

# SRJC 100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN

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## *Luther Burbank Auditorium: Pride, Purpose, Progress*



Burbank Park, a location utilized by Luther Burbank for botanical experimentation, was acquired by the Santa Rosa Junior College Board of Trustees in 1930 as the permanent campus site for the College. The Luther Burbank Auditorium was built soon after by the Works Progress Administration in 1939. A cherished heritage building on the Santa Rosa campus, it is a known venue that features highly regarded theatre, dance, and music programs, including the esteemed SRJC Summer Repertory Theatre now in its 46<sup>th</sup> season. The College and community have enjoyed outstanding performances in Luther Burbank Auditorium for over 77 years.

The time has come for a major modernization of Luther Burbank Auditorium, made possible by funding from the Measure H bond. The project will include a complete renovation of the interior spaces to significantly improve the sight lines of the main theater and the back-of-house functionality. In addition, the modernization will address many accessibility, sound and safety issues, as well as greatly improve overall comfort for patrons. A dramatic addition will include a new multi-purpose studio which will be utilized by the entire campus community for lectures, classroom use, film studies, theater, dance and music rehearsals and performances. The renovated theater will have a capacity of 400 and the new studio will seat 200. A beautiful, large and redesigned exterior space will be ideal for outdoor receptions and events, and will allow patrons a place to mingle before and after shows. An enlarged lobby will serve both the existing theater and studio addition. Groundbreaking is expected in mid-2017, with construction completion anticipated in late 2018, concurrent with the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the College.

The main residents of the new and renovated spaces will be the Theatre Arts Department which consists of two exceptional programs: the yearly academic program (2 majors, AA & Transfer, and 5 certificates) and SRT (Summer Repertory Theatre Festival), the highly successful professional training program. Together, these two programs serve a wide range of students in their academic and career goals, as well as provide dynamic cultural enrichment for the College community and all of Sonoma County. Theatre Arts (both the yearly program and SRT) is a combination of an academic department, a career training program and a thriving theatre company, producing 9-10 mainstage shows each year

with nearly 38,000 tickets sold annually. The Theatre Arts department offers over 30 different courses, nearly all of which are transferrable to both the CSU and UC systems. Each year theatre arts students successfully transfer to top colleges and universities, as well as competitive professional training programs in preparation for careers onstage and behind the scenes on Broadway, with national tours, and in film and television. The size of the program, range of advanced courses, opportunities for experiential learning, and the number of shows produced annually at professional levels make the SRJC Theatre Arts Department exceptional among junior colleges and 4-year institutions alike.

SRJC Theatre Arts has built an excellent program with professional production values, but the current facilities do not support the needs of the program. An aging building, outdated equipment, and obsolete technology present real challenges to recruiting and training students for current industry standards. The renovation of Luther Burbank Auditorium will be transformational for SRJC Theatre Arts, allowing for expansion in both size and creative capabilities. The structural, technological, mechanical, and aesthetic upgrades and additions will provide an enhanced experience for all students, technicians, performers, and audience members to enjoy.



*“The modernization planned for SRJC’s Luther Burbank Auditorium will do more than change buildings – it will change lives. The new and improved spaces will expand artistic capabilities and create extraordinary experiences for students and audiences alike. The updated facilities will allow for imagination and talent to be showcased and enjoyed in world-class venues, while providing spaces for students, faculty, and programs that will serve them well into the future. The renovation of this historic landmark confirms the commitment of the College and the community to the future of education and the arts.”*

- Tony Taccone, Artistic Director at Berkeley Repertory Theater

