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Capitol Theatre Fact Sheet

The Capitol Theatre building

- The Capitol Theatre is in the heart of the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood's Gordon Square Arts District, a five-minute drive from downtown Cleveland. It opened April 8, 1921, as part of the historic Gordon Square Arcade, at West 65th Street and Detroit Avenue.
- With its reopening, the Capitol is Cleveland's newest and oldest operating movie theatre. It began as a silent film and vaudeville house with about 1,400 seats and an ornamental interior uncommon in neighborhood theatres. Over the years, the theatre suffered extensive damage from water and neglect. It has been dark since the mid-1980s.

The project

- The renovation of the Capitol Theatre is one of the anchor projects of the Gordon Square Arts District, a unique collaboration of three nonprofits — the Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization, Cleveland Public Theatre and Near West Theatre — that is using the arts as a catalyst for economic development in the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood.
- The renovation will transform the Capitol into a state-of-the-art, high-tech theatre — the only all-digital movie theatre in Cleveland — while retaining the atmosphere of a 1920s-era movie palace. The main theatre will be equipped with digital 3-D technology.
- The project converted the old single-movie house into a three-screen cinema, with a 420-seat main theatre on the ground floor and two balcony theatres, each with 96 seats.
- Workers painstakingly restored many historic details of the Capitol during the renovation, including the main theatre's proscenium arch and original "wagon wheel" chandelier. A 34-foot-diameter plaster medallion above the chandelier was restored and refinished, as were decorative plaster pilasters around the perimeter of the main theatre. The lobby was expanded to include a concession area, with detailing to match the original woodwork. The roof was replaced, a new heating and cooling system installed and a historically appropriate ticket booth was added.
- The Capitol is the only theatre on Cleveland's West Side that will regularly feature art and independent films as well as quality Hollywood movies. Jonathan Forman's Cleveland Cinemas, which owns and operates the Cedar Lee Theatre and seven other theatres in Northeast Ohio and in Pittsburgh, is managing the theatre.
- Moviegoers will be able to enjoy wine, beer and fresh baked goods as well as more traditional movie theatre fare. The theatre will also be available for private parties, screenings and events.
- The main theatre will feature modern, comfortable seating with more legroom than is typically available in movie theatres. Guests will also be able to relax on couches and comfortable chairs in the mezzanine lounge. The balcony theatres will have stadium-style seating.

The Grand Reopening

- Eleven days of celebration are planned for the Capitol's reopening, beginning with a gala on Thursday, Oct. 1, to benefit the Gordon Square Arts District. Honored guest will be Cleveland-born producer/director Joe Russo. Mayor Frank G. Jackson will cut the ribbon at a public reopening Friday, Oct. 2. The celebration will continue through Oct. 11 with a full movie schedule, special feature film showings, giveaways and promotions.

See reverse side

Numbers and players

- Number of seats: 612. The main theatre seats 420; the balcony was split into two theatres, each with 96 seats.
- Total project cost: \$7.5 million. Funding included federal New Market Tax Credits (\$2,284,000), federal and state historic tax credits (total: \$2,026,000), a loan from the city of Cleveland (\$1.5 million), a Cuyahoga County grant (360,000) and grants from the Cleveland Foundation and the Ohio Cultural Facilities Commission (\$500,000 each).
- Owner: Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization.
- Design/builder: Marous Brothers Construction.
- Architect: Westlake Reed Leskosky.