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Community support saves Taproot Theatre from interruptions to summer programming after devastating vandalism and theft

The theatre exceeds \$400,000 fundraising goal and nearly completes HVAC construction

SEATTLE, WA — June 1, 2026 — Taproot Theatre exceeds its \$400,000 fundraising goal by June 1 deadline and nearly completes HVAC construction. After two of the theatre's three air-conditioning units were destroyed and stripped for their copper, the theatre launched its "Together With Taproot" campaign on April 27 to raise funding for a comprehensive overhaul of its Jewell Mainstage HVAC system. Now, five weeks later, community support has saved Taproot from interruptions to summer programming.

As of last night, the "Together With Taproot" campaign received **\$422,200.57** from **1,280** individual donors, 624 of whom were first-time donors. In addition to financial support, Representative Liz Berry, Councilmember Dan Strauss, and others connected Taproot with the City of Seattle Office of Construction and Permitting to move the HVAC project forward weeks faster than originally anticipated.

Construction began May 14, and a crane delivered new HVAC units to Taproot's roof on May 18. With [**Barefoot in the Park**](#) running in the Jewell Mainstage Theatre, Emerald Aire was able to work around performance schedules and get the HVAC system functioning by May 21. No performances were canceled due to construction.

The theatre is now able to confidently proceed with its summer programming, including a production of [**Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**](#) opening July 10 and summer camps for over 350 students starting June 22.

After recovering from many other hardships in its history, including a ruinous fire in 2009, this tragic incident came at a time of celebration for the theatre—Taproot's 50th Anniversary Season—but has become a heartwarming experience full of community support and unwavering generosity.

"We have been so deeply moved by the outpouring of support from our community, friends, and neighbors in response to this unexpected and costly need," Producing Artistic Director Karen Lund said. "Thanks to this incredible generosity, we won't miss a beat—the funds were raised, the HVAC is repaired, and we are profoundly grateful for the love and care that carried us through this moment."

To prevent future vandalism and theft, Taproot has installed cages around its rooftop AC units. The theatre will also partake in the City of Seattle's [**Back to Business**](#) program, improving building security measures that prevent property damage.

Additional donations are accepted at taproottheatre.org/donate. For any donation-related questions, please contact Director of Development Gina Cavallo at **206.529.3678** or development@taproottheatre.org.

Taproot Theatre Company is a professional, non-profit theatre company with a multi-faceted production program. Founded in 1976, Taproot Theatre serves the Pacific Northwest with Jewell Mainstage Theatre, Isaac Studio Theatre, and touring productions, as well as Acting Studio camps, classes, and programs for youth and adults. Taproot Theatre Company is a member of Theatre Communications Group, Theatre Puget Sound, and the Phinney Neighborhood Association.

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