

The Nile Theater
105 West Main Street
Mesa, Arizona 85201

B. Historic Landmark (HL) Overlay District Criteria. A building, structure, or object within or without an HP overlay district in the City may be designated as an "Historic Landmark" only if it displays exceptional historic, visual, or architectural significance and at least one of the following exists:

1. It meets the criteria for historic sites adopted by the State of Arizona through the State Historic Preservation Office;
2. Any part of it is 50 or more years old; or
3. It substantially meets the following criteria for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places adopted by the Secretary of the Interior, copies of which shall be on file in the Office of Historic Preservation:
 - a. Value as a significant reminder of the cultural, historical, architectural or archaeological heritage of the city, state, or nation.
 - b. Location is the site of a significant local, state or national event.
 - c. Identified with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the development of the city, state, or nation.
 - d. Identified as the work of a master builder, designer, or architect whose individual work has influenced the development of the city, state, or nation.
 - e. Value as a building is recognized for the quality of its architecture, and it retains sufficient elements showing its architectural significance.
 - f. Distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period.

Answers

1. Yes,
2. The Nile was built in 1924 and opened in September of 1924 making it 99 years old.
3. Yes,
 - a. The Nile was the first movie house in Mesa as well as the first "air cooled" building in Arizona.
 - b. The first movie house in Mesa.
 - c. + d.

The buildings of The Nile went on to also build The Orpheum Theater in Phoenix 4 years later. The Nile cost \$200,000 to build in 1924 which made it one of the more expensive buildings in the area.

- e. A renovation of the facade was done in 2018- 2019 to bring the facade back to its original glory. Minus the marquee, and the box office structure, the building looks very much the way it did in 1924.

- f. The Nile was built with locally kilned Lehigh Brick and was part of the "art deco" era of design. From the parapet to the Egyptian motif, The Nile was true to the time's obsession with the far East and art deco linework.

NILE THEATER CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN

Historic Designation

TIMELINE

MONDAY, JUNE 19 - MAIL LETTERS OUT FOR NEIGHBORHOOD PARTICIPATION MEETING

MONDAY, JUNE 19 - START SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH ANNOUNCING THE MEETING

- PART OF THAT SOCIAL MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE SHARING OUR EMAIL ADDRESS FOR ANYONE WHO CARES TO ASK QUESTIONS OR MAKE COMMENTS BUT IS NOT ABLE TO MAKE THE MEETING

TUESDAY, JUNE 27 5PM - HOST THE MEETING AT THE NILE COFFEE SHOP

TUESDAY, JUNE 27 8PM - EMAIL CITIZEN PARTICIPATION REPORT TO DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

MEETING INFORMATION:

DATE: TUES, JUNE 27, 2023

TIME: 5PM

LOCATION: THE NILE COFFEE SHOP

FORMAT: We will have a handout of a condensed version of the PPT presentation. We will go over the information with the attendees while displaying a PPT behind us. We will then open it up for questions/concerns.

We will have a sign in sheet for people as they enter so we have a record of who attended. This will be optional.



Community Participation Report Nile Theater

The meeting was held on Tuesday, June 27 at 5pm at The Nile Coffee Shop. Not a single person showed up to the meeting, so we have nothing to report from the meeting. However, we did receive two emails and one text message from neighbors.

They were just clarifying that there was no construction involved in the process. I explained it would be just a change in zoning and it would not affect their businesses, it was just a clerical change. The other neighbor inquired about the tax benefits to which I responded that I was not sure what those are or would be and that we were simply applying to protect that building and to honor the history of The Nile and that he would need to speak to the building owner for more information on that (if she has any).

So, the overall concern was a misunderstanding of what the process would be. The neighbors who did email were told no construction was happening at this time and that the plan was just to get the building designated as a historic landmark in Downtown Mesa.



Here are pictures of the meeting. It was just me and a bunch of empty chairs.