

**MUSIC CONSERVATORY OF SANDPOINT**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**TODAY'S DATE: January 26, 2021**

## **Historic Fire Station Doors to Be Opened with Help of Idaho Heritage Trust Grant**



Rendering courtesy of Kris Contor/Architecture 311.5

The Music Conservatory of Sandpoint has been awarded a \$10,000 matching grant from the Idaho Heritage Trust for the first phase of work to restore and open the historic fire station doors at 110 Main Street in downtown Sandpoint.

The 100-year-old iconic building became the permanent home for the school in 2019, and includes a vision to renovate and create a Center for Arts & Culture in downtown Sandpoint – stimulating access to arts and culture in the most participatory way possible.

After months of lockdowns and community limitations, MCS cannot wait to open these doors – not just a little bit, but all the way.



Rendering courtesy of Kris Contor/Architecture 311.5

The instant that MCS has the capacity to swing the doors wide open, the community will be invited to participate in a daily myriad of musical and artistic musings.

Local art is already on display courtesy of fellow project partner and tenant the Pend Oreille Arts Council. Once entering the open-air gallery, or when passing by, visitors will have the pleasure of listening to orchestra rehearsals, sit in on theater performances, or perhaps catch a glimpse of a student practicing on a concert-quality Bosendorfer piano.

Music and art are meant to be shared.

This project will be an investment in our community that ties together the past, present and future – a prototype for other communities to follow, of what can happen when we work together to preserve historic buildings and empower education, arts, and culture.

Idaho Heritage Trust matching grants are awarded annually through requests coming from all over Idaho with an emphasis on smaller communities. The Conservatory hopes this initial gift will spark similar generosity from other potential partners. Already, Avista Foundation and the Idaho Forest Group have stepped forward to join the effort. MCS also acknowledged the design expertise of Kris Contor at Architecture 311.5 and Nikki Luttmann from Seven Bee Interiors.

For more information and to learn how to get involved with the Center for Arts & Culture project at MCS, stop by the MCS office for a tour or call 208-265-4444.