

WHAT WOULD WE DO WITHOUT THE WESTDALE?

Supporting Hamilton's Historic Theatre, Cultural Gathering Place, and Community Stage

For over 90 years, the marquee has lit up Hamilton's West end, inviting generations of people through its doors for first dates, family outings, school trips, and more. From the excitement of discovering a new film to the energy of live music and comedy, engaging in community events, supporting fundraisers and festivals, these joyous moments are part of **your story**.

The Westdale is where someone saw a film that changed their view of the world, where a couple spent their first date, where a local band played their biggest show, where a child sat wide-eyed in front of the big screen, and where a nonprofit brought its community together around a cause that mattered. In this space neighbours became friends, ideas were shared, and Hamilton's creative spirit found a home.

The question isn't, "Why support The Westdale?" but, "What would we do without it?"

Saved by Our Community to Serve



The Westdale had one remarkable rebirth.

When this historic cinema faced an uncertain future back in 2016, passionate community members, donors, and volunteers came together to save it. Through their efforts, The Westdale was restored and reopened in 2019 as a beautifully renewed heritage theatre and arts hub.

Since then, The Westdale has become a heritage-designated, vibrant home for film, music, comedy, talks, festivals, community events, and nonprofit gatherings.



Beth McNally, a founding Board Member of The Westdale, stands proudly in front of the theatre's previous marquee

Now, we are a **registered charity**, **cultural anchor**, and an **economic driver** for Westdale Village. We provide a stage for artists, filmmakers, musicians, speakers, and storytellers and a gathering place for people of all ages, backgrounds, and interests

As The Westdale nears a century old, we have another rare opportunity to come together to ensure its future.

A generous supporter has created a time-limited matching opportunity, meaning gifts made before the end of the year will go twice as far. **This is a golden opportunity we cannot waste.**

Your contribution goes straight to work, safeguarding the vital experiences and community connections that these walls provide.

The Westdale Makes Heartfelt Memories Possible

What is your “remember when” moment from The Westdale?

There are few places where people from all walks of life can sit together and really connect with something, in person. Places that create genuine connection through music, film, stories, conversation, and laughter are disappearing. The Westdale has been Hamilton's steady beacon for these vital experiences.

In an increasingly disconnected era, The Westdale is a reminder of the beauty of real life, through shared experiences and moments that become **“remember when...”**.

“

...I remember going through a difficult time and The Westdale was my lifeline. As a donor, I continue to support the rich experiences The Westdale brings and I want it to continue being a lifeline to future generations.”

– David Streiner, Donor



A Home for Film, Culture, and Conversation, 364 days a year

With **over 50,000** people coming through our doors each year, we have made a commitment to exceptional programming **364 days a year**, more operating days than any other multi-arts theatre in Hamilton.

Our programming includes hundreds of independent, Canadian, and international films. Educational programming, reduced-priced tickets, and sensory-friendly screenings ensure our programming is welcoming and inclusive.

Our community has the chance to engage with cinema in a **vast array of languages**, including **French**, and **Canadian Indigenous languages** such as Inuktitut, Blackfoot, Cree, and Shuswap. This international reach extends further to include Danish, Swedish, Italian, and German; Tamil, Japanese, Mandarin, Cantonese, and Korean; as well as Ukrainian, Greek, Spanish, and Arabic, totalling **19 different languages** in 2025 alone.



The Westdale also hosts **more than 50 Film Talks** each year, bringing local filmmakers, experts, artists, and community voices into conversation with audiences. Featuring diverse themes like 2SLGBTQIA+ films, Japanese cinema, classic films by renowned directors, and much more, there is something for everyone to appreciate and discover.

This variety of programming we offer provides our community countless opportunities to learn, question, feel, reflect, and connect.



A Stage for Artists and Storytellers

The Westdale's impact extends far beyond the screen.

Our stage welcomes musicians, singers, choirs, theatre artists, comedians, authors, dancers, speakers, and performers from Hamilton and beyond. Through series such as Hamilton Originals and Jazz Originals, The Westdale showcases the depth of **local and Canadian talent**.

By offering a diverse range of **Indigenous programming**, visual arts, music, poetry, and storytelling, The Westdale fosters a dedicated environment for cultural recognition and collective reflection. The theatre remains a vital hub for connection, live performances, and collaborative events that are designed to feel intimate, meaningful, and accessible.



A Partner to Nonprofits and Community Organizations

As a nonprofit, one of The Westdale's most important roles is also one that often goes unrecognized: we help other nonprofits do their best work.

