

## OUR HISTORY

### A legacy begins:



The legacy of the Delphi Opera House began long ago, originating in 1865, at a time when lime lights were literal and not figurative.

For half a century many notables performed on the Opera House stage including Hoosier poet James Whitcomb Riley. His words inspire our vision today: "To dream the old dreams over is a luxury divine."

### A forgotten dream is reborn:

The Opera House was closed for safety reasons in 1914 and for decades Riley's dream was nearly forgotten as the building fell into disrepair.

In the late 1990s, the Delphi Preservation Society captured a vision for revitalizing the historic building and set to work.

Then, in 2012, the restoration of the Opera House became the centerpiece for the Stellar Grant awarded to the City of Delphi.

### A vibrant destination is created:

Reopening in 2015, the Opera House has become a cultural landmark in Delphi's revitalized downtown square. Along with an economic impact exceeding \$3 million, the Opera House has rejuvenated the arts in Delphi and become a popular venue for entertainment and cultural events.

With more than half of all patrons coming from outside the county, the Opera House has put Delphi on the map and made it a destination. In addition to theatre and concert events, it is a gathering place for community and social events, meetings, reunions, and weddings.



### A foreboding of permanent closure:

In 2020, the global pandemic forced the closing of the Opera House's doors for 18 months. Thankfully, the Delphi Preservation Society and Delphi Opera House, Inc., with the help of grants and private donations, were able to cover expenses for maintaining the building. This closure provided a foreboding of what we would lose if our doors closed permanently.

The legacy of the Opera House is not assured without a significant level of ongoing support for maintaining our beautiful historic structure and providing a variety of cultural and educational programming and entertainment.

## OUR FUTURE

A commitment to creating a legacy:

The newly created Limelight Society will consist of the Delphi Opera House's most generous supporters, committed to ensuring a legacy for generations to come. We invite you to join the inaugural class.

Beginning in 2022, donations of \$1000 or more during a calendar year, qualify a household for membership in the Limelight Society. Gifts of \$5,000 or more qualify for multi-year memberships. Gifts can be set up to be withdrawn monthly or can be given as larger donations.

Limelight Society members receive dual membership in the Delphi Preservation Society and Delphi Opera House. Members will be recognized on the donor wall and giving accumulates over time making donors eligible for moving up in giving categories.



As a permanent reminder of their commitment to ensuring a vibrant legacy, Limelight Society members will share the honor of signing the backstage wall. They will also be recognized in program booklets and will receive two tickets to Legacy Series events, beginning in 2023.

This series was created to keep the dream of James Whitcomb Riley alive and showcase people with roots in Carroll County who have made a lasting contribution. It serves as an example of the dual role the Delphi Opera House plays in our community - honoring our history while ensuring a bright future for generations to come.

To sign on, visit:

<https://www.delhipreservationsociety.org/>

Share the Dream... Shine the Light...  
Create a Legacy

TO DREAM THE OLD DREAMS  
OVER IS A LUXURY DIVINE."  
James Whitcomb Riley

