

Let's Go Parking at the PAC!

Humankind is living in a new world, the world of Covid-19 Chaos, the 2020 version of the Twilight Zone. We all miss gathering together, gathering to enjoy a meal or drink, gathering in our churches, gathering to enjoy a concert or play. The Highlands Performing Arts Center wants to bring the community together to gather and enjoy each other's company once again, like the fun evenings at the fondly remembered Scudder's Auctions. We have been exploring different options; one option that other performing arts centers are trying is a drive-in theater. A drive-in theater would enable us to show the National Theatre of London encore productions, Great Art on Screen documentaries, movies from the Playhouse, special pre-recorded live pop concerts (that aren't available on the internet), church services, open mic night, children's storytelling events, lectures and so much more, all viewed safely from your car. Use your imagination and bring us suggestions.

We will offer our high school students an opportunity to learn the technical aspects of outdoor screening and live streaming events, introducing a path to a possible career. We may also partner with our fabulous restaurants to offer *Dinner and a Movie*.

We have also been researching the equipment needed - the type and size of screen to buy, projection equipment needs, and the different capabilities of each. We have zeroed in on a screen, projector, sound system, laid out a possible parking plan but now we need to know... **Will YOU Park at the PAC?** From what our research has shown, we could start at dusk, it's not perfect but it is viewable and gets better as the sun goes down. We will need to elevate the screen a bit, but this would allow for a "stage" of sorts allowing a place where lectures, church services, storytelling and open mic night could be held. The screen is portable and inflatable, taking just a short time to set up and take down, also ideal for transporting to other locations. The sound system works through your car radio and/or your phone.

Of course, all of this takes funding and PAC, like all other theaters in the nation, has been closed. Our finances are tighter than tight. If you would like to see a gathering spot like *Parking at the PAC*, please consider helping in any way

you can to create a drive-in theater for our community. We need \$25,000 for the equipment to make this happen. This will be something that will be used now and far into the future. *Parking at the PAC* is for our Community, someplace fun and safe. Please let us know **If We Create It, Will YOU Park at the PAC?** Log onto www.highlandspac.org to take a survey. Or email HighlandsPACnc@gmail.com to let us know.