In addition to distributing thousands of free tickets to youth, community groups and countless nonprofits each year, we open our doors to **more than 50 local charities**, providing a professional stage where they can engage supporters, secure funding, and amplify their stories to the broader community. Providing a venue that is as accessible and beautiful as it is professional can transform an ordinary gathering into a landmark milestone for these groups.

The Westdale is proud to amplify the mission of these important causes.

This support creates a ripple effect of impact, helping a diverse network of organizations that advocate for everyone from seniors and newcomers to local artists and families.

\$80k+

Worth of movie tickets and popcorn donated to **89 community organizations** in 2025 alone.



In the past few years, The Westdale has gone from an occasional Hamilton Fringe venue to one of our main performance spaces...Hamilton needs spaces where artists, audiences, donors, volunteers, and community members can come together and feel that they are part of something beyond themselves. Something shared. Something worth keeping. The Westdale is one of those spaces -- and we should all work hard to keep it going for years to come."

– Christopher Stanton, Executive Director of Hamilton Festival Theatre Company



Proud to be Part of the Community and Village

The Westdale brings energy to the Westdale Village and beyond.

As an integral part of the community, the theatre supports local restaurants and shops in the Westdale area, significantly contributing to the economic impact and sustainability.

For Hamilton, The Westdale is both a **cultural landmark** and a **community asset**. We honour the city's history while helping shape its future as a place where arts, culture, conversation, and connection matter.



Business owners within the Westdale Village community

Everyone Has a Voice Here

Our efforts towards inclusivity are unmatched.

Many share their first theatre experience with us during **Sensory-Friendly** programming, created in partnership with the Canadian National Autism Foundation. These screenings feature open captions, dim lighting instead of dark, lower sound levels, no trailers, and the option to roam the theatre.

Others are welcomed back to the theatre experience because of our **Better** technology, broadcasting both films and live events directly into their hearing aids and bluetooth portable listening devices.

Our film Accessibility Options also include...



Open Captioning refers to captions that are displayed on-screen and are visible to all



Closed Captioning refers to captions which are generated and displayed via individual caption receivers



Described Audio provides narration of on-screen actions and scenes not conveyed through dialogue, delivered via adjustable headphones



The Westdale has embraced learning about accessible practices and making changes to further the theatre going experience for individuals in the community with disabilities. They are working to make Hamilton a more inclusive and welcoming place to live."

– **Mya George**, Student Lead & Accessibility Advocate for Accessibility Hamilton Alliance (AHA!)



People from marginalized communities finally see themselves on the big screen and stage through intentionally diverse programming. Our Rainbow Reels and Reel Queens series centers **2SLGBTQIA+** experiences and voices, and our programming highlights **racialized people** and stories all year long, not only during designated months.

For many, a trip to The Westdale is their first barrier-free theatre experience.

Why We Need You Now

This is a defining moment for The Westdale.

With a generous matching opportunity available until the end of the year, your gift goes **twice as far**. Your support now will ensure we can continue to welcome audiences, champion artists, serve nonprofits, and strengthen our community gathering place for generations to come.

We hope you will consider making a gift that is meaningful to you before our gift match opportunity runs out.



Your gift means endless impact, and helps ensure those “remember when” moments keep happening.

- Through film screenings that reflect diverse voices, cultures, and experiences.
- With local, national, and international musicians, performers, comedians, authors, and artists.
- In spaces created for Indigenous programming, cultural celebration, and community storytelling.
- With affordable access for local nonprofits and charitable organizations.
- Not only in The Westdale but throughout Westdale Village and nearby businesses.
- For thousands of youth, and community groups who receive free tickets each year.

Join Us



As The Westdale marks its **91st year**, we invite you to help ensure this beloved theatre remains a vibrant part of Hamilton's cultural and community life for generations to come **by supporting us in reaching our fundraising goal of \$1,000,000 by the end of 2026.**

Now is the time to honor The Westdale's rich legacy with gratitude, to celebrate its current impact with pride, and to look toward its future with unwavering confidence. Together, we can sustain this vital resource for Hamilton, Westdale Village, our local artists, nonprofit partners, families, neighbours, and all who will follow in our footsteps.

Because The Westdale is more than a theatre.

And with your support, it will remain a place where the lights stay bright, the doors stay open, and memories continue to be made. If you are moved to support The Westdale, let us help you ensure your philanthropic mission is realized. I look forward to hearing from you.

With gratitude,

Alysha Main
Executive Director
alysha@thewestdale.ca | 289 678 3628 | thewestdale.ca



THE WESTDALE

If you would prefer not to contact us directly, feel free to scan the QR code below to make an online contribution instead. **Thank you for supporting The Westdale.**

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