

Civic Association Virtual Meeting on the Weinberg Center

On November 10, 2020 at 7:00 pm, Mr. John Healey, Executive Theater Manager of the Weinberg presented an educational virtual meeting on the history of the Weinberg and its programs. When the Tivoli, now called the Weinberg Center, opened its doors in 1926 it was the second largest structure built in Frederick. Designed to comfortably seat 1,500 people, the Tivoli not only had a sixteen-foot movie screen, but it could also accommodate live performances with an orchestra pit, a large stage, 50 sets of pulleys for scenery, and a full complement of dressing rooms. Unlike the area theaters of the day, which catered to lovers of low-budget films, the Tivoli maintained an atmosphere of refinement. Ushers wore uniforms with gold-buttoned jackets, and the managers dressed in tuxedos. Surrounded by crystal chandeliers, marble and silk wall coverings and leather seats, an opening-night sell-out crowd watched a selection of short features and silent films. It was the premiere movie theatre of Frederick for nearly fifty years but, after considerable damage suffered in a 1976 flood, it closed. The Weinberg family, which then owned the old movie palace, chose to present it to the city as a gift rather than attempt to keep it open as a movie house. The theatre has been maintained in the splendid style of 1926. The theatre's organ, a Wurlizer, is the only original theatre organ installation in the state of Maryland. The Weinberg Center has been very adversely affected by the pandemic. But most assuredly it will soon continue to be a vital part of the economic life of Downtown Frederick, as it will bring world-class performing artists to the heart of downtown Frederick for our community to enjoy.

