Construction Highlights

Despite the almost universal shut down caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, construction work at the Carolina Theatre continued as planned with minimal impacts. We achieved another major construction milestone in late February with the completion of the steel framing and concrete floor slabs on all theatre levels.

Initial work for the mechanical ductwork, plumbing piping and primary electrical distribution is now underway on all floors. Major equipment for the theatre’s mechanical plant has been set on level five.

Inside the theatre, work to expand the basement level into the old crawl space is also underway and going as expected. The expanded basement level includes a new main electrical room, a new orchestra pit lift, infrastructure for a movable seat system and storage areas. Installation of the myriad electrical raceways to support the new audio-visual system and theatrical lighting is also in progress.

Later this spring, the original roof system will be completely removed and replaced. Work on the podium exterior-glazed enclosure began in early May and will run through mid-summer.

We Need YOU!

Our team is gearing up for a 2022 opening.

Our vision is to become the community’s most beloved theatre – a place everyone goes to talk, laugh, think and connect. To achieve this, we need community input.

Be on the lookout for opportunities to provide feedback and engage with us about everything from the theatre’s “voice” to programming and events.

Visit our website CarolinaTheatreCLT.org or our Instagram (@carolinatheatreclt) for more information.
Atmospheric theatres were all the rage in the late 1920s. Designed to transport audiences to a particular place through architecture and décor, these theatres often created the illusion of being outdoors. The Carolina Theatre was designed with a Mediterranean scene in mind, and The Charlotte Observer described it as resembling “a Spanish castle.” No detail was spared to create the impression of the Mediterranean countryside. Murals were painted on the side walls of the house to appear as if you were overlooking a Spanish garden. Spanish Renaissance design was evident in the ornamental plastering, tile work and color schemes. And for good measure – faux ivy was draped around the balustrades below the murals.

Fun Fact

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Blast From The Past: Historic Highlight

Let’s hear it for updated building codes!

When the theatre opened in 1927, a small window under the marquee on Tryon Street served as the lone box office. After purchasing tickets, patrons would proceed down a hallway where they were met by two sets of double doors that opened directly into the audience chamber. Prior to entering the house, stairs to the left and right of the doors led guests to the mezzanine lobby. This lobby housed the only public restrooms for the theatre. We cringe to think about the lines waiting for those restrooms!

Fortunately, today’s building standards ensure that theatre patrons will have ample room and accommodations in the new space, including three spacious lobbies and multiple restrooms.

Hand-painted murals and faux ivy were used in the original design of the Carolina Theatre.

When it was built, the only public restrooms for theatre patrons were located in the mezzanine lobby, pictured above.

A staircase led to the mezzanine lobby in 1927.

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