



Foundation Gift Secured Historic Steinway Grand Piano for State Theatre

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SANDUSKY — The city isn't the only institutional patron anxious for the repair and renovation of the Sandusky State Theatre to get finished.

A freak storm nearly destroyed the 1920s vaudeville venue in the downtown district in 2020. An ambitious renovation plan got derailed three years later due to mismanagement of the construction project.

Now, as the theatre completes a restructuring of its board authority and prepares to announce a plan to re-start and finally finish the restoration, the **Erie County Community Foundation** continues to financially support the theatre in a variety of ways, including as the patron that provided the gift of music.



An example of a 1906
Steinway Grand Piano

Officials provided clarity about the landmark foundation gift on Friday after *Stay Tuned Sandusky* made inquiries. A portion of the foundation gift was used to purchase a historic 1905/06 Steinway concert grand piano for the theatre. According to theater management, the vintage Steinway was secured for a purchase price of \$90,000. It's being housed in a secure, climate-controlled off-site facility, awaiting final delivery and installation once construction on the theatre's main hall nears completion.

The Community Foundation's board of directors approved a \$250,000 commitment to the Sandusky State Theatre capital project in April 2022, which was paid over five years, concluding in 2026. The Theatre offered the piano as a naming right due to the size and nature of our gift. The Foundation was not involved in the purchase of nor the storage of the piano.

FACT BOX: The Piano Sponsorship by the Numbers

- **Total Foundation Gift:** \$250,000.00 (Erie County Community Foundation)
- **Instrument Acquired:** 1905 Steinway Concert Grand Piano
- **Purchase Price:** \$90,000.00
- **Current Location:** Off-site climate-controlled storage pending theater completion
- **Future Role:** Permanent on-site asset available for mainstage concerts, classical showcases, regional performances, and venue rentals.

A High-Caliber Asset for Sandusky's Next Chapter

The addition of a world-class Steinway represents a permanent upgrade to the theater's technical infrastructure, ensuring that top-tier touring artists, classical pianists, and regional performers have access to an elite instrument when the curtain rises again. "It will be an incredible asset to the theatre, and we're looking forward to hearing it in concerts, classical, and other performances," theater leadership noted in a statement, expressing gratitude for ECCF's continued partnership throughout the complex restoration process.

While broader discussions surrounding total capital rebuild costs and final completion timelines remain ongoing, the ECCF's \$250,000 commitment ensures that when the doors do reopen, Sandusky's historic stage will be equipped with one of the finest instruments in Northern Ohio.
