

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE MAINSTREET THEATRE

The purpose of this project was to enable the Theatre of the Republic to make major improvements to both the production capabilities and audiences' environment, both of which produce a better experience. Some of the improvements focused on safety. Others focused on ambiance. Still others focused on improving the quality of the shows which are offered. We believe that the result of this nearly two year effort is a massive improvement

Some of the accomplishments are described below.

OUTDOOR IMPROVEMENTS

Digital Marquee:

Success - The Marquee dates back to the original 1947 movie theatre. It has had many major repairs and renovations over the years. These have become more frequent as it ages. In addition, parts have become increasingly more difficult to obtain. The success measure was to have the installation completed which was accomplished.

The Goals Were As Follows:

- Lower the maintenance costs. Our experience is limited, but we could see that we did not get the damage from the high winds we had this year which we would have expected with the neon tubes and stick on letters required by the old marquee.
- Gain the ability to change messages quickly and safely. This was accomplished.
- Gain the ability to provide more information as well as better-quality messages. This has been accomplished.
- Gain the ability to provide community information not necessarily related to the theatre. This has been accomplished

Stage Left Façade:

Success – This was not accomplished. Our overall project was very large in scale and this was deemed a lower priority. It is our intention to revisit this part of the project in the future.

The Goals Were As Follows:

- Improve the appearance of the front of the building.
- Make the façade consistent with the theatre to provide a unified street profile.
- Improve the appearance of Main Street

Expand And Equip The Lobby:

Success - The success measure was to have the renovations completed on time. This was accomplished.

The Goals Were As Follows:

- Reduce crowding in the waiting space for patrons prior to the auditorium being open. We were able to move the box office creating additional space.
- Reduce the health risks to patrons as a result of crowding. This was accomplished
- Provide more sheltered waiting room space in times of inclement weather. This was accomplished
- Provide more efficient processing to reduce crowding more quickly. This was accomplished

AUDITORIUM IMPROVEMENTS

Lighting For The Auditorium:

Success - The auditorium is currently lit by incandescent lights mounted in the ceiling. In addition to being expensive to operate, they have a very short lifespan and are difficult to replace. When they are out, it is difficult for audiences to read programs and navigate seating. The success measure was to have the lighting changes made without disruption to the audiences. This was accomplished

The Goals Were As Follows:

- Audience Safety will be improved. This was accomplished
- All incandescent lights will be replaced. This was accomplished
- The quality of the auditorium lighting will improve. This was accomplished
- Maintenance will be improved and costs will be reduced. Our experience to date indicates that this was accomplished.

Carpeting & Reupholstery:

Success - The theatre has been presenting about 20 productions per season. In 2024, there was a performance on 104 days. That causes significant wear on the furnishings, which is now in need of replacement. The success measure was to accomplish the refurbishing without disruption. This was accomplished.

The Goals Were As Follows:

- The cleanliness of the auditorium will be improved. This was accomplished.
- The appearance of the auditorium will be greatly improved. This was accomplished.
- Extra material for future repairs will be obtained. This was accomplished.

Repainting The Auditorium:

Success - The theatre has an extremely busy production schedule. Efforts are made to provide maintenance between productions. Painting the auditorium has been postponed for more critical repairs. As a result, the auditorium had not been completely repainted for more than 20 years. The success measure was to accomplish the repainting without disruption. This was accomplished.

The Goals Were As Follows:

- The appearance of the auditorium will be greatly improved. This was accomplished.
- Extra paint for future repairs/touch ups will be obtained. This was accomplished.

PRODUCTION IMPROVEMENTS

Back Lit Projector/Light Wall:

Success - Digital backgrounds have become an integral part of all stage productions. We replaced our old system with one in which the scenery is projected by what is known as a LED Wall. This requires a series of digital monitors to be installed and linked. The success measure was to purchase and install the new system. This was accomplished.

The Goals Were As Follows:

- The quality of the video projections will be greatly improved. This was accomplished.
- The actor's shadows will not be cast onto the screen. This was accomplished.
- The production viewed by the audience will be greatly improved. This was accomplished.

Replace Stage Lighting With LED Fixtures:

Success - For the past several years we have been replacing the current stage lighting with updated equipment. The success measure was to complete the replacement of the outdated lighting system. This was accomplished.

The Goals Were As Follows:

- All incandescent lights will be replaced. This was accomplished.
- The LED lights will be able to change color and intensity more rapidly. This was accomplished.
- The quality of the lighting will improve. This was accomplished.
- Maintenance will be improved and costs will be reduced. Based on our experience this was accomplished.
- The production viewed by the audience will be greatly improved. Based on our experience this was accomplished.

Sound Improvement:

Success – This was not accomplished. Our overall project was very large in scale and this was deemed a lower priority. It is our intention to revisit this part of the project in the future.

The Goals Were As Follows:

- A professional sound engineer will develop both a short term and long term plan
- To the extent fiscally possible the plans will be implemented
- The quality of the sound will be noticeably improved and recognized by the audiences