

AUDITORIUM THEATRE

CHICAGO'S LANDMARK STAGE® EST. 1889

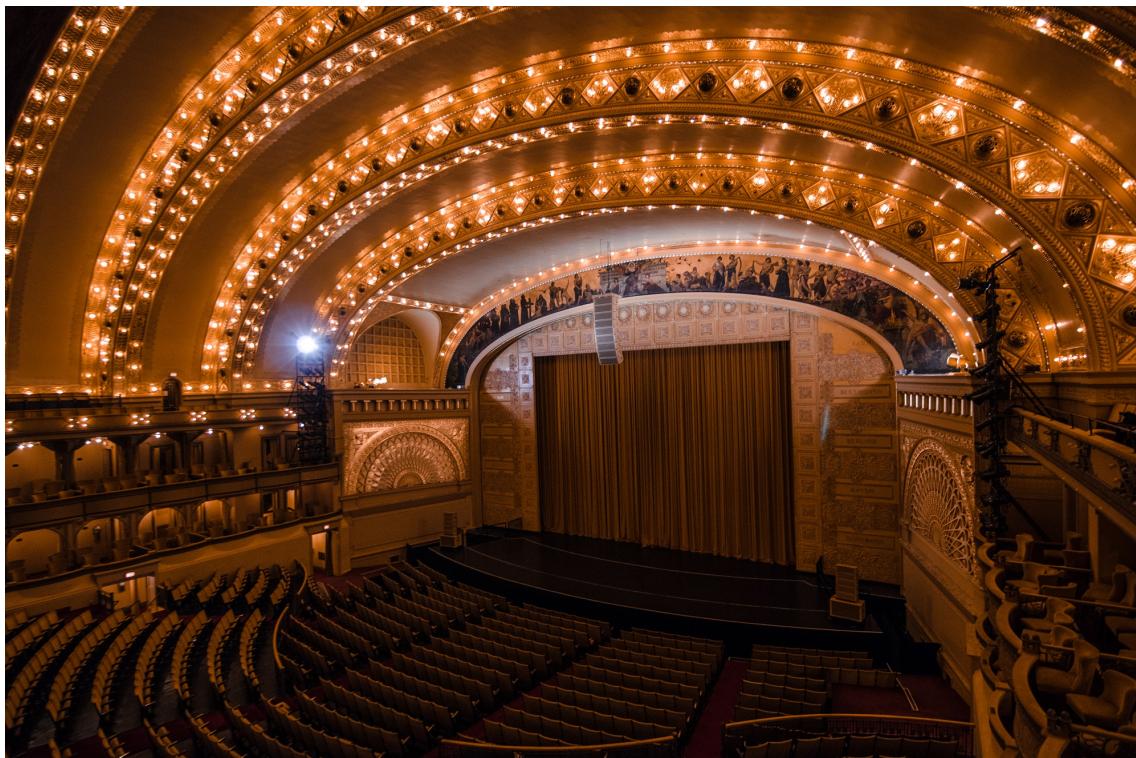
50 E Ida B Wells Dr
Chicago, IL
AuditoriumTheatre.org

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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' 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

preserve and restore our National Historic Landmark theatre so it can be enjoyed by generations to come. It is an honor to be recognized for this work."

"The Historic Auditorium stood out among an impressive list of nominations to claim the award this year," said **Ken Stein**, LHAT 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



in theatres of all sizes and stages of renovation and operation, as well as theatre industry professionals whose services range from architectural and design to lighting to stage equipment to ticketing and much more. Since its founding, the League has grown to over 1,100 members representing 380 historic theatres and organizations, large and small, rural and urban, non-profit and for-profit. Learn more about LHAT [here](#).

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](#)

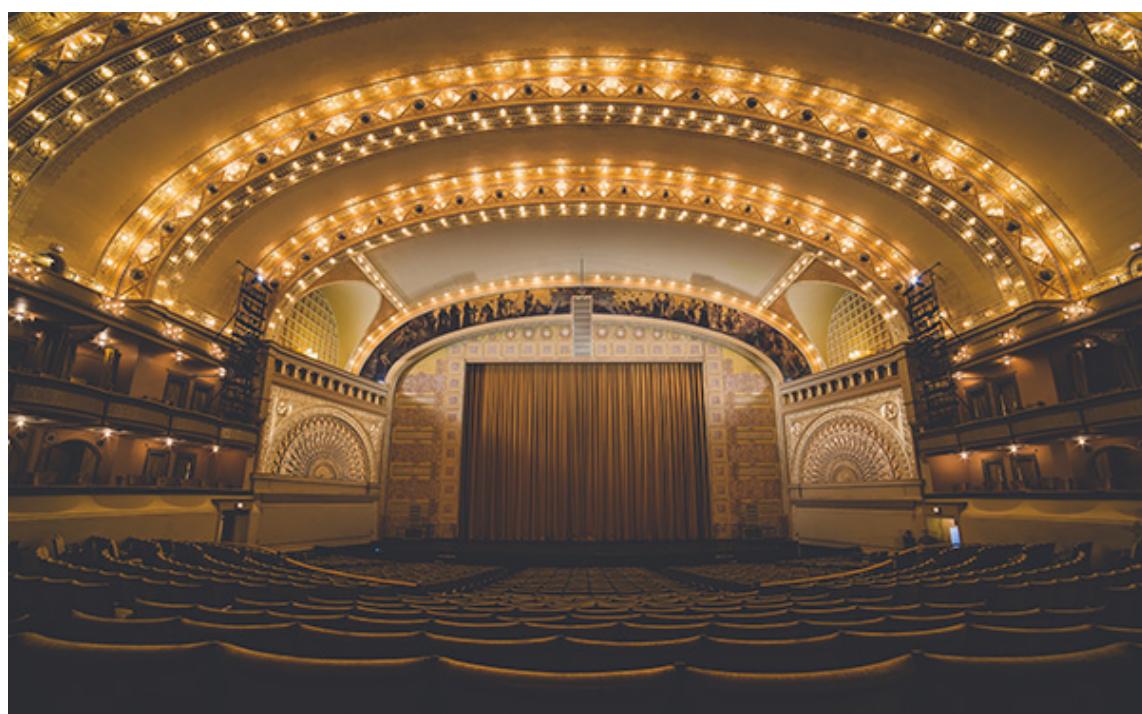
October 4: [Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater/Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre](#)

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](#)



Auditorium Theatre, photo by Karl Solano. | A Golden Celebration of Dance, photo by Kristie Kahns. | Student Matinee, photo by Anthony H. Nguyen. | Auditorium Theatre, photo by Lucio Vergara.