



Photos by Virtour Media



Free Block Party Brings Santa Barbara Community Together

As this past summer marked the Lobero building's historic Centennial, EARL MINNIS PRESENTS and the Lobero Theatre Foundation presented a Free Community Block Party on August 10th to celebrate this memorable occasion.

The afternoon featured live concerts by big name dual headliners Big Bad Voodoo Daddy (whose signature sound blends a vibrant fusion of the classic American sounds of jazz, swing, and Dixieland) and Ozomatli (renowned for their invigorating live shows playing a unique blend of salsa, hip-hop, reggae, rock, merengue and funk).

Thousands of Santa Barbara residents came out to commemorate the occasion including Mayor Randy Rowse and Assemblymember Gregg Hart, who welcomed the crowd and acknowledged 100 years of the Lobero's positive impact on the arts community. Crowds of all ages packed the entire block of Canon Perdido Street between State and Anacapa streets, spending a joyful sunny Saturday from 3 – 7 PM dancing the day away.



Jackson Browne's Centennial Celebration Concert

In further recognition of the 100th Anniversary of the Lobero's grand reopening, the Lobero Theatre Foundation also presented a special Centennial Celebration Concert featuring iconic singer-songwriter Jackson Browne to commemorate this historic milestone on August 4th. For more than five decades, Browne has written and performed some of the most literate, moving songs in popular music – defining a genre of songwriting charged with honesty and emotion. We are deeply grateful to Jackson for having made this incredibly special evening possible. And we would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to our loyal patrons and the Santa Barbara community for your continued support.

"The Lobero is a wonderful venue. The vibe is first class. I have attended many shows here and never been disappointed. Santa Barbara is lucky to have a world class theater in its own back yard."
- Audience Member

Special Thanks to our Centennial Sponsors

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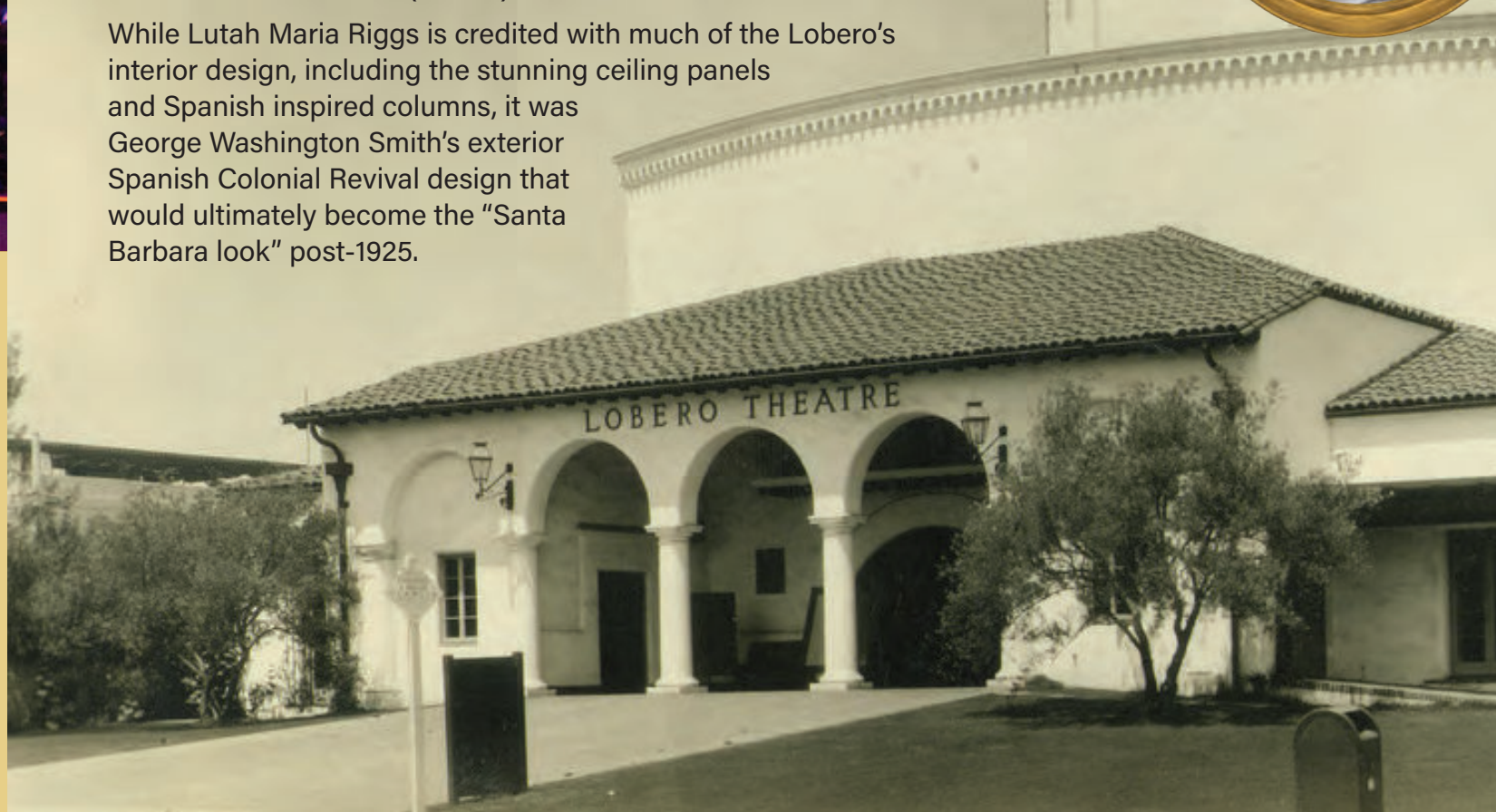
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1924 ~ 2024 Commemorating An Award-Winning 100-Year-Old Building

