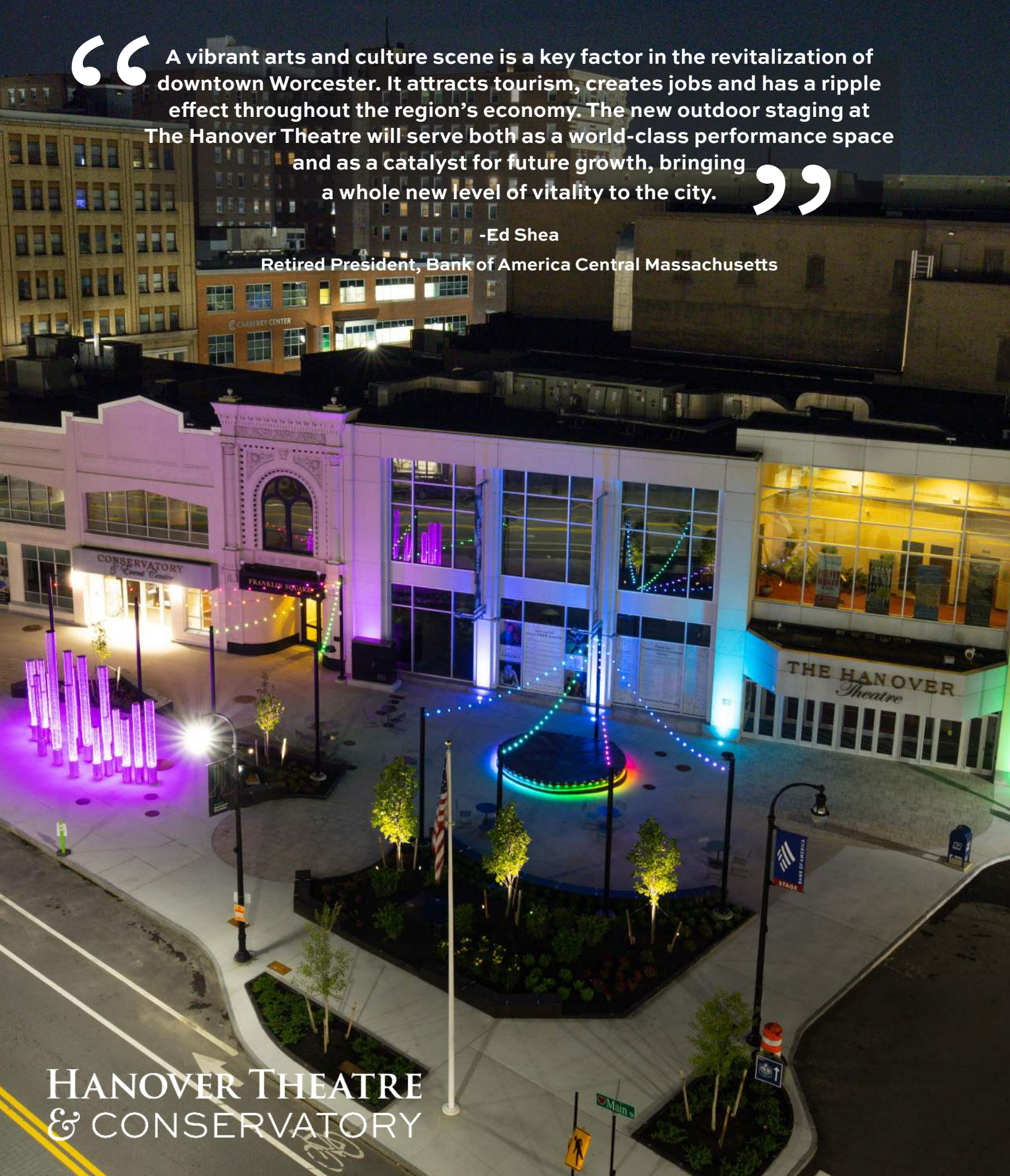


The Francis R. Carroll Plaza and Bank of America Stage

“ A vibrant arts and culture scene is a key factor in the revitalization of downtown Worcester. It attracts tourism, creates jobs and has a ripple effect throughout the region’s economy. The new outdoor staging at The Hanover Theatre will serve both as a world-class performance space and as a catalyst for future growth, bringing a whole new level of vitality to the city. ”

-Ed Shea

Retired President, Bank of America Central Massachusetts



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ACTIVATING OUR COMMUNITY OUTDOORS



A noticeably popular feature that drives the community to Francis R. Carroll Plaza is the public art installation “Calliope” by Ross Miller, which was inspired by the historic Mighty Wurlitzer Organ and features a light and water display. From holiday cards to local influencer videos, “Calliope” has been the backdrop for a variety of projects including the spoken word video “I Did That” created in January 2024 by the city of Worcester starring Adael Francisco-Mejia celebrating the artist’s momentous 2022-2023 reign as Worcester’s first Latino awarded the Worcester Youth Poet Laureate title.

