



# City of Charles Town

101 East Washington Street, P.O. Box 14, Charles Town, WV 25414  
Phone: (304) 725-2311 ♦ Web: [www.charlestownwv.us](http://www.charlestownwv.us)

## A Resolution Recognizing the Old Opera House Theatre Company on Its Fiftieth Year Anniversary

**WHEREAS**, the Old Opera House Theatre Company was officially incorporated on May 7, 1973; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1910, Annie G. Packette raised \$50,000 and employed a Washington, D.C. architect to design and construct the New Opera House at 204 N. George St, Charles Town; and

**WHEREAS**, the first entertainment that took place in Charles Town's New Opera House was on the night of February 14, 1911 by home talent; and

**WHEREAS**, from 1948 to the 1970s, the New Opera House stage was dark because of the emergence of movies; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1971, Dixie Kilham, owner of Hilltop House in Harpers Ferry, and Robert and Diane Angel contacted the owners of the building, Mr. and Mrs. Augustine Todd, about using the theatre for local productions. The Todds agreed at least to the cleaning of the structure. Once the building was clean, a group of local citizens joined together to form The Old Opera House Theatre Company; and

**WHEREAS**, in October 1976, the “new” Old Opera House opened its main stage doors to the public with a production of My Fair Lady. Since then, the offerings of the theatre have continued to increase in diversity and frequency. Today the theatre presents six main stage productions, a summer family production, a one-act play festival and a ballet every other year; and

**WHEREAS**, the mission statement of the Old Opera House Theatre Company is: “Excite and involve the community in all aspects of the performing and visual arts.”

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the City Council of Charles Town, WV do hereby congratulate the Old Opera House Theatre Company on its fifty years of excellent service to our community and proclaim May 7, 2023, as Old Opera House Theatre Company Day in Charles Town, WV and wish continued success to Old Opera House Theatre Company and all its employees and volunteers!

Adopted this 1st day of May 2023.

Robert M. Trainor  
Mayor

Attest:

Alissa Meeks  
City Clerk