By 1922, José Lobero's Opera House had deteriorated significantly. This prompted the newly-formed Lobero Theatre Company to award George Washington Smith and Lulah Maria Riggs the commission to design a new theater, intended to be the home of the Community Arts Association – now known as the Community Arts Music Association (CAMA).

While Lulah Maria Riggs is credited with much of the Lobero's interior design, including the stunning ceiling panels and Spanish inspired columns, it was George Washington Smith's exterior Spanish Colonial Revival design that would ultimately become the "Santa Barbara look" post-1925.



The Building Centennial

In recognition of the 100th Anniversary of the Lobero Theatre, the Lobero Theatre Foundation is engaged in a community awareness campaign honoring the contributions of George Washington Smith and Lulah Maria Riggs – with the vision of creating an enhanced courtyard area to provide an all-weather entertainment space for stewardship, storage, and rental needs.

*Architectural rendering provided by Design Arc

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- **Rental Operations:**
\$1,540,690 (35.5%)
- **Programs & Presentations:**
\$1,624,410 (38%)
- **Employee Costs:**
\$763,735 (17.5%)
- **Fundraising:**
\$185,051 (4%)
- **Management & General:**
\$203,317 (5%)



Earned Income

- **Rental Operations:**
\$1,387,153 (31%)
- **Programs & Presentations:**
\$1,328,549 (29.5%)

Contributed Income

- **Individual Donors:**
\$1,120,588 (25%)
- **Foundations/ Government:**
\$274,425 (6%)
- **Board of Directors:**
\$132,396 (2.9%)
- **Corporate Sponsors:**
\$93,760 (2%)
- **Endowment Interest:**
\$163,363 (3.6%)

A Season of Community and Celebration

2023 and 2024 were exceptional years for a number of reasons. While the current George Washington Smith building turned 100 in August of 2024, we were able to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of José Lobero’s original Opera House in February of 2023. Straddling these two momentous milestones allowed us to celebrate the legacy of José’s vision in truly significant ways, and with broad participation from the community. First, we completed a \$6 million endowment campaign, strengthening our fiscal stability and allowing us to better support the performing arts and non-profit sectors at the Lobero. We also made a strong effort to reach out to the Santa Barbara community with free Block Party Celebrations. These events were attended by thousands of our local supporters, and featured

Chubby Checker, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy and Ozomatli. And of course we shared some unforgettable nights thanks to local legends like Jack Johnson, Steve Postell (and others honoring David Crosby), and Jackson Browne.

None of this would have been possible without the people who cherish this theater, love the performing arts, and have a vision for another 150 years of performance on the Lobero stage. To our Board of Directors, the Lobero Theatre Associates, an incredible team of ushers, and our unwavering donors, we say thank you. We are stewards of this historic building for only a short time. We know that our community and those individuals who come after us will persist and ensure that the Lobero legacy lives on.



Photos by Carly Otness



Access to the Lobero

Thanks to the generosity of the Lobero Theatre Foundation's Youth and Community Program donors, we are proud to announce record participation levels. With 12% of our tickets sold to students, we've experienced a 5% boost in overall ticket sales. Our outreach initiatives have inspired over 5,000 students, fostering a love for the arts. On the Lobero stage, 600 young performers had the extraordinary chance to perform in a space that has also hosted acclaimed artists like Yo-Yo Ma, Martha Graham, and Herbie Hancock, experiencing the excitement of stardom firsthand. We trust that our community and those who follow in our footsteps will wholeheartedly uphold and enhance the Lobero's rich heritage for years to come.



Listed here are the valued stage collaborations that benefited from our CAF:

Adderly School Foundation
 AHA! Santa Barbara
 Boxtales Theatre Company
 Ceylon International Film Festival
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 Lights Up Theatre Company
 Nebula Dance Lab
 Opera Santa Barbara
 Prime Time Band
 Santa Barbara Choral Society
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