



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**San Diego Civic Theatre Celebrates 60 Years of “Moments That Matter”  
A Cultural Landmark Marks Six Decades of Performing Arts Excellence,  
Economic Impact, and Community Legacy**

**San Diego, CA – January 13, 2025** – San Diego Theatres, manager and operator of the San Diego Civic Theatre and the 100-year-old Balboa Theatre, is thrilled to commemorate the Civic Theatre’s 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a cornerstone of the city’s cultural and artistic landscape. A yearlong diamond anniversary celebration of one-of-a-kind events is planned to honor the Civic Theatre’s cultural and economic legacy. Since its inaugural performance on January 12, 1965, the Civic Theatre has created unforgettable moments for generations of San Diegans, hosting world-class performances that enrich the community and support the local economy.

“The Civic Theatre isn’t just a building—it’s where memories are made and legacies are built,” said Steven Johnson, Vice President of Business Development, Marketing, and Communications at San Diego Theatres. “From the historic Bavarian crystal chandelier to world-class performances, every visit inspires and uplifts you.

**An Iconic Beginning**

Designed by architects Ruocco, Kennedy Jr., and Rosser, the Civic Theatre was a pivotal element in the 1960s downtown revitalization led by Mayor Charles C. Dail. Its opening was feted with a performance by the San Diego Symphony Orchestra, and the acoustics were crafted by the same team behind Lincoln Center’s Philharmonic Hall. The 2,967-seat venue, built for \$4 million, quickly symbolized artistic excellence.

**Six Decades of Legendary Performances**

The Civic Theatre has been home to the San Diego Opera since its founding in 1965. The opera company launched its 2024-2025 season with Puccini’s *La Bohème*—a tribute to its first-ever production. “Our histories are deeply intertwined,” said David Bennett, General Director of San Diego Opera. “As the only venue in San Diego capable of hosting grand opera, the Civic Theatre remains essential to our shared future.”

Broadway San Diego, a Nederlander Organization, has delighted audiences with blockbuster musicals such as *The Phantom of the Opera*, *The Lion King*, *Les Misérables*, and *Wicked*. “This milestone celebrates more than just history,” said Vanessa Ybarra Davis, Vice President of Broadway San Diego. “It honors the Civic Theatre’s role in shaping San Diego’s cultural identity and inspiring generations of theatergoers.”

The Civic Theatre has also hosted legendary performers, including Diana Ross, Jerry Seinfeld, Frank Sinatra, Tom Cruise, and Robin Williams, as well as significant events like Comic-Con and red-carpet movie premieres, solidifying its place as San Diego’s cultural hub.

**A Catalyst for Economic Growth**

Over six decades, the Civic Theatre has enriched San Diego’s cultural life and bolstered the local economy. In 2024, the venue welcomed more than 300,000 patrons to over 140

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performances, contributing \$23 million to the local economy. Activities at the Civic Theatre support 348 full-time jobs, generate \$15 million in household income and provide \$1.5 million in local and state tax revenues.

### **Looking Ahead**

The diamond anniversary will feature special events, performances, and community activities celebrating the theatre's ongoing role and legacy and positioning the Civic Theatre for a vibrant future. Upcoming shows include *Some Like It Hot*, *Wicked*, *Hamilton*, and more, continuing to create "moments that matter" for audiences of all ages.

### **Learn More**

To explore the 60th-anniversary celebrations and see upcoming events, visit [www.sandiegotheatres.org](http://www.sandiegotheatres.org). Follow @sdcivictheatre and join the conversation using #DiamondMoment.

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### **ABOUT SAN DIEGO THEATRES**

San Diego Theatres, Inc. proudly manages the San Diego Civic Theatre, celebrating 60 years of artistic excellence, and the historic Balboa Theatre, which marked its 100th anniversary in 2024. Committed to creating transformative moments through world-class performing arts and educational experiences, San Diego Theatres fosters collaboration, builds community connections, and ensures every performance becomes a cherished memory.

### **MEDIA CONTACT**

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