



About Theatre III

Theatre III is Acton's foremost and oldest community theatre. Theatre III is a non-profit organization fully operated by a dedicated, hard-working and fun-loving group of volunteers; our mission is to support the performing arts by supplying high-quality entertainment to the community at a reasonable price. We produce three main shows each year, including one major musical. Our seasons often include bonus performances of comedians, directors' workshops, one-act play festivals, musical groups and student productions. We take great pride in the quality of our productions and in developing theatrical skills for participants both on stage and behind the scenes, while building friendships that last a lifetime.

Theatre III is fortunate to own the property at 250 Central Street, next to the West Acton fire station. Built as a Universalist Church in 1868 by some of Acton's leading families, the building became a Women's Club in 1925 and subsequently became a community center in 1955, hosting a nursery school, dog training classes and weekend movies among other things. The Little Theatre Workshop, Acton Chorus and Acton Dance Club joined together to produce the musical *Oklahoma* and that merger became permanent in the form of Theatre III.

Of course, owning a historic building carries certain responsibilities. Theatre III has begun a 10-year multi-phase project to preserve the building and to improve access for all citizens. The first phase, preservation of the exterior envelope, is already well underway thanks to the generous sponsorship of Acton's citizens through a Community Preservation Grant. The work has included major repairs to supporting structural elements and the steeple, a beautiful new roof for the steeple and restoration work on the foundation. This work has been done according to Acton Historic District Commission guidelines to maintain the historic nature of the property. Subsequent phases of the project will improve critical operating systems and add ramps, an elevator and accessible restrooms so that everyone will be able to enjoy our productions.

With an overall project estimate of \$1.8 million, funding all this work is extremely difficult for a small non-profit group, as you can imagine. Theatre III is working diligently to secure additional funding through grants and sponsorships from a variety of sources. But essentially all grants require up to 50% matching funds, which means Theatre III will need to raise almost \$1 million over the next 10 years to complete this work. The support of local businesses and patrons will be critical to completing this project.