



Contact: Office Manager

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**For Immediate Release:**

**Lead, its Opera House, and the Battle for the Ballot**

August 23, 2020

2:00 pm

Homestake Opera House

Courtyard & Theatre

313 West Main St.

Lead, SD 57754

Come Join us **Sunday, August 23, 2020, at 2:00pm** for a **Free Event** Celebrating the 100th anniversary of passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States and the Women's Suffrage movement, in the Courtyard and Theatre of the Homestake Opera House.

2020 marks the centennial of the passing of the 19th Amendment. To celebrate this important and historic milestone, the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites (NCWHS) and the William G. Pomeroy Foundation partnered to launch a new historic marker program commemorating the history of women's suffrage in the United States.

On **Sunday, August 23, 2020, at 2:00pm** the Historic Homestake Opera House Society, in partnership with the Lead Historical Commission, will present a Free Event "**Lead, its Opera House, and the Battle for the Ballot**", with BHSU history professor Kelly Kirk on the 100th anniversary of passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and the role South Dakota and the Opera House played in its passage. As an added treat, musician Donna Fletcher will be joining us to play the Cornet in honor of Rose Bower's 1916 performance.

Just prior to Professor Kirk's presentation, in the Opera House courtyard, we will unveil a likeness of a marker that will reside in the courtyard at the Opera House commemorating the role the Opera House and Lead, SD played in the Women's Suffrage Movement, and the Opera House's recognition as a site on ***The National Votes for Women Trail***. The physical trail marks locations from all over our country to tell the untold story of suffrage for all women, of all ethnicities, that extends well past the passage of the 19th amendment. You can find more information about the digital trail at <https://ncwhs.org/votes-for-women-trail/>





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Catherine Waugh McCullough



The Trail Plaque will recognize the remarkable efforts of the foremothers who fought to win women the right to vote:

October 1914, Catherine Waugh McCullough spoke on suffrage at the Opera House

August 1916, as part of the “flying squadron” campaign tours, Effie McCollum Jones spoke at the Homestake

theater and Rose Bower played cornet.



MISS ROSE BOWER

**About the Pomeroy Foundation**

The Pomeroy Foundation, which is a private, grant-making foundation based in Syracuse, N.Y., provided grants through its National Women’s Suffrage Marker Grant Program to recognize historically significant people, places, or things across the United States instrumental to women’s suffrage.

The William G. Pomeroy Foundation is a private, grant-making foundation established in 2005. The Foundation is committed to supporting the celebration and preservation of community history; and to raising awareness, supporting research, and improving the quality of care for patients and their families who are facing a blood cancer diagnosis. To date, the Foundation has awarded over 1,100 roadside markers and plaques nationwide.

Visit: [www.wpgfoundation.org](http://www.wpgfoundation.org)

**About NCWHS**

The National Collaborative for Women’s History Sites is a non-profit organization established to support and promote the preservation and interpretation of sites and locales that bear witness to women’s participation in American history. NCWHS is dedicated to making women’s contributions to history visible so all women’s experiences and potential are fully valued.

Visit: [www.ncwhs.org](http://www.ncwhs.org)

**Covid-19 - Precautions**

Please know that we take the health and safety of our visitors, artists, volunteers and staff seriously and will continue to follow the latest, most current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines to assist with slowing the spread of COVID-19.

If masks are considered desirable and appropriate protection by the CDC for venues similar to the Homestake Opera House (HOH) at the time of your visit, we will be requiring masks of both staff and audiences.

If, within 14 days of your scheduled visit to the HOH, you and/or members of your party have been in contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19, traveled to or from areas of substantial community spread, or if you have experienced any of the symptoms, we ask that



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you please stay home and contact our Box Office to arrange a credit for a future performance or a refund.

There is always a risk of exposure to COVID-19 in any public place where people are present. The HOH realizes that it cannot eliminate all risk but is committed to attempting to minimize the risk to those coming to our facilities. Our efforts, however, do not replace important practices to keep yourself well, including vigilant hand hygiene, staying home when symptomatic and social distancing wherever possible. Hand sanitizing stations, masks and gloves will be available at our facility for your convenience.

Please know we intend to implement visitor policies in a flexible way depending on the varying level of disease transmission in our community. As a result, our visitor guidelines will continue to be refined based on the updated guidelines of the CDC and our local public health officials.