Project Highlight

This winter, the Carolina Theatre hosted a series of Pop Up events around the city. With a generous grant from AT&T, our team created a “mini-season” that represented the types of programming you can expect to see when the theatre opens.

First up was the 20th Anniversary screening of The Blair Witch Project, held at Blue Blaze Brewery on Oct. 26. Leading up to the event, handmade twanas, a popular wooden creation from the film, were hidden around town. Anyone who found one received a free beer at the screening.

Next, we hosted CBS Sunday Morning contributor Nancy Giles as our keynote speaker at Johnson C. Smith University on Dec. 11. Her discussion on “Life in the 24-Hour News Cycle” was poignant, appropriately timed and laugh-out-loud funny. WSOCTV anchor Brittney Johnson joined Nancy on stage for the second half of the evening for an equally entertaining Q&A session.

Stay tuned in 2020 for the remaining events – you won’t want to miss them!

Tower Crane

On Nov. 4, a 190-foot-tall construction tower crane was set up and placed into service. A Carolina Theatre banner is mounted on the crane jib.

With the crane in service, the superstructure construction work will pick up speed. Look for the base of the tower to rise above the existing theatre walls soon.

Check out the setup video.

Fun Fact

Did you know that you can catch the original Carolina Theatre neon sign hanging in the Sonia and Isaac Luski Gallery at our Foundation For The Carolinas headquarters at 220 North Tryon St.? Stop by and check it out during regular business hours. Snap a picture and tag us @carolinatheatreclt. We would love to see it!
The Carolina Theatre hotel tower will add a unique high rise to the Charlotte skyline. Distinctive design features include the tower height, its overall blue hue and slender profile.

At 445 feet, the height of the tower (to the highest equipment roof) tops out just below the height of the nearby Fifth-Third Center which is 447 feet. It will be among the top 15 tallest buildings in Uptown. Additionally, Charlotte Agenda recently reported it will be the tallest hotel in the Southeast outside of Atlanta.

Blast From The Past: Historic Highlight

Original Furnishings

The Carolina Theatre was considered an opulent theatre of its time, with extraordinary furnishings and luxe finishes, such as fine draperies. They were used throughout the space as wall coverings in the lounge areas, the mezzanine lobby and in the audience chamber.

According to a 1927 edition of the Charlotte Observer that delved into the Carolina Theater’s splendor, acquiring and importing the draperies was quite an effort, and no expense was spared.

“All of the draperies in the Carolina, a Publix theater, have been imported from France at a heavy expense”, the article stated. When the plans for this new and beautiful theater were completed, it was decided that in order to blend the draperies with Spanish Renaissance design of the house it would be necessary to import them from southern France. In accordance with the plan, an expert from the Publix Theaters corporation and one from the Henry Satter studios sailed immediately to select and purchase draperies that would be most fitting.

The article states that after many months of traveling through northern Spain and southern France, a group of expert weavers were assembled, designs were drawn, material was bought and the draperies for the Carolina Theater were finally completed.