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## BUILDING OUR FUTURE & PRESERVING OUR PAST

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### O.P.E.R.A., Inc. / Ellendale Opera House Timeline



#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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O.P.E.R.A., Inc. is an equal  
opportunity provider.

*O.P.E.R.A., Inc. is a 501(c)(3)  
non-profit corporation and  
contributions are tax  
deductible to the full extent  
allowed by law. Our non-profit  
Tax ID # is 45-0426945.*

**1909** – Ellendale Opera House built by local area businesses to provide office space on the second floor, retail stores on the street-level and a 700-seat auditorium on the third level for hosting civic events and entertainment.

**Late 1980's** – The last businesses renting space in the opera house vacated building with city eventually assuming ownership of the building.

**August 1992** – Organization of People in Ellendale for Restoration of the Arts (O.P.E.R.A.) formed to save the building from demolition. The group took over ownership from the City of Ellendale.

**1994** – Ellendale Opera House listed on the National Register of Historical Places, and O.P.E.R.A., Inc. incorporated as a charitable non-profit 501c3 organization.

**2000** – New roof installed with the help of a grant from the Historical Society of ND.

**2002** – East half of deteriorated rear wall rebuilt with the help of funds from the Historical Society of ND.

**2005** – Comprehensive restoration and remodeling strategy developed by O.P.E.R.A. and Architect Kerry Peuser of Michael J. Burns Architects, Fargo-Moorhead.

**2007** – Renovation of first floor Lobby & Gallery (including new street-level entrance) completed for use as a cultural center for the community. Seven hundred guests, including Gov. John Hoeven, attend artist showcase in Lobby & Gallery during Ellendale's 125th Anniversary Celebration. Since completion, the Lobby & Gallery has hosted hundreds of events – from art exhibits to plays, musical performances, book readings, seminars and two Smithsonian Exhibits.

**2009** – Commercial kitchen added to enhance hosting of Lobby & Gallery events.

**2018** – "Building Our Future & Preserving Our Past" capital campaign begun. Annual fund drives are now held to underwrite improvements and return the opera house to full use by the community.

**2019** – West half of rear wall replaced with the help of a grant and loan from U.S.D.A. Rural Development.

**2021** – New ADA-compliant rear entrance and parking area completed with a matching grant from ND Tourism.