

THE FRIENDS OF THE AUDITORIUM PRESERVATION EFFORTS - 1991-2016

1991 – Researched Audi’s original appearance. Restored original plaster and lighting. Painted original colors. Restored concert grand piano, purchased pit piano. Rescued and preserved original billboards.

1992 – Replaced stage floor. Renovated dressing rooms, sheet-rocked open basement areas.

1993 - Restored orchestra and balcony floors. Purchased two travel spotlights.

1994 - Constructed Reception Lobby at a cost of \$350,000 raised “One \$10 Brick at a Time” from 3,500 local families. Complied with ADA and BOCA guidelines with accessible ramps, restrooms, phones, seating. Historic 1898 stained glass windows from Baptist Church were rescued from demolition, installed in lobby. Billboard placed on Green St. Constructed second staircase from balcony to Prince Street making house code compliant. Opened second balcony.

1995 – Installed four exhaust fans on roof, created 3 minute air exchange through ceiling grills. Furnished Reception Lobby and dressing rooms.

1996 – Improved stage area. Also purchased \$10,000 code-compliant stage curtains.

1997-1998 – Carpeted house staircase, balcony aisles, and backstage dressing rooms. Improved maintenance, safety and quiet movement back stage. Placed period piano in Reception Lobby.

1999-2000 – Finished the Step Up and Cool Down Tower Project, raised \$200,000 and used a City \$50,000 CIP contribution to make a code-compliant staircase to provide safe access at all four backstage levels. Third floor chorus dressing rooms opened. Removed wooden stairway to stage. Purchased and installed air conditioning in the theatre and dressing rooms, which provided comfortable year round use. Raised the \$200,000 from 1,500 area families with most of the contributions in \$10 increments.

2001 – 2002 Purchased and installed Bose Sound System (\$43,000) made available to all users for \$50 annually, covered insurance. Constructed tech booth to hold sound and light boards. Converted storage areas to usable office space and provided furnishings – desk, cabinets, work tables, and refrigerator to new office area.

2003 – Purchased and installed new Strip Lighting, replaced 1929 incandescent bulb strips. Upgraded electrical wiring. Accepted donation of a Bulgransen Theatre organ. Purchased and installed FastBook System, then donated it to City, allowing 24/7 access to theater information and booking.

2004 – Established “The Fund for The Audi”, a \$100,000 “endowment” marking the 100th anniversary of the theatre, income dedicated to continuing preservation effort into the theatre’s second century. Created City Auditorium logo. Purchased and installed logo sign at the Prince Street entrance.

2005 – Purchased and installed ETC Stage Lighting equipment and ClearCon communication system (\$76,200). Replaced 1929 chandeliers in lobby entrance and balcony (\$4,600).

2006 – Purchased and installed Prince Street entrance doors and backstage loading dock door (\$7,000).

2007 – Removed 1904 asbestos curtain. Purchased and installed Zetex Fire Safety Curtain (\$40,000). Work performed by Sapsis Rigging. Purchased sound system monitors and furnishings.

2008 – Purchased and installed balcony carpeting, brackets and sockets for stage lighting. Cleaned and refurbished stage curtains for code compliance (\$10,000).

2009 – Consulted with civil engineers and installed ironwork to reinforce stage (\$12,000). Prepared for pinrail conversion.

2010 – 2011 Converted hemp and pinrail rigging to a steel mechanical system, enhancing safe and production capabilities. Work done by Sapsis Rigging (\$200,000).

2012 – Purchased and installed room-darkening blinds in the reception lobby. Electrical upgrades made by R&T Electric.

2013 – Purchased lobby furnishings – tables, chair dollies, TV and DVD player – to enhance use. Purchased materials to upgrade stage and restroom floors. Pinrail installed to allow art displays.

2014 – Restored historic plasterwork in entrance lobby and stairway to balcony (\$35,000). Purchased and installed historic plasterwork in entrance lobby and stairway to balcony (\$25,000). Purchased and installed historically appropriate hand railing. Work done by Milestone Construction. Digitized upgrades to sound system (\$10,000) and Stage Electric (work by Darkstar at a cost of \$11,800), improved tech booths. Refurbished Prince Street sign with work done by Advantage Sign (\$1,700).

2015 – Converted stage electrics to LED lighting (\$150,000).

2016 – Launched Audi Seat Restoration Project with a fund-raising goal of \$100,000. Anticipate further lighting and safety upgrades if possible.

Note: Every year since 1991 – 26 years and counting – the Friends of The Audi have provided maintenance services during the Pitch Ins – including the annual three day August Pitch In, the September Day of Caring, and the January Dr. Martin Luther King Community Service Day. Volunteer hours have been recorded and valued at the rate set by the US Department of Labor for volunteer service in New Hampshire. A minimum figure of \$10,000 per year brings to over \$250,000 in maintenance services including cleaning, painting, carpentry, electrical, plumbing, landscaping and promotional assistance. The calculations do not include in-kind gifts to the theatre over the years.

The total value of The Friends of The Audi's preservation and maintenance contributions to the city theater over 25 years is easily \$2,000,000.