Logunini Family
First Interstate BancSystem

USDA

Big Sky Trust Fund

Thank You to all of our Private Donors who are making this DREAM a Possibility!

Thank You to Our Steering Committee Volunteers

Current
Alan Schuyler, Barb Ostrum, Betty Hecker, Brian Langliers, Guynema Terry, Janet Peterson, Jo Ann Eder, John Fitzgerald, Kim Kapalka, Gena Burgoff, Pat Thomson, Samantha Long, Sue Logan, Sue Taylor, Susan Folsy, Tom Kuntz, Traute Parle, William Folsy

Past
Deborah Kline-Sonderman, Alex Albright- Americorps VISTA, Betsy McGee, Andy Moon, Luke Wallawander, Joan Guralnick, Gerald Davidson, Valerie Smith, MSU-B Students