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## **FD Study Club Announces Virtual Fundraiser for Phillips Auditorium Renovation**

Curl up on the couch, enjoy some of the area's best artists and help raise funds for a historic auditorium renovation. The organizers of the "Home is Where the ART Is" virtual fundraiser hope this sounds like a great night in.

"We are so excited to get the entire community behind this project," said FD Fine Arts Association Director Shelly Bottorff. "The Phillips auditorium is a much-needed space for rehearsals, concerts, plays, and so many other art opportunities. The space is going to be amazing, it just needs some TLC. This fundraiser will be a big step towards bringing it back to life."

The Fort Dodge Study Club is a women's philanthropic group, formed in 1935, with a tradition of raising funds for community projects. This year the group has partnered with the FD Fine Arts Association to host the virtual Home is Where the ART Is fundraiser, May 13<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 9 p.m.

"When Shelly came and told the group about all of the amazing ideas the FD Fine Arts Association has for the space, we were all so excited," said Study Club member and Fundraising Chair Jenn Becker. "We have some really fun things planned for the virtual fundraiser, including performances by local artists, live art during the event and a look inside Phillips auditorium, so the community can start envisioning it as a space we can all enjoy."

The online event will include performances by the Kris Karr band, Secor Strings, Clint Riedel, The Cosmic Brownies and more! There will be segments featuring corporate sponsors, FD Fine Arts board members and local artist talking about their vision for the space. There will also be a silent auction during the event. Bottorff says funds raised could go to new curtains, updated lighting, and bathroom renovations.

To donate or attend the virtual event go to <https://one.bidpal.net/studyclub> or look for information on Facebook at Fort Dodge Study Club.

### **About Phillips**

Built in 1922, Phillips Middle School was first known as North Junior High. The building served the Fort Dodge Community School District until 2014. In 2018, The Phillips Luxury Apartments opened, but the auditorium was left intact. In 2019, the Fort Dodge Fine Arts Association and current owners, Foutch Brothers LLC, formed a partnership to renovate the space to serve the community.