

Setting the Stage Capital Campaign

NORWALK ARTS CENTER

By: Dina Lukasko, President and Chair of Fundraising for NAC

The saying "it is better to give than to receive" has certainly applied in a wide variety of situations in my life. There is a feeling of kindness, compassion, and love that you feel when you offer to help someone to better their situation or reach a milestone in their journey of life.

Just recently, I have begun to meet with extraordinary people of Norwalk and the surrounding area to speak to them about our Norwalk Theater project in the hopes that they would welcome and share the vision of our project.

At first, it was a bit daunting to think of how to ask these people for a gift to further our mission and campaign for the theater, but the more I spoke with them, I realized that it was their spirit of giving and believing in us that really excited me about this project. I feel very blessed to be the fundraising chairperson for the Norwalk Arts Center "Setting the Stage" Capital Campaign because of all of the amazing people I am meeting and getting to know more personally.

The campaign is off to a great start with fundraising phases in place and a goal of \$1,500,000 as our target to restore this historic theater to its original grandeur. There will be three main phases and one contingency phase for extra expenses that we will undoubtedly incur.

Our first phase is dedicated to the replacement of the entire roof on the theater (marquee and all), the removal of the ceiling, remediation of the mold, and updating the entire HVAC system. Work on the roof is scheduled to begin the first part of December. It will be so wonderful to know that when it rains or snows, the inside will not be "crying" anymore!

We have been very busy contacting the appropriate contractors for the different stages of work that need to be done, as well as applying for grants on every platform appropriate for our level of need.

As the campaign progresses, so will the work. It is our hope that everyone that has an interest in the arts, whether it be dance, art, theatre or music, contact us to get involved, one way or another. Your gift of time, talent and/or treasure will in turn be a gift to the community of Norwalk and greater Huron County.

PHASE 1: Roof removal/replacement, Ceiling demolition and mold remediation, HVAC removal and new install estimated: \$400,000

PHASE 2: Marquee updates, electrical, plumbing, lighting/sound systems estimated: \$500,000

PHASE 3: Flooring, bathrooms, interior/exterior lobbies, concession area, green room/dressing room, backstage building addition estimated: \$325,000



Elf, Jr. The Musical

Norwalk Arts Center will present Elf, Jr. The Musical, sponsored by Stine Dental. A holiday musical based on the film Elf. The show is comprised of local students grades 2- 8 who have been attending theater classes over the last 12 weeks. Over forty local and regional students have come together to present this heart-warming musical.

There will be two casts performing in rotation. Production dates are December 13 (7:00 pm red cast), December 14 (1:00 pm red cast, 7:00 pm green cast) and December 15 (1:00 pm green cast).

Tickets go on sale beginning December 1, 2019 through the website all performances will be held at NAC@22 (22 E Main St). All tickets will be \$10.00.

Thank you to our show sponsors!



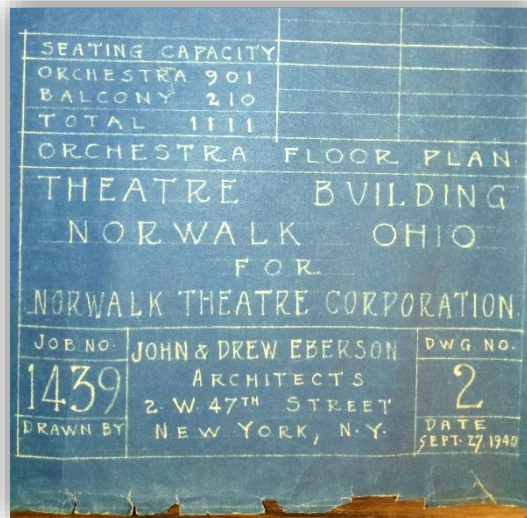
Exploring the Past, Building the Future

By: Vanessa Cook, NAC Co-founder

As we begin to embark on the much overdue renovation of the Norwalk Theater to create the future Norwalk Arts Center, we have learned much about the building and its early history. To start the property the Norwalk theater is located was where the first Mayor of Norwalk James Williams' home sat until 1938 when he sold the property to the Schine Brothers to build the theater.

The theater was originally outfitted with 1,111 seats (901 on the main floor, 210 in the balcony). The theatre currently features 924 seats due to the mid-century addition of an expanded stage and orchestra pit. Outside, the marquee features both neon and incandescent illumination, with a portion of the incandescent bulbs (surrounding the vertical panels) operated by a mechanical chaser motor. The marquee remains the largest in the State of Ohio of this style, with its horizontal cutout neon letters.

Architect John Ebersson was known as the "Frank Lloyd Wright of theater design". He had built or redesigned many Schine theaters across the northeast, varying designs to suit size and Schine profitability. He segued effortlessly and almost seamlessly from the beautiful outdoor garden atmospherics and classic palace designs to the show-stopping art deco enchantment that would come to be enjoyed at the Schine Norwalk. Most of Ebersson's theatres were in one of three styles: Atmospheric, Art Deco and Streamline Moderne. The Norwalk Theater is the latter.



The Streamline Moderne style, a subset of Art Deco, was reserved by Mr. Ebersson for only a small number of the hundreds of theaters he designed throughout the United States. Of those hundreds, only about 30 of Ebersson's theaters are still in existence and even less in the Streamline Moderne style. The city of Norwalk is fortunate to have one of these rare gems in its town center.

