

City of Leavenworth, Kansas

Parks & Recreation Department

Performing Arts Center

(Formerly the Hollywood Theater)



Built in 1937

5th & Delaware Streets

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The Performing Arts Center, formerly called the Hollywood Theater, was Leavenworth's only movie palace. Its decorative Art Deco exterior and opulent interior treatments are hallmarks of the movie palaces that were built across America in the 1920's and 1930's. The theaters were designed to be showplaces, with sumptuous appointments, inviting the rich and poor alike to share the lavish surroundings and escape into celluloid fantasies.

Built in 1937 - 1938 to the design of Robert Boller, it was part of the Dubinsky theater chain. Boller Brothers were the prominent Kansas City, Missouri, movie theater design firm responsible for many movie palaces built throughout the Midwest and southwest. Some Boller Brother designed theaters in Kansas are the Fox in Hutchinson, the Fox-Watson in Salina, the Granada in Emporia, and the Booth in Independence.

In the late 1970's, a local amateur theater group approached the City of Leavenworth about taking over the Hollywood Theater, which was being replaced by a new four-plex. The City agreed and Mr. Stan Durwood, the owner, donated the building to the City. Since that time, the City has spent approximately \$200,000 on renovation work. While most of this has been City funds, donations from Hallmark Cards, Melissa Etheridge, fundraisers, and a state grant have helped defray the costs.

The Performing Arts Center is the home of the River City Community Players, who produce six or seven theater events annually. In addition, the theater is available on a limited basis for other user groups. In the past there have been magic shows, country western shows, gospel shows, dance recitals, rock concerts, children's movies, a wedding, and a funeral held in the theater. In 1999, the New Christy Minstrels put on two shows at the Performing Arts Center. Rock star Melissa Etheridge, a Leavenworth native, performed in the theater during her high school years.

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Technical Data

Stage Size	24' wide by 20' deep with a 4' thrust 20' wide by 8' lower stage	
Instruments Available	10 each	6" ellipsoidals
	6 each	8" ellipsoidals
	14 each	6" fresnels
	1 each	1,500 watt follow spot
Dimmer Unit	24 channel two scene pre-set/programmable, Strand MX24	
Electrical Circuits	<i>On stage:</i>	13 circuits on 1st electric 4 circuits on 2nd electric 4 color strip on 3rd electric
	<i>Front of House:</i>	5 on stage floor 8 circuits in balcony
	<i>220 Circuits:</i>	In basement, electrician required
	<i>Electrical Outlets:</i>	2 each 20 amp (1 SR, 1 SL)
Power into the Building	800 amps	
Dressing Rooms	2 back stage, makeshift (no running water or bathrooms back stage and no hot water in entire building)	

Repairs & Improvements at the Performing Arts Center

New roof
Constructed larger stage
Installed new carpet twice
Replaced boiler
Replaced air conditioning
Replaced primary wiring
Painted interior
Patched and painted exterior
Installed fire sprinkler
Renovated marquee
Installed handicapped-accessible restroom
Repaired bathroom walls
Replaced curtains
Installed lighting and sound systems
Constructed light and sound control booth
Removed balcony seats to make room for storage