

# **Strand Theatre Shelbyville, Inc.**

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## **Strand Weekly Email 1/20/2017**

Written by David on January, 20 2017

Dear Strand Fan,

Welcome to our first email of 2017! The Strand is looking forward to our upcoming season. Over the next few emails we will talk about all sorts of topics. Before we look back, let's come up to date with what is happening now.

The Strand has always closed in January to do heavy maintenance and renovation work. This year we had a major change of plans due to requirements from the State Fire Marshal inspector Walter Knaepple. We went through quite a process but in the end we were fine and there was no problem. It unfortunately delayed us 6 months, so all the work we needed to do, we were not allowed to plan due to their requirements, which they later rescinded. So instead of doing work on our stage, we had to work elsewhere.

The lobby floated to the top of the work list. This is a project that required no permits, as it is cosmetic. The lobby welcomes every audience member. Originally it was painted (as we recall only 4 days before we opened) in the color scheme of the auditorium. There was good reason for this...we had the paint! (Warning, tech talk ahead). The auditorium is painted with an Adamesque paint scheme, keeping as closely as we could to historic colors. The auditorium is generally dark, and the hues of the paint wash out in the dim light. What is left is the comfortable warm colors that we experience today. The lobby on the other hand is very bright, hence the lobby was vibrant, maybe too much so.

The carpet in the lobby is the last remaining original carpet in the theater. It has endured years as use as a movie theater followed by the abuse from our original renovations. On top of that just under 100,000 patrons have walked across the lobby. It was beyond time to go. Since we were replacing the carpet, it was an ideal time to change the paint scheme.

Thank you to Essex Carpet Cleaning for getting us this far! Ernie and Jack were often at the theatre getting our carpet it back into usable shape.

Shelbyville Paint and Wallpaper helped us with the new color scheme. This was formulated around the carpet color. They donated the carpet! Thank you Ray and Cindy. Since everything had to be removed, we took the opportunity to remove the two counters on either side of the lobby. They originally hid the steel supports for the structure. We now have more space with only two posts on either side. This weekend we are going to paint the lobby. Our work session Saturday from 9:00am - 1:00pm will focus on getting the lobby painted. It requires 3 colors with 3 different types of paint!

We are also preparing exhibit space on either side of the lobby. Since we opened, we have hung paintings from the Shelby Arts Council collection. Thousands of people have enjoyed these local works of art dating back to 1886. It was time to change. The north and south side of the lobby will now have exhibits from the Shelby County Historical Society. These exhibits will change every few months. It is our hope that our patrons will also visit the Grover Museum after being exposed these lobby exhibits. Thank you to Alex and everyone at the SCHS for making this happen.

The final lobby project is to replace our front doors. The doors were installed in 1967 and have served the theater well. It is time for modern, airtight and secure doors. The new doors are being installed by Adams Glass. They will include new safer lock hardware too.

The other work we are doing is cosmetic in nature as well. Since we could not work on stage due to being stopped by the State Fire Marshal, we are also finishing our offices. Everything needs done, and having the space usable will help our overall project. Making the theater better for our performers and audience is first priority. Since we could not do that, we are using the time in January while closed to bring the offices back to life for the first time since 1967.

We have repaired the plaster and installed some new drywall. We also repaired a section of floor, all things that needed done. We will be able to start painting and decorating. While we were there, we also prepared to projection booth for a new drop ceiling and carpet. The project will be transformational to the Strand for our internal operations. We have to paint up there too. We will be using the same lobby paint scheme for the area just outside our balcony bathrooms. We are also painting the metal stairs going up to the projection booth. It will look great when done.

With each day the Strand becomes better and safer. We are proud of the work of our volunteers. If you would like to help, we are working Saturday from 9:00am - 1:00pm.

During our break we have had many visitors. We welcomed people from as close as Shelbyville, to those from Alabama and Maine! We love putting little pins in a map.

Many projects do not have an outwardly visible impact. This year everyone will see the change! Thank you to Blue River Foundation and our many donors who help us with our ongoing renovation. We are busy booking performances. 2017 will be fun! See you at the Strand.

**Images on this post:**

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