

EMPRESS THEATRE GROUNDBREAKING CELEBRATION

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Friday, April 16, 2004 marks the official Groundbreaking Celebration for the Empress Theatre renovation project in Downtown Vallejo. This will begin an approximately year-long venture designed to bring the Empress back to its former glory while creating a new performing arts venue for the City of Vallejo.

Festivities will include a Groundbreaking Ceremony at 10 a.m. with comments from City officials, the Vallejo Community Arts Foundation and Triad Communities followed by tours of the Empress Theatre. HERO Management will host a reception from 5-9 p.m. the same day, providing guests with a preview of the new pizzas soon to be available at Mel's Roast and at their new restaurant to open at 324 Virginia Street, next door to the Empress.

Under the Owner Participation Agreement with the City of Vallejo, ownership of the Empress Theatre will transfer from Triad Communities to the City or a non-profit arts-based organization. The Vallejo Community Arts Foundation (VCAF) has been identified by both the City and Triad as the organization to fill this role. VCAF is extremely excited about this opportunity and has already begun the demanding process of developing a business plan and structure that would allow for the Empress to become a successful, community-based, self-supporting theatre.

The Groundbreaking Celebration will also provide an opportunity for anyone wishing to be involved in the Empress Theatre's future to express their interest in joining the "Friends of the Empress", the Theatre's developing volunteer corp. All are welcome at both the morning and evening events on April 16.