AUDITORIUM THEATRE WINS LEAGUE OF HISTORIC AMERICAN THEATRES’ OUTSTANDING HISTORIC THEATRE AWARD

(CHICAGO, IL) On July 14, 2019, the Auditorium Theatre received the League of Historic American Theatres’ (LHAT) Outstanding Historic Theatre Award, recognizing the Auditorium for its demonstrated excellence through its programs and services, community impact, and the quality of its restoration and rehabilitation work. Past recipients of the Outstanding Historic Theatre Award include New York’s City Center, Ann Arbor’s Michigan Theater, and Atlanta’s Fox Theatre.

“We are thrilled to receive the Outstanding Historic Theatre Award as the Auditorium Theatre celebrates its 130th anniversary this December,” said Rachel Freund, Interim Chief Executive Officer of the Auditorium Theatre, who accepted the award. “When the Auditorium first opened, it helped establish Chicago as a world-class city. It continues to significantly contribute to the city’s cultural, historical, and architectural landscape today, thanks to the support of the amazing people of Chicago and the patrons from around the world who come through our doors each year. This support enables our staff and Board to present unparalleled programming and to continue to..."
“The Historic Auditorium stood out among an impressive list of nominations to claim the award this year,” said Ken Stein, LHA T President and CEO. “Considering it is one of the great historic preservation projects in the nation, I am surprised it has taken us this long to bestow this award on the Auditorium.”

The Auditorium Theatre, built by the architectural duo of Dankmar Adler and Louis Sullivan, opened on December 9, 1889. The theatre’s main patron, real estate tycoon Ferdinand Wythe Peck, envisioned a building that would bring people from all across the city together under one roof to experience the performing arts, a "Theatre for the People." Today, theatre staff and Board members work to restore the theatre to its original glory while also ensuring the best possible experience for modern-day visitors. The Auditorium remains a Theatre for the People that aims to make the arts accessible to all.

The theatre underwent major restoration work in the 1960s, during a period of time when the theatre was temporarily closed to the public. The theatre had its grand re-opening in 1967, thanks to the tireless work of Beatrice Spachner, who worked with a team of specialists that included Chicago architect Harry Weese, to restore the theatre. Additional major restoration work was completed in the early 2000s. More recent work has included the installation of LED lighting adhering to the color temperature of the building as it would have appeared at the time of its unveiling, restoration of original Louis Sullivan stencils in the second floor Dress Circle lobby, and replacement of drapery and carpeting.

The Auditorium Theatre welcomes more than 300,000 people through its doors each year, bringing in one of the most socially diverse and culturally engaged audiences in the city for performances and events including Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, David Sedaris, Ballet Folklórico de México de Amalia Hernández, Neil Young, National Geographic Live, and more.

The theatre also offers extensive community programming, including free Master Classes taught by dancers from American Ballet Theatre, Alvin Ailey, and Ballet Nacional de Cuba, among others. Every season, thousands of students from across the city come to the theatre to experience special Student Matinee performances by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Too Hot to Handel: The Jazz-Gospel Messiah, and more. Auditorium Theatre Teaching Artists also work with schools across the city to integrate the performing arts into the classroom through music and poetry workshops.

Community groups may apply to receive free tickets to any of the Auditorium’s presented shows through the theatre’s ADMIT ONE program, launched in 2016, which also offers free transportation, hospitality, and an artist-led workshop at no cost to participants. Additionally, the Auditorium Theatre hosts a performing arts summer camp, Hearts to Art, for young people who have experienced the death of a parent, now in its 15th summer. Over 1,100 campers have attended this award-winning program since 2005.

The Outstanding Historic Theatre Award was presented to the Auditorium at the start of LHAT’s annual conference, held this year in Philadelphia and attended by more than 330 historic theatre operators and industry members across the country.

About the League of Historic American Theatres

Founded in 1976, the League of Historic American Theatres (LHAT) is a non-profit organization with the main purpose of sustaining historic theatres across North America for the benefit of their communities and future generations. For over 40 years the League has grown to include members from throughout the historic theatre industry in both the United States and Canada and has become the professional network for theatre owners and operators to connect with others who have faced the unique challenges of historic theatre ownership and operation. Whether they are looking to restore, reopen, maintain or just improve operations; through the League, members have access to peers
About The Auditorium Theatre

The Auditorium Theatre, located at 50 E Ida B Wells Dr at Roosevelt University in Chicago, is an Illinois, not-for-profit organization committed to presenting the finest in international, cultural, community, and educational programming to all of Chicago and beyond as The Theatre for the People. The organization also is committed to the continued restoration and preservation of the National Historic Landmark. For more information about programming, volunteer, and donor opportunities or theatre tours, please call 312.341.2310 or visit AuditoriumTheatre.org. For a complete listing of events at the Auditorium Theatre, please click here.

Upcoming Events at the Auditorium Theatre

August 17: Dance for Life
August 24: Hip-Hop Orchestra in Chicago
September 10: King Crimson – 2019 Tour "Celebrating 50 Years"
September 21: Get Out with the Chicago Sinfonietta
September 24: National Geographic Live – Between River and Rim: Hiking the Grand Canyon
October 4: Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater/Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre
October 16-27: The Joffrey Ballet – Jane Eyre
October 31+November 1: Disney in Concert: Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas
November 7-9: 93XRT Presents The String Cheese Incident
November 10: Sleeping Beauty Dreams