The reimaged Francis R. Carroll Plaza marks an exciting chapter in Worcester’s history, an emblem of its determination to evolve as a thriving cultural destination.

“It’s an absolute joy,” said Frank Carroll, for whom the plaza is named. “It’s good to have a home like Worcester — my whole life is here.”

Learn more TheHanoverTheatre.org/carroll-plaza.



Top: The conservatory’s Youth Acting Company performs annually on the Bank of America Stage. Left: Members of THT Board of Directors and Frank Carroll pose prior to the ribbon cutting. Right: Troy Siebels, Ed Shea and John (JT) Tanacea at the stage. Photos @UnityMike.

On July 19, 2023, Ed Shea and other Bank of America executives, Troy Siebels, Frank Carroll, city leadership, staff, students, supporters, friends and more gathered in front of The Hanover Theatre for a special ribbon cutting ceremony. The newly reconstructed Francis R. Carroll Plaza opened with its first free concert, Dan Gabel’s Stoptime Revue, along with an appearance by conservatory students, Andrew Byron and Tori Rich, on the Bank of America Stage. Surrounded by reporters, food trucks, sunshine and smiles, Frank Carroll danced with joy on his namesake plaza.

The vision for Carroll Plaza was made possible through the collaborative efforts of the city of Worcester, local community organizations and generous contributions from individuals and corporations committed to the city’s growth and prosperity. Bank of America awarded a \$250,000 grant during the Theatre District Campaign to THT to support the plaza project and help revitalize the theatre district. On May 1, 2019, construction began with contractors removing trees, an inoperable fountain and a colonnade feature from the spot. Unexpected delays came in 2020, but happily the project came to a completion four years later. With the addition of the outdoor stage and programming of the space by The Hanover Theatre, the Bank of America Stage on Carroll Plaza has quickly become a welcoming place to unwind and enjoy the vibrancy of the city since its inaugural summer concert in July of 2023.

The space pays tribute to the venerated Worcester business leader and veteran, Francis R. Carroll, celebrated locally and nationally for his exceptional contributions to charitable organizations and philanthropic efforts. At the ribbon cutting, Mayor Petty shared, “We are eternally grateful for Frank Carroll’s contributions, and I cannot thank him enough for all that he has done for us. His plaza will be an additional public space for workers and residents from across the city to sit and enjoy themselves.”



Top: The Francis R. Carroll plaza shares a welcoming glow at night. Bottom left: Andrew Byron and Tori Rich, students in the Youth Summer Program perform a song from *Fiddler on the Roof*. Bottom right: Carole and Frank Carroll take a twirl on the plaza. Photos @UnityMike.

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Worcester Center for Performing Arts (WCPA), a registered not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, owns and operates The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts (THT) and, on behalf of the Worcester Cultural Coalition (WCC), manages Worcester’s BrickBox Theater at the Jean McDonough Arts Center (JMAC). All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

A WELCOMING PLACE FOR ARTS, CULTURE AND EVERYONE



We activated the plaza with free events that delighted audiences on the Bank of America Stage during the plaza's inaugural season. Among the acts were Occasional Brass and Strings, Odaiko New England, steel pannist Becky Bass and Rachel Sumner. These were followed by the Youth Acting Company's presentation of *James and the Giant Peach* in the fall, an ice sculpture display on the Bank of America Stage and a circus variety show in celebration of downtown the Downtown Worcester's Winter Festival in February.

Top: Dan Gabel's Stoptime Revue. THT Production Manager Chadyn Case keeps cool on the plaza. Center: The conservatory's Youth Acting Company performs *James and the Giant Peach*, photos @UnityMike. Odaiko New England Taiko drummers. Bottom: Becky Bass and Winter Fest ice sculpture. Photos courtesy of the artists and THT.



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