

Joseph Caleb Auditorium Expansion and Renovation

HISTORY REVISITED

THE EXPANSION AND RENOVATION PROJECT

Significant improvements are being planned in phases to revitalize and invigorate the Joseph Caleb Auditorium, bringing the facility to 21st century standards. Beautifully designed upgrades and state-of-the-art technical capabilities will ensure this cultural jewel will continue to shine for future audiences.

Project completion is anticipated by the 2026-2027 season, coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the Joseph Caleb Auditorium.

Artist James Brazil's Miami-Dade Art in Public Places proposal will provide a beautiful, reflective canopy with LED lights to accentuate and elevate the main entrance to the Joseph Caleb Auditorium, serving as a beacon in identifying the Auditorium within the Caleb Center complex.

Rendering - James Brazil Studio

ABOUT JOSEPH CALEB AUDITORIUM

Founded in 1977, the Joseph Caleb Auditorium serves as a significant cultural center for the performing arts, education and discourse to celebrate and advance cultural heritages and community traditions in Miami-Dade County. A treasured venue, this 962-seat theater serves as the community's civic and cultural hub, and for years has hosted elected officials, community meetings and arts events with renowned artists and entertainers including singers such as: Betty Wright, Isaac Hayes, Melba Moore and Harold Melvin and The Bluenotes; actors such as: Cicely Tyson, Mario Van Peebles, Sherman Hemsley, Esther Rolle, Malcom Jamal Warner, Blair Underwood and Danny Glover; speakers such as: Malcolm X and his eldest daughter Attallah Shabazz, and Spike Lee, among others. An important cultural institution, the Auditorium offers excellent opportunities to interact with some of the finest minds and talents in the nation as well as showcasing local artists and arts organizations.

Managed by Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, the Joseph Caleb Auditorium presents outstanding performances, including opera, concerts, theater, dance, student recitals and movie premieres. The Auditorium produces the annual Cultural Passport program, offering free arts field trip opportunities to thousands of students, in collaboration with Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

Named in memory of Joseph Caleb, a celebrated Black community leader in Liberty City and Brownsville, the Joseph Caleb Auditorium has hosted significant musical concerts, dance performances, film screenings, theatrical productions and historic community forums. Located at 5400 NW 22nd Avenue, the Joseph Caleb Auditorium is a part of the Caleb Center, a campus of government offices and community spaces in Miami-Dade County, District 3.

1 BACK-OF HOUSE EXPANSION

The first phase of work will provide much needed amenities for backstage users and renters with an improved and expanded loading dock to accept large scale sets, scenery and equipment, much needed storage, dressing rooms, offices, and break rooms for artists and technical personnel. The expansion includes the reconfiguration of the service entrance to provide direct access to the new loading dock area, making it easier for large trucks to enter and exit the site.



Rendering - Gardner + Semler Landscape Architecture



Rendering - 2 Plus Architects, Inc.

2 FRONT-OF-HOUSE IMPROVEMENTS AND THEATER SYSTEM UPGRADES

This phase provides critical updates to the Auditorium's key infrastructure systems and finishes, layout improvements and efficiencies, and upgrades of the theatrical systems. Phase II includes creating greater ADA access, acoustically-lined sound and light locks into the Auditorium hall, increasing the number of restroom fixtures, adding family restrooms, converting the concessions area into a welcoming lounge, and improving office and technical spaces. Portions of the facility's mechanical and fire protection systems will be replaced.

The Theater will be upgraded with new essential systems, including rigging, lighting, and sound. The Joseph Caleb Auditorium will also proudly feature a new, prominent digital marquee on the corner of 22nd Avenue and 54th Street, advertising coming events and welcoming the community to the Center.

3 CALEB COURTYARD IMPROVEMENTS

A conceptual plan envisions the courtyard area uniting the various Caleb Center buildings and serving as the front lawn to the Auditorium. The third phase of work: adds an intimate outdoor performance space; improves ramping and ADA accessibility; remedies drainage and ponding issues; creates inviting spaces with soft curves and winding paths for visitors and users; and expands the urban tree canopy with lush greenery.

FUNDING

Project costs are estimated at over \$15 million and includes funding from:

Building Better Communities General Obligation Bond Program

Countywide Infrastructure Investment Program

State of Florida Cultural Facilities Grant Program and

African-American Cultural and Historical Grant Program

This project is sponsored in part by the

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Florida Division of Arts and Culture

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