

A BENEFIT FOR MECHANICS' HALL

THURSDAY, MARCH 27

EVENING OF WONDER



WHAT IS

EVENING OF WONDER?



Evening (formerly 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

To be announced!

We'll offer delicious bites, drinks and more. Evening 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.

2024 CABINET OF WONDER - A SUCCESS!

Last year's event sold out in 1 day! It was a full house (over 150 guests) for performances by:

*Ben Cosgrove • Brian Evans • AJ Paramo
Portals of Portland • Uno Lady and more!*

Cabinet of Wonder 2024 was featured in The Portland Press Herald and raised significant and necessary funding to support the ongoing historic preservation and programming of Mechanics' Hall.



"Mechanics' Hall is at the heart of Portland and, as metaphors go, it is almost too good to be true. I am so delighted that we have such a supportive space in which to gather and celebrate each other." - **AUTHOR PHUC TRAN**

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 • Brian J Evans • Hilary Bassett • Pamela Hawkes • Taffy Field
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SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

CLERESTORY SPONSOR • \$5,000

- Logo and website link on Mechanics' Hall event website
- 4 tickets to Evening of Wonder
- Name or logo on all program communications – electronic and printed
- 2 social media highlight stories in advance of event
- Verbal and graphic recognition at the event
- Opportunity to have printer/poster material at the event



BALLROOM SPONSOR • \$2,500

- Logo and website link on Mechanics' Hall event website
- 2 tickets to Evening of Wonder
- Name or logo on all program communications – electronic and printed
- 1 social media highlight story in advance of event
- Verbal and graphic recognition at the event
- Opportunity to have printer/poster material at the event



LIBRARY SPONSOR • \$1,500

- Logo/Name on Mechanics' Hall event website
- 1 ticket to Evening of Wonder
- Name or logo on all program communications – electronic and printed
- 1 social media highlight story in advance of event
- Verbal and graphic recognition at the event
- Opportunity to have printer/poster material at the event



PLEASE NOTE: DUE TO THE SIZE OF OUR VENUE, TICKET CAPACITY IS LIMITED.

If this is a barrier please let us know, and we will do our best to accommodate!

*Mechanics' Hall is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, and your gift is tax deductible to the full extent allowed by the law.
Maine Charitable Mechanic Association/DBA Mechanics' Hall Tax ID: #01-0248533*