



FAQ: COWLES CENTER OPERATIONAL CHANGES

1. What is the Cowles Center?

The Cowles Center is a dance and performing arts hub that promotes movement and growth for artists through supportive programs and spaces; engages audiences through dynamic performances; and educates learners of all ages through robust and inclusive education initiatives.

The Cowles Center consists of the Goodale Theater and Atrium, and the Hennepin Center for the Arts (HCA) on Hennepin Avenue. The HCA, once a Masonic Temple, now contains a majority of the center's studios and office spaces, as well as the TEK BOX theater. The Cowles Center is the operator of the Goodale theater and Atrium. Artspace is the lead operator and owner of the Hennepin Center for the Arts, and a significant partner to the Cowles Center.

2. Why is the Cowles Center ending operations this Spring?

The Cowles Center is discontinuing operations of its Goodale Theater and ending dance presentations as of March 31st due to financial challenges exacerbated by the pandemic and economic conditions.

3. What will happen to the Goodale Theater and other spaces?

The Goodale Theater will operate for the final performances through February and March. The Cowles is no longer accepting rental inquiries for the Goodale Theater. Operations of the Goodale Theater will return to the stewardship of the City of Minneapolis.

The Hennepin Center for the Arts will remain open for dance studio rentals, TEK BOX Theater rentals, and other commercial leasing purposes. Rental inquiries for studio and rehearsal space, prior to April 1 can still be made through the Cowles Center website. After April 1, Artspace will manage rental inquiries for Hennepin Center for the Arts.

4. What will happen to the Cowles Center staff?

All staff will leave the organization by April. However, they are dedicated to supporting the final performances to ensure they are a positive experience.



5. Will any Cowles Center programs continue?

Yes. The McKnight Fellowships for Dancers and Choreographers will continue, though the administrative details are still under discussion. Education programs in schools and through distance learning will also continue through the end of the school year.

6. What shows will take place before the Cowles Center goes dark?

The final shows are:

- **Zorongo Flamenco Dance Theatre**, *February 10th and 11th*
- **The Sound of Gospel**, *February 17th and 18th*
- **Crash Dance Productions**, *March 2nd and 3rd*
- **MERGE in March: Mathew Janczewski's ARENA Dances & Taja Will**, *March 23rd and 24th*

Visit our website for more information <https://www.thecowlescenter.org/tickets>

7. Are any shows affected by the Cowles season ending early?

Yes. Productions by James Sewell Ballet, BRKFST Dance Company, and Ragamala Dance Company, scheduled for April and May, are impacted. BRKFST Dance Company's show might be postponed or presented differently by Northrop.

8. What about ticket holders for the affected productions?

Ticket purchasers will be contacted with their options for the canceled or altered performances.

9. Will the artists of the canceled shows still be compensated?

Yes. The Cowles Center plans to pay out the artist fees and box office splits as if the artists had completed their performances.

10. Were there any attempts to prevent The Cowles Center and Goodale Theater from going dark this Spring?

Artspace, recognizing that it could no longer sustainably support The Cowles Center, began seeking new operators in late 2022. Initially, they identified a primary candidate capable of managing the venue and initiated discussions with them towards the end of that year. However, as the situation evolved into 2023, the need for alternative options became apparent. In the spring of 2023, Artspace's search efforts intensified, leading to the identification of a second potential operator by mid-year. Discussions with both candidates were initially promising, showing potential for a smooth transition. Throughout the year, these negotiations continued, but in January 2024, a turning point was reached when the most hopeful candidate communicated their inability to proceed with taking over the operations as anticipated.

11. How has Artspace contributed to The Cowles Center's operations? Artspace, in partnership with The Cowles Center, has invested an average of \$500,000 annually from its general operating funds to support The Cowles Center's mission.



12. Who were the potential partners identified to take over operations of the Goodale Theater?

In light of the ongoing discussions and the potential involvement of one of two prospective operators for the Goodale Theater, we have decided to maintain confidentiality regarding their identities at this stage. This decision is rooted in our commitment to respecting the privacy and strategic interests of all parties involved. We believe this approach is crucial for the integrity of the ongoing negotiations and will be more conducive to a successful outcome.

13. What does the future hold for the Goodale Theater?

Artspace and the City of Minneapolis are optimistic about finding a new operator to continue the theater's legacy and are prepared to assist in the transition.

14. How can the community support the arts during this transition?

The community is encouraged to attend the remaining performances at the Goodale in February and March, support artists with canceled performances, and continue attending shows at the TEK BOX theater.

