A BENEFIT FOR MECHANICS' HALL

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 6PM

CABINET OF WONDER

FEATURING

• BEN COSGROVE •

• BRIAN EVANS • AJ PARAMO • UNO LADY •

& MORE TO BE ANNOUNCED

Poster design: NASHBOX www.nashbox.com Illustration by Ted Smykal & Scott Nash

CABINET OF WONDER

A celebration of literary arts, music and performance to benefit Mechanics' Hall

THURSDAY **MARCH 21ST** 6:00 PM

Cabinet of Wonder is an immersive and evocative celebration of literary arts, music and performance at Mechanics' Hall, one of Portland's oldest and most creative-centered buildings. This special night brings together our vast creative community for an evening of surprise, discovery, and delight to benefit Mechanics' Hall. In just one evening, and with your help, we hope to reveal everything that's possible within our walls. We can't tell you everything, but here's what you can expect!

PERFORMANCES BY

Ben Cosgrove • Brian Evans • AJ Paramo • Lady Uno and more!

We'll offer delicious bites and drinks, tours of "The Clerestory" and more. Cabinet of Wonder is a benefit to ensure that Mechanics' Hall, a cultural treasure that lies at the heart of Portland's Art District, remains open and accessible to the public and a vital asset to the arts and culture landscape in Maine. All are welcome.

JOIN THE COMMITTEE OF WONDER!

Not just a host, The "Committee of Wonder" is a group of dedicated friends of Mechanics' Hall who are inspired and excited about our work to ensure that Mechanics' Hall continues to be a valued cultural resource in the heart of Portland's Art District. Be a part of what the Portland Press Herald is calling *"a major player in the downtown arts and culture scene."*

MARVELOUS HOST (2 PEOPLE) $550

- All benefits of Wonderful Host plus add/renew a Mechanics' Hall Sustaining Membership ($300 value) for one year
- By joining at this level you get to attend with a guest and enable Mechanics' Hall to give a free ticket to a community partner or artist

WONDERFUL HOST (2 PEOPLE) $325

- 2 tickets to Cabinet of Wonder
- Designation as a Committee of Wonder member on all benefit materials

WONDROUS HOST (1 PERSON) $175

- 1 ticket to Cabinet of Wonder
- Designation as a Committee of Wonder member on all benefit materials

CABINET OF WONDER EVENT COMMITTEE

Christy Bomba • Tom Haushalter • Annie Leahy • Darcy Brennan Poor • Scott & Nancy Nash • Chandra Leister • Bill Stauffer

ABOUT MECHANICS' HALL

In 1815, the Maine Charitable Mechanic Association was formed to support Maine's earliest creative class - "the mechanics." Between 1857 and 1859, these blacksmiths, coopers, artists, innovators, and creators built Mechanics' Hall in Portland – a communal gathering space with a stunning ballroom and a lending library at its center.

Literary Arts, Performance & Humanities Programming

Today, Mechanics' Hall celebrates that rich history through literary arts programs, music, performance, and more while working to restore our landmark building as a vibrant cultural resource for audiences and organizations throughout New England. In the last year, Mechanics' has hosted 50 literary programs and book launches, including partnerships with the National Book Foundation and Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance, as well as ten musical performances, 21 art installations and maker events, and other performances in collaboration with Portland Ovations, the Portland Chamber Music Festival, and the Portland Theater Festival.

Landmark building of National Significance

Located at the center of the Portland Arts District, The Hall was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. In November 2022, the National Parks Service designated the building as Nationally Significant for its association with events that contributed to American history and culture.

WHAT PEOPLE SAY ABOUT US

Mechanics' is a realm where art and creativity are deeply honored, affording creators the opportunity to delve deeper into their work without the constant pressure to delineate their boundaries. It has been such a refreshing experience!

- Courtney Swain, songwriter, composer, and sound artist

I can't imagine life without Mechanics' Hall. It's a quiet haven for writing, filled with a splendid array of new and old books. It's where I joyously celebrated the release of my debut novel. Attending events there has introduced me to cherished new friends in the audience. Bringing newcomers to the space is a delight—the universal, awe-filled response is, "Why didn't I know about this before?" I'm so grateful it exists.

- Keziah Weir, author The Mythmakers

Performing at Mechanics' Hall was a rare and wonderful experience, thanks to their genuine support for queer Latinx art and the delightful, accommodating team. I'm incredibly grateful and I can't wait to come back!

- AJ Paramo, cast member performing as AJ/DANCAIRO, double agent ICE officer in CarmXn

Mechanics' Hall adds so much to the cultural conversation in Portland. Thank you for all you do!

- Lily King, award-winning novelist

MECHANICS' HALL BOARD OF DIRECTORS Bill Stauffer • Chandra Leister • Suzette Bois
Tom Haushalter • Hilary Bassett • Scott Goodman • Pamela Hawkes • Kristopher Kleva • John Napolitano
Stuart "Tuck" O'Brien • Richard Spencer • Paul Stevens **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** Annie Leahy