

THE FRIENDS OF THE CONCORD CITY AUDITORIUM – PRESERVATION EFFORTS 1991-2016

1991 Research original appearance. Restore original plaster and lighting. Paint original colors. Restore concert grand piano and purchase pit piano. Rescue and preservation of original billboards.

1992 – Replace stage floor. Renovate dressing rooms, including sheet-rocking to open basement areas.

1993 – Restoration of orchestra and balcony floors. Purchase two travel spotlights.

1994 – Construction of a Reception Lobby at the cost of \$350,000 – raised “One \$10 Brick at a Time” by 3,500 local families. The lobby brought the building to ADA and BOCA compliance with the addition of accessible ramps, restrooms, phones, seating. Historic 1898 stained glass windows from the Pleasant Street Baptist Church were rescued from demolition and installed in the lobby. Billboard sign placed on Green Street. Construction of a second staircase from the balcony to Prince St., making the house code compliant and opening the second balcony for audience use.

1995 – Purchase and installation of four exhaust fans on the roof, enabling three-minute air exchange through the ceiling grills. Furnishings purchased for Reception Lobby and dressing rooms.

1996 – Further improvements to stage area, including \$10,000 purchase of code-compliant stage curtains.

1997-1998 – Carpeting of the house staircase, balcony aisles, and backstage dressing rooms to improve maintenance, safety, and quiet movement. Period piano placed in Reception Lobby.

1999-2000 – The Tower Project – “Step Up and Cool Down” -- \$200,000 plus a City \$50,000 CIP Contribution. The Tower a code-compliant staircase providing safe access at all four backstage levels, enabled opening the third floor chorus dressing room and removing the wooden stairway to the stage. The Project included purchase and installation of air conditioning in the theatre and dressing rooms, allowing year-round comfortable use. The Friends raised \$200,000 from 1,500 area families, again largely in \$10 increments.

2001-2002 – Purchase and installation of a Bose Sound System costing \$43,000, which is available to all users for \$50/year, covering insurance. Construction of a tech booth to hold sound and light boards. Converted storage areas to usable office space and provided furnishings (desk, cabinets, work tables, refrigerator, etc.)

2003 – Purchase and installation of new Strip Lighting, replacing the 1929 incandescent bulb strips. Upgrade of electrical wiring in the building. Donation of Gulbransen Theatre Organ. Purchase and installation of a FastBook system, donated to City, allowing 24/7 access to theatre information and booking.

2004 – Establishment of “The Fund for The Audi” – a \$100,000 “endowment” marking the 100th anniversary of the theatre, with income dedicated to the continuing preservation of the theatre in its second century. Creation of City Auditorium logo. Purchase and installation of logo sign at the Prince St. entrance.

2005 – Purchase and installation of ETC Stage Lighting equipment and a ClearCom communication system, \$76,200. Replacement of 1929 chandeliers in the entrance lobby and the balcony - \$4,600.

2006 – Purchase and installation of Prince Street entrance doors and of a backstage loading dock door (\$7,000)

2007 – Removal of the 1904 asbestos curtain and purchase and installation of a Zetex Fire Safety Curtain (\$40,000) to replace the asbestos curtain. Work performed by Sapsis Rigging. Purchase and install sound system monitors to augment Bose system equipment..

2008 – Purchase and installation of balcony carpeting, brackets, and sockets for stage lighting. Stage curtains cleaned and refurbished for code compliance - \$10,000 (delivery-pick up to Brooklyn, NY).

2009 – Consultation with civil engineers and installation of ironwork to reinforce stage -- \$12,000 – preparing for pinrail conversion to a mechanical rigging.

2010-2011 – Conversion of the 1904 hemp and pinrail rigging to a steel mechanical system, enhancing safety and production capabilities. Work done by Sapsis Rigging, \$200,000. Pinrail sample preserved in lobby.

2012 – Purchase and installation of room-darkening blinds in the reception lobby. Electrical upgrades to the theatre by R&T Electric.

2013 – Purchase of lobby furnishings to enhance use, including 6 tables, 3 chair dollies, TV, and DVD player. Purchase of materials to upgrade stage and restroom floors. Pinrail installed to allow art displays

2014 -- Restoration of the historic plasterwork in entrance lobby and balcony stairwell -- \$25,000. Purchase and installation of historically appropriate hand-railing, work done by Milestone Construction. Tech booth upgrades, digitizing sound system -- \$10,000, and Stage Electrics controls digitized \$11,800, work by Darkstar. Refurbish Prince St. sign -- \$1,700, work by Advantage Sign. Purchase of theatre WiFi -- \$1,200.

2015 -- \$150,000 project converting stage electrics to LED. Donation of four paintings by Concord artist Melissa Anne Miller to city, one for Audi lobby and three for City Hall, value \$10,000+.

2016 – Audi Seat Restoration Project – current project – est, \$100,000.

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

The all-volunteer Friends offer production, promotion, and hospitality assistance to all presenting groups.

The total book value of The Friends of The Audi’s preservation and maintenance contributions to the city-owned theatre over 26 years is close to \$2,000,000.