



REQUEST FOR ACTION

Chateau Theater Operations & Investment Strategy Update (4:45 - 5:45 p.m.)

MEETING DATE:

August 10, 2026

ORIGINATING DEPT:

City Administration

AGENDA SECTION:

Presentation Items

PRESENTER:

**Josh Johnsen and Joe Ward
with Experience Rochester**

Report Narrative:

The City Council has previously discussed the long-term future of the Chateau Theatre and directed staff to evaluate operating models that preserve the historic facility while expanding public access, community programming, and downtown activation. Since that discussion, staff has worked with Experience Rochester and other partners to further evaluate operational opportunities, facility needs, and long-term investment strategies for the Chateau.

This study session provides an overview of the proposed vision for the Chateau Theatre as a flexible civic venue supporting arts and cultural programming, community events, private rentals, and destination-oriented activities. The presentation reviews recommended guiding principles, potential programming and community use priorities, operational considerations, and the role of an operating partner in delivering professional venue management while maximizing public benefit.

Council will also review planning-level capital investment needs identified through both the City's facility assessment and the Legends Global operating analysis. Together, these assessments identify improvements necessary to preserve the historic asset, modernize the facility for event operations, improve accessibility, and enhance the overall guest experience. Staff will discuss preliminary capital investment priorities needed to support long-term activation of the facility.

The purpose of the study session is to obtain Council feedback on the proposed vision, guiding principles, preferred operating partnership approach, program priorities, and capital investment strategy. Staff will use this feedback to refine the operational framework and return to Council with future recommendations regarding operating agreements, implementation, and funding strategies.

Council action is to provide direction to staff on whether to proceed with negotiating an operating agreement with Experience Rochester and return to Council with a formal agreement for consideration.

Priorities & Foundational Principles:

Transformational Capital Projects

Prepared By:

Joshua Johnsen

Attachments:

