



# WELCOME GUIDE

INSPIRING COMMUNITY

PLEASE COME AGAIN!

## HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday	Closed
T, W, F	10am-5pm
Thursday	10am-7pm
Saturday	Noon-5pm
Sunday	Noon-3pm

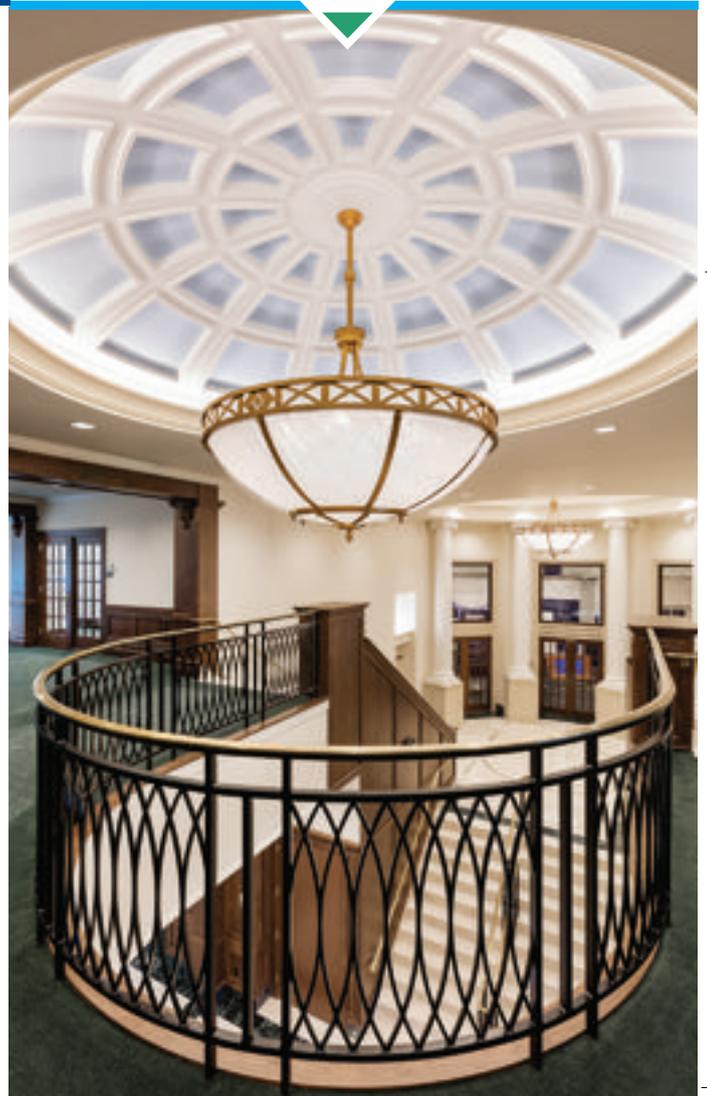
## CONTACT US

Minnesota Masonic Heritage Center  
11411 Masonic Home Drive  
Bloomington, MN 55437

Main:	952-948-6500
Tours:	952-948-6503
Space Rental:	952-948-6502
Museum/Library:	952-948-6503
Artifact Donations:	952-948-6507

[HeritageCenter@mnmasonic.org](mailto:HeritageCenter@mnmasonic.org)  
[MasonicHeritageCenter.org](http://MasonicHeritageCenter.org)

A heritage charity of





## A GREAT PLACE TO CELEBRATE

Dear Guest,

Welcome to the Minnesota Masonic Heritage Center! This beautiful facility was built with a vision to create an elegant and inspirational destination for everyone to enjoy. But it is so much more than a pretty space.

The Center both promotes an understanding of the concepts and contributions of Freemasonry and encourages community engagement. With approximately 50,000 square feet of gathering space, including our elegant auditorium with jewel box theater, interactive museum/library, expansive meeting areas and catering kitchen, the Heritage Center begs to be explored and enjoyed again and again.

I hope you do just that, and consider us when next you, or your place of business, plan a meeting or event. With so many amenities, including flexible catering options, affordable pricing, free parking and our convenient (and let's face it, stunning) location, the Center is a great place to celebrate, rejuvenate and commemorate.

Please let me know if you have any questions. You may find contact information on the back cover of this guide. Thank you for visiting, and feel free to visit often.

Sincerely,

Keir R. Johnson  
Director



*Construction of the new Heritage Center, April 2015*

## DESIGNED WITH YOU IN MIND

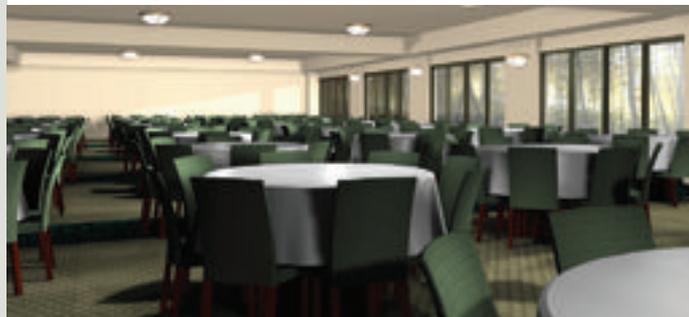
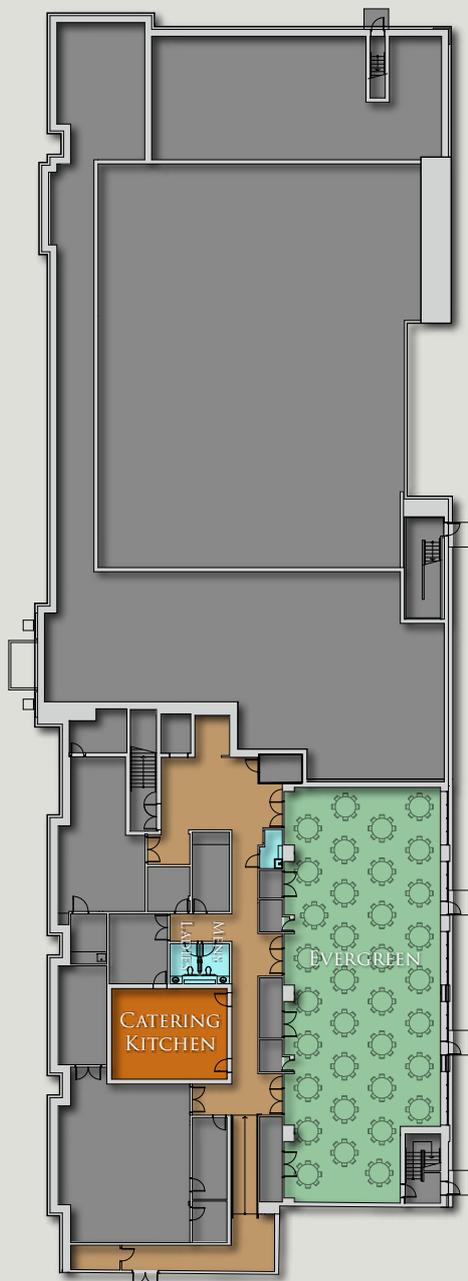
Built on the location of two decommissioned Minnesota Masonic Home buildings, the Minnesota Masonic Heritage Center originally was conceived as a place to display the large and rare collection of Masonic artifacts and books curated over the years by the Minnesota Masonic Historical Society & Museum. That seed of an idea sprouted to become much more: a 50,000 square foot, elegant venue that would serve as a community gathering space, a place where symphonies and performances could be held, meetings could be conducted, and that the larger public could embrace.

And so, in 2014, the design of the Minnesota Masonic Heritage Center took shape. Much thought went into the elements of the building so that the entire structure would serve to encourage the interpretation of the history and philosophy of Freemasonry. In addition to the thought-provoking Masonic Museum and Library, architectural and ornamental touches throughout the Center were incorporated to transform the entire facility into a working tribute to Masonry while also providing an exceptional venue for the greater community.

In addition to the many offerings of the MMHC, we hope you will explore our 80-acre campus with its many walking paths, tour our Town Square at Minnesota Masonic Home, or simply find a comfortable chair and relax awhile. After all, this space was designed for you.

**To schedule a formal tour, please contact us at 952-948-6503.**

## [ LOWER LEVEL ]



### EVERGREEN HALL

A 3,400 SF dining and meeting area, Evergreen Hall can accommodate up to 300 guests for auditorium-style seating, and paired with our well-equipped catering kitchen, makes for an exceptional venue for event dining.

A long, windowed wall opens up the space with natural lighting and a view of the tree-lined campus beyond. The hall can be divided into three meeting or event rooms, each fully outfitted for audio/visual presentations. Free WiFi is accessible in Evergreen as well as the rest of the Center.

### CATERING KITCHEN