John Ebersson was born in present day Ukraine in 1875 and studied electrical engineering at the University of Vienna. In 1901, he immigrated to the United States. Within a few years after coming to the United States, he became affiliated with the Johnson Realty & Construction Company, a theatre architecture and construction company. Ebersson traveled throughout the eastern United States promoting opera houses in small towns. In 1904, he moved to Hamilton Ohio, where his first theatre, the Hamilton Jewel, was located.

As Ebersson designed his streamline modern theaters he moved away from the ornateness of his early styles and used a variety of painting techniques to create interesting design motifs. Some of these painted stylings have been discovered during the first stages of rehabilitation. Most significant are the painted floors in the second-floor lounges that had been previously covered by carpet. Additionally, lying under carpeted walls the original chocolate-brown silk wallpaper was found.

Norwalk Arts Center hopes to recreate the luster and beauty that was once Shine's Norwalk Theater. Our commitment to preserving the history of Norwalk through this historic structure will also provide the community with versatile event space that will serve its patrons' needs, increase traffic to the city and evoke a sense of community pride in the city of Norwalk.



TOP TEN REASONS TO SUPPORT THE ARTS

Arts improve individual well-being.

Arts unify communities.

Arts improve academic performance.

Arts strengthen the economy.

Arts drive tourism and revenue to local businesses.

Arts spark creativity and innovation.

Arts drive the creative industries.

Arts have social impact.

Arts improve healthcare

Arts for the health and well-being of our military.



Creating Art. Building Community.

Upcoming Events:

City Tree Lighting Carolers

Norwalk Arts Center would like to invite singers of all ages to join us for caroling at the Norwalk Tree Lighting ceremony. As part of Small Business Saturday!



CAROLING

Meet at NAC@ 22 (22 E. Main St) at 6:50 pm on November 30, 2019. We will then walk to Suhr Park and begin singing at 7:00 pm.

Lyric sheets will be provided, remember to dress for the weather! Please register at NorwalkArtsCenter.org/Events

Volunteer Ushers Needed



Moscow Ballet: Great Russian Nutcracker
December 21, 2019
12 pm - 10 pm (Meeting at Tenable Security)
Shows are performed at 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm at Music Hall at Cleveland Public Auditorium

See both shows for FREE, when you work as a volunteer! Please consider being an usher for this Cleveland event. In exchange for your time, Tenable Security will donate directly to Norwalk Arts Center for your volunteer hours.

NOTE: You must be 18 years of age or older to volunteer.

Carpooling from Norwalk may be available. Please register online at NorwalkArtsCenter.org/Events

Upcycle 4 Art



Norwalk Arts Center will offer three hands on "Upcycle 4 Art" sessions during the winter school break.

Students will have the opportunity to participate in activities in the four facets of the arts: music, dance, visual arts and theater.

Focus will be given on renewing old items and genres to create something new and innovative.

Each session will run from 10 am to 2 pm, students are asked to bring a sack lunch.

All sessions will be held at NAC@22 (22 E Main St), cost to participate is \$5.00 per student. Minimum number for class to run is 15 students with a max of 30 students per session.

Class registration will open December 9, 2019 online NorwalkArtsCenter.org/Events

Session 1 (grades K- 4):

Dec 23, 2019 from 10-2 pm

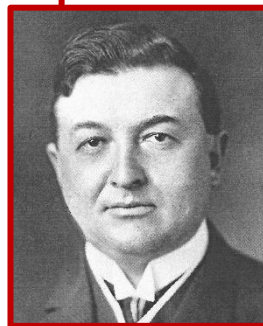
Session 2 (grades 5 - 8):

Dec 30, 2019 from 10-2 pm

Session 3 (grades 9-12):

Jan. 03, 2020 from 10-2 pm

SPOTLIGHT: John Ebeson architect of the Schine's Norwalk Theater. Ebeson immigrated to the US in 1901, arriving in Hamilton, Ohio. He built his first theater there in 1909 (The Jewel Theatre). Ebeson and his architectural firm also designed other buildings. His earliest commission was in Hamilton, Ohio, where the Ebersons made their home beginning in 1904. His first commissioned job was that same year, when he designed an Ionic-columned porch for Mrs. Sheehan, a Hamilton resident, for which he received \$20. Branching out from his usual theater design, Ebeson also designed the home of Theodore W. Barhydt, the man who commissioned Ebeson for the Hippodrome and Indiana Theatres. Terre Haute is one of the few places in the world to boast multiple Ebeson buildings, including his only residential design. He moved his architecture practice to Chicago in 1910 and then to New York City in 1926. He opened an office at the Rodin Studios, 200 West Fifty-seventh Street. In July 1929, he made the decision to close the Chicago office and consolidate all of the design work in New York. At about the same time, he formally brought his son Drew Ebeson into the business, although Drew had helped before on many sites. Drew became his partner and carried on the business after his father's death.



We'd love to hear from you!

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Follow us on



Star Bus Tour

The SOLD OUT event raised over \$2,000 to support the mission of Norwalk Arts Center! Please support our partners who helped make the tour a success:



Allen Eiry Center
Sandy Ridge Vineyards and Mercantile
Patina 46
When Pigs Fly
WTP, too
Norwalk Fabric Outlet
Sheri's Coffee
Creamette's Emporium
Old School Warehouse
Sandusky State Theater
Naturally Country

Picture it

Historic Norwalk Theater

Do you have pictures of the Norwalk Theatre? We would love to see them and share them in our newsletter!



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Norwalk Arts Center

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NAC Mission

It is the mission of Norwalk Arts Center to celebrate and increase advocacy for the arts in the communities of Norwalk and greater Huron County.