

DR. ROBERT S. ZIMMER THEATRE

Allegany College of Maryland College Center

2022-2023 RENOVATION FUNDING

- \$2.75 million project made possible through public-private funding
- Community Project Funding grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (\$187,500)
- Appalachian Regional Commission grant (\$150,000)
- Seed Community Development Anchor Institution Fund grants from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (totaled \$900,000)
- Prosperity Investment Fund Grant from the Rural Maryland Council (\$250,000)
- Gifts from anonymous donors to the ACM Foundation (\$100,000)
- College funds

HIGHLIGHTS OF RENOVATED THEATRE

- Some original design details intact (distinctive arch, apron and stage flooring, and brown brick)
- Original seats replaced by 310 new fixed chairs, half of which have swivel desks
- Eight spaces created for individuals who use wheelchairs, additional space at rear of theatre
- Original curtains replaced with new main, leg, and masking curtains
- Center screen replaced by two retractable 128" x 80" projection screens on flanking walls
- New ceiling acoustic panels replaced outdated panels
- Custom soundproofing wall panels added
- Original theatrical rigging replaced
- LED lighting installed on stage, overhead and in control booth
- LED lighting added to aisle seats
- Control booth remodeled to accommodate state-of-the-art sound and light system installed
- Catwalk made accessible, includes enhanced safety features
- Multimedia capabilities expanded

THEATRE HISTORY

- Opened in 1969 as part of the Cumberland campus's six original buildings
- Dedicated in honor college's founding president, Dr. Robert S. Zimmer in 2012
- Year-long renovation began in fall of 2022, reopened on October 27, 2023
- Home to college programs and classes, summer camp, future student events, community meetings, public debates, and cultural and theatrical performances
- Estimated to be used 95% of the year (prior to 2020)
- Received only minimal cosmetic and technical upgrades prior to 2022-2023 renovation

COMMUNITY IMPACT

- Renovations expected to increase theatre's use by the college and community for generations
- Provides training opportunities for multimedia technology students