

COMMUNITY BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT INCLUDE:

Arts & Community Development – The campus-like setting in the heart of downtown Schenectady will provide a home for a number of arts and education organizations, fostering collaborative partnerships that will collectively use resources to better serve the community. Our first nonprofit partner, the Schoharie River Center, has already moved into the former parish residence, and the innovative school, Capital Lyceum (capitallyceum.org) will arrive this Fall. Active discussions are underway with a number of other nonprofit arts and education organizations.

Programs for Children & Families – As one of the oldest community theaters in the country, Schenectady Light Opera Company has entertained generations of Capital Region families and provided thousands of Capital Region residents with opportunities for creative development and theatrical training. This includes our younger members who not only gain valuable theatrical training but also personal growth experiences that will serve them for a lifetime. Building on a long history of family focused productions and workshops, the new center will enable SLOC to establish new programs, such as family theater workshops and a summer theater program for children.

Economic Development & Downtown Revitalization – As the County continues to distinguish itself within the region by creating a vibrant downtown Arts and Entertainment district, this new facility will attract tens of thousands of visitors annually to downtown Schenectady. With Proctors at its center, the growing Arts and Entertainment District supports downtown shops and restaurants serving residents from throughout the Capital Region. With the support and guidance of Philip Morris, the arts center has been designed to complement Proctors, the 440 Arts Center, and Bowtie Cinema, building the critical mass of activity so essential to downtown revitalization.

Historic Preservation – The project will save, restore and adaptively reuse three historic buildings, including the oldest Catholic Church in the Mohawk Valley. The buildings will be integrated into an innovative multi-venue facility that will include a modern 300 seat theater, a 15,000 square foot education building, a set construction facility, and a variety of other training and performance spaces suitable for special events and conferences.

What people are saying about the new performing arts and education center:

The move will be both good for SLOC and the city, as the theater company will fit right in with, and enhance, downtown's growing arts and entertainment district."

- Daily Gazette Editorial

"Over the past several years we have worked with Proctors and others to build a thriving downtown arts and entertainment district. This project will be an excellent addition to that effort and will maintain the historical integrity of these beautiful buildings. I hope the community will join me in supporting the Schenectady Light Opera Company to bring this project to fruition."

- Susan E. Savage, Chair
Schenectady County Legislature

This project offers multiple benefits to our community. By expanding arts and cultural programs, this project will enhance the quality of life in our region. In addition, the arts are proving to be an essential element for urban redevelopment. This project will help bring more visitors to downtown Schenectady and contribute to the City's economic revitalization.

- Senator Hugh T. Farley

"You know that it is Proctor's hope that Schenectady's downtown becomes the Capital Region's Mecca for art and entertainment. For this to happen, projects like SLOC has imagined need to become realities that attract people and related events and activities. It is a bold idea, for SLOC, and Schenectady, and of the sort that we should continue to nurture and grow."

- Philip Morris, CEO
Proctors

"Schenectady Light Opera has long been a vital part of our community. We could not be more thrilled to welcome Schenectady Light Opera Company into the heart of Schenectady's revitalized downtown."

- Mayor Brian U. Stratton

"SLOC's new arts and education center will attract thousands of patrons annually from throughout the Capital Region, visitors that will directly support our businesses and the revitalization of downtown Schenectady. Please join the business community in supporting this important initiative."

- Bobby Mallozzi
Villa Italia, Mallozzi's, The Brown Derby