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## **MARCUS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER KICKS OFF PHASE 2 OF CAMPUS MASTER PLAN**

*Reimagined Community Grounds to function as quality public green space, expand access to the performing arts*

**MILWAUKEE** — Today, the Marcus Performing Arts Center broke ground on its exterior renovations, kicking off a new phase of its Campus Master Plan with the planting of 24 honey locust trees. With an emphasis on accessible community gathering spaces, the re-envisioned grounds will provide an open, park-like setting and enhanced ADA accommodations.

“Our vision for the grounds is to foster an accessible public gathering space for the community to engage with the performing arts both within the Center and beyond it,” said Marcus Performing Arts Center President and CEO Kendra Whitlock Ingram. “We’re proud to be a champion of the city’s rich performing arts culture, and we’re looking forward to welcoming everyone to an improved communal space to enjoy and experience performances, events, and more.”

This phase of the Campus Master Plan continues work which had begun in 2020 and will expand the lawn area just east of the Peck Pavilion, providing additional space for public use in warmer months. The lawn will also have an unobstructed view of the newly installed digital screen at the Peck Pavilion, where visitors will be able to relax and enjoy performances outdoors. Peck Pavilion will be available for shows and events throughout construction, with guests accessing the venue from the River Walk.

Beyond boosting accessibility through the creation of quality public space, the Marcus Performing Arts Center wanted to ensure the space would be as welcoming and inclusive as possible to individuals with disabilities. The renovated Community Grounds will feature a crushed stone border sealed with a waxed polymer for wheelchair and stroller accessibility, so all community members can enjoy the public space. There will also be bench cutouts for wheelchairs at the War Memorial and wheelchair seating at café tables.

Additional exterior renovations in this phase of the Marcus Performing Arts Center’s Campus Master Plan include:

- Increased greenery and green space, including planting of the 24 honey locust trees;
- Creation of native perennial gardens, which will incorporate a bio-filtration element on the slant from the sidewalk to the back wall for natural absorption into the ground;
- Additional War Memorial dedication to the southeast corner of campus, which will include an expression of gratitude at the entry area, benches for reflection, and relocation of the two existing flagpoles currently located behind Peck Pavilion, to more prominently honor those who bravely served and more effectively recognize the Marcus Performing Arts Center’s history as a War Memorial building; and
- Replacement of existing light fixtures to provide better visibility and illumination.

Announced in 2018, the Campus Master Plan represents a complete reimagining of the public spaces and gathering places on the Marcus Performing Arts Center campus. In 2021, the Marcus Performing Arts Center completed the renovation of Uihlein Hall, an investment that included new seats, a new seating configuration utilizing multiple aisles, and enhanced ADA accommodations, as well as additional public health and safety amenities to ensure a safe reopening after temporary closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**[About Marcus Performing Arts Center](#)**

Established in 1969, the Marcus Performing Arts Center (MPAC) is the premier performing arts community gathering space in Southeastern Wisconsin, bringing high-quality arts and cultural programming to the region. As a mission-based 501(c)3 non-profit organization, MPAC strives to act as a bridge between cultures and an energizing force for collaboration and advocacy in the community. The touring Broadway series, sponsored by Johnson Financial Group, is recognized as bringing the best of Broadway entertainment to Milwaukee since 1996, and provides opportunities to educate, entertain, and engage audiences. As a presenter, MPAC offers its own diverse arts and cultural programming and outreach, such as MPAC Presents, KidZ Days, ArtsConnect, and additional performances from internationally-renowned performing artists. The Marcus Performing Arts Center is also home to a variety of resident arts partners, including First Stage, Milwaukee Ballet, Florentine Opera Company, Black Arts MKE, Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra, and more. MPAC is proud to be a dedicated War Memorial facility, honoring those who bravely served our country. For more information, visit [www.marcuscenter.org](http://www.marcuscenter.org).

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