WHAT IS THE TOWSLEY SOCIETY?

The Towsley Society is the Michigan Theater Foundation’s giving society. It was named to honor the memory of Margaret Dow Towsley, whose philanthropic vision and generosity were instrumental in saving the Michigan Theater in 1979.

The Michigan Theater, designed by Maurice Finkel, opened on January 5, 1928 with a fully functioning stage, orchestra pit, and elaborate organ, as well as the capability to project film. It was managed by Butterfield Theaters for 50 years, went through a change in décor in 1956 and then was threatened with demolition in 1979. The community rallied around Mrs. Towsley and our organists to preserve the theater. Then, in 2003, a full restoration of the theater was completed. With almost $9 million invested, the Michigan was returned to its original splendor.

In 2014, the Michigan Theater Foundation purchased the aging State Theatre, designed by C. Howard Crane, and in 2016 the State Theatre closed for extensive renovations and reopened in December of 2017. Community donations of over $8.5 million renovated the State Theatre and provided needed updates to the Michigan.

To say thank you to a very special woman who inspired generations with her spirit of community philanthropy, you will see the words “Remember Margaret D. Towsley” etched over the doors to the Grand Foyer in the Michigan Theater and the Mezzanine Lounge of the State.

Together, the Michigan & State Theaters are proud to serve as the community gathering places of downtown Ann Arbor, bringing over 400,000 guests to movies, plays, concerts, talks, meetings, parties, weddings, and other events each year.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To bring diverse people together to enhance understanding and build community, advance cinema and performing arts vitality, and protect our historic buildings.

For more information about the Towsley Society, please visit www.michtheater.org/towsley
HOW DO TOWSLEY SOCIETY MEMBERS HELP THE THEATER?

THE MICHIGAN THEATER FOUNDATION is a non-profit organization that relies on the generous and long-standing support of the community. Ticket sales and rentals make up only 56% of our annual budget. The other 44% must be generated through donations.

Membership in the Towsley Society is open to the public and recognizes all individuals that have made gifts of $5,000 or more to the Theaters. Towsley Society members become part of the vital “inner circle” of current support by providing unrestricted funds for the day-to-day care, programming and operations at the Michigan and State Theaters.

Being a member of the Towsley Society helps the Michigan and State Theaters in many ways by:

• Enabling us to obtain the best independent, foreign and documentary films
• Supporting programs like our Not Just For Kids Series, which features high quality professional family theater and film camp scholarships
• Providing necessary funds to utilize the historic Barton Organ for daily live performances
• Absorbing the tens of thousands of dollars spent on heating, cooling, and ventilating the theaters every day of the year

HOW DO I JOIN?

The most common way to join the Towsley Society is by pledging $1,000 or more per year over five years. In the fall, the Michigan Theater hosts an annual Towsley Society event on the stage to showcase our mission and goals, and provide opportunities for community involvement. Towsley Society members help make this event a success by inviting guests to attend with them.

To learn more about how you can be involved, please contact Megan Anderson, Development Coordinator, at 734-668-8397 x44, or Alicia Pani, Director of Development, x16.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP?

TOWSLEY SOCIETY
FOR A 5 YEAR PLEDGE OF $5,000
($1,000 PER YEAR OR $83 PER MONTH)
Members receive the following recognition:

• Recognition on the Towsley Society members plaque in the Michigan Theater foyer
• Your choice of a complimentary Premium Membership for the length of your pledge or Gold Card Membership at half the standard price
• Invitations to our exclusive Insiders Series events and other special events
• Access to our Towsley Society Ticket Service, which allows you to call the theater directly to purchase tickets to our live events and special engagements

BRONZE CIRCLE
FOR A 5 YEAR PLEDGE OF $10,000
($2,000 PER YEAR OR $166 PER MONTH)
Includes all the benefits above as well as:

• Complimentary Gold Card Membership for the length of your five-year pledge. For more information about Gold Card Membership visit michtheater.org/membership
• Donors can purchase priority seating for most live events and special engagements at the Michigan Theater

SILVER CIRCLE
FOR A 5 YEAR PLEDGE OF $25,000
($5,000 PER YEAR OR $416 PER MONTH)
Includes all the benefits above as well as:

• Discounted membership in the Backstage Club, which provides a VIP concert-going experience, including pre-concert dinners and guest speakers. Please contact Chief Development Officer Lee Berry at 734-668-8397 x22 to learn more about this exclusive group.
• There is an array of customizable benefits at this level. Please contact Director of Development, Alicia Pani, at 734-668-8397 x16 for a menu of options based on your interest.