Project Highlight

Construction Update

The tower’s deep foundation system has been completed. The system consists of 123 macro piles that were drilled into bedrock during this past winter, spring and summer. Work planned for this fall includes constructing pile caps, which are reinforced concrete elements that will tie the piles to the vertical steel and the cast-in-place concrete foundation walls.

The tower crane will also go up soon, followed by the vertical construction of the superstructure. With those in place, the new tower will rise above the ground by year’s end. We’re looking forward to seeing the tower take shape in the new year.

Work inside the Carolina Theatre is also on track. Selective demolition of floor slabs is complete. This work is needed to make way for new equipment and storage space in an expanded basement area under the orchestra-level seating. New steel framing will quickly follow in the stage house to meet current structural building-code requirements for wind and seismic activity.

Candy Wars & Trilogy Battles

M&M’S and Sour Patch Kids are in a dead heat in our poll of your favorite candy to purchase at the movies. If you want a say in future concession offerings, cast your vote: carolinatheatreCLT.org/polls

Holding a tight lead for best movie trilogy is Star Wars. Cast your vote or add new options on the website! We will use the data collected to inform future programming decisions.
Design Feature

**Portal Connects FFTC’s Facilities**

A large portal will be created in the common wall that separates FFTC’s Sonia & Isaac Luski Gallery and the new Carolina Theatre lobby. The opening will provide a strong visual and physical connection between the two spaces.

Large sliding doors will divide the two spaces when needed. But when open, visitors and guests will easily move between the lobby and the gallery for events enjoying art exhibits and special programs. When closed, the doors provide acoustical separation, and each space can function independently. The concept is to provide flexibility to combine the spaces into one, while preserving the option to have separate and simultaneous events in each.

Whereas the decorative finishes in the theatre will be restored and replaced to match the Carolina Theatre’s original 1927 interior, the lobby will be modern in character, like FFTC’s gallery. Extending this modern palette into the theater lobby seamlessly extends the character of the gallery and speaks to the connectivity and planned collaboration of the two spaces.

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**Blast From the Past: Historic Highlight**

**Publix Theatre Chain**

When the Carolina Theatre opened in 1927, it was part of an empire of Publix movie theatres that stretched across the country. The Publix chain prided itself on providing a consistently high level of entertainment in a comfortable environment, as reflected in the company’s slogan: “You don’t need to know what’s playing at a Publix House. It’s bound to be the best show in town.”

Chicago native Sam Katz was president of the Publix Theatres Corporation (later Paramount Publix Corporation) and the driving force behind the company’s explosive growth. To Katz, the purpose of a well-run theater went far beyond entertainment in terms of its value to the public.

“A properly conducted theatre is of the same importance to a community as a school or church,” Katz said. “Such a theatre contributes to the general welfare of the community, because wholesome recreation is essential to its well-being.”

By 1930, there were approximately 1,200 Publix movie houses in the U.S. and Canada, and more than 2 million people went to Publix theatres every day to see the biggest and best movies Hollywood had to offer.

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