

A photograph of a single-story brick house with a grey roof and two brick chimneys. The house has a central white door and windows with flower boxes. In the foreground, there are two blue signs on posts. The sign on the left reads 'Marie Dressler House' and 'Marie Dressler Museum'. The sign on the right is a historical marker for Marie Dressler (1866-1934). A small 'OPEN TODAY' sign is on the sidewalk to the right. The text 'MARIE DRESSLER HOUSE FOREVER' is overlaid in large white letters across the center of the image.

# MARIE DRESSLER HOUSE FOREVER

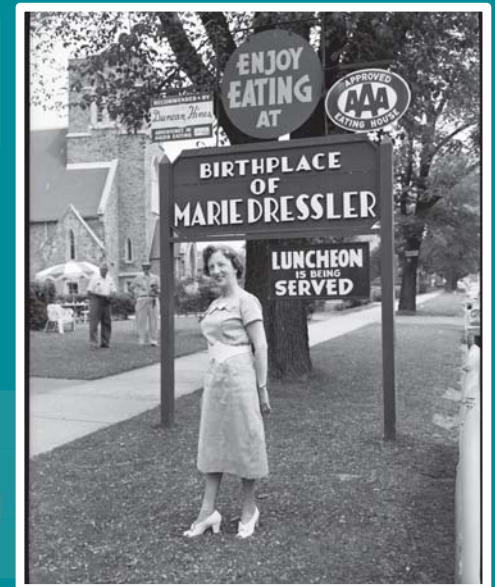
Presentation to Cobourg Town Council by Rick Miller, Marie Dressler Foundation  
July 20, 2020

# **THE MARIE DRESSLER HOUSE REVITALIZATION PROJECT**

**will protect and celebrate the  
180 years heritage of the House and  
build a lasting legacy for years to come**

# About Marie Dressler House

- Built circa 1840, the House is of historical and cultural importance as the birthplace of Hollywood star, Marie Dressler
- Fire ravaged the building in 1989, but the building was rescued and renovated with funds raised by Marie Dressler Foundation
- Building title was assumed by the Town of Cobourg and the House was designated as a Heritage Property in 1990
- For more than 25 years, the Town of Cobourg used the House for office space for various departments



Lenah Field Fisher



# Who Are We ?

- Marie Dressler Foundation, incorporated in 1990, is a registered charity under Canada Revenue Agency
- The Foundation is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors
- We are the owners and operators of Marie Dressler Museum
- Our fundraising events include the Vintage Film Festival, ReaRView DocFest, and Celebrate Marie Dressler events
- For the past 25 years the Foundation has supported graduating high school students across Northumberland County by awarding bursaries and funding other educational programs

# The Revitalization Project

- Create permanent exhibitions for Mary Pickford and Norma Shearer who will join their friend Marie Dressler in her natal home
- Celebrate the powerful influence these Canadian women had in early Hollywood
- Create a platform to celebrate accomplishments of other Canadian women in film, past and present
- Create a visitor experience that is educational and inspirational
- Provide a “signpost” that shows the historical journey for women in film and connects with today’s efforts to achieve gender equity in front of and behind the camera

# Occupancy History

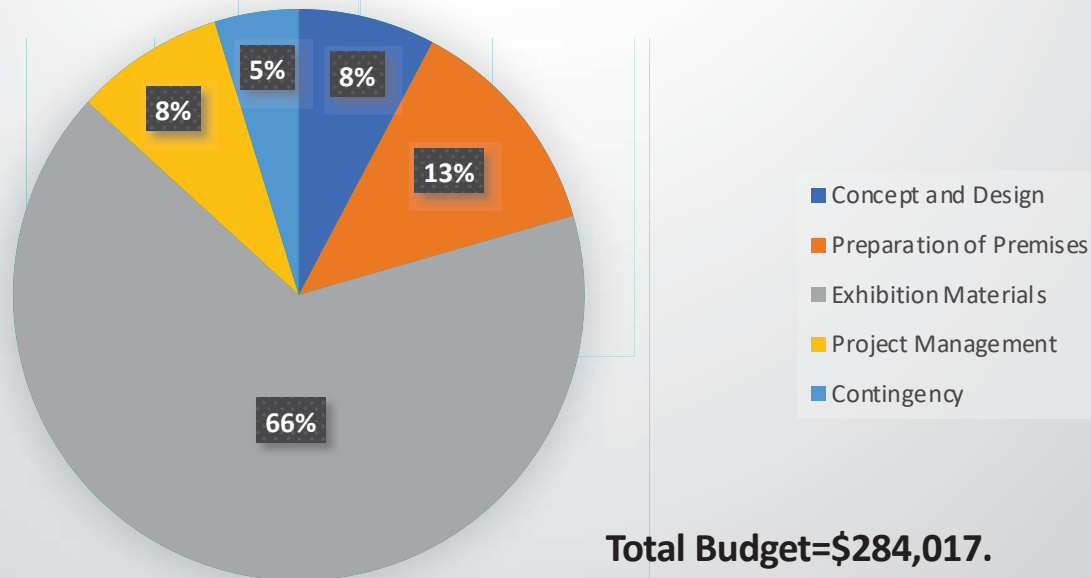
- A Lease Agreement was signed by the Town and the Foundation on August 11, 2015 for use of approx. 365 ft<sup>2</sup> until August 31, 2035 to operate Marie Dressler Museum;
- An Amending Agreement to the existing lease was signed by the Town and the Foundation on September 9, 2019, with the same term, for the use of the entire interior space in order to expand the existing Museum;
- Details of the proposed renovations were outlined by the Foundation in a letter dated October 18, 2019 to Town Council;
- On December 2, 2019 Town Council approved the Foundation's request to make interior renovations to Marie Dressler House.

# Project Update

- The design of the new museum was completed in April 2020 and has been donated by the University of Toronto, Museum Studies program;
- Long term loan agreements for the use of Mary Pickford and Norma Shearer artifacts have been signed with all “collectors”;
- A major grant has already been received from *Heritage Canada*;
- The Foundation’s fundraising campaign continues;
- The Foundation is now ready to seek requisite approvals for the proposed interior renovations from Town of Cobourg Building Dept.

# Project Budget

## Canadian Women In Film Museum Budget Categories



<b>Funded</b>	<b>\$ 220,281</b>
<b>Not Yet Funded</b>	<b>\$ 63,736</b>
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$ 284,017</b>

as at July 15, 2020



# Our Request

We request Town of Cobourg Council approve the waiver of applicable fees for:

- Town of Cobourg Building Permit, and
- Town of Cobourg Occupancy Permit (as applicable)

related to the interior renovations at Marie Dressler House and its use as a Museum;

- The subject fees<sup>\*</sup>, based on currently published rate tables, for an area of 2,124 ft<sup>2</sup>, are estimated at \$2,100. plus HST

<sup>\*</sup> subject to verification by Town of Cobourg Building Department

# Summary

- This project is an opportunity for Council to demonstrate publicly its commitment to the *Town of Cobourg Cultural Master Plan* by supporting the revitalization of a built-heritage asset which is owned by the Town;
- The Foundation is making a substantial investment to create the “Canadian Women In Film Museum” in the Town’s building;
- The tourism draw of this Museum, the only one of its kind in Canada, will be compelling
- This modest request for fee waivers does not set a precedent as Council has approved similar requests for building permit fee waivers for not-for-profit / charities based in Cobourg

**Questions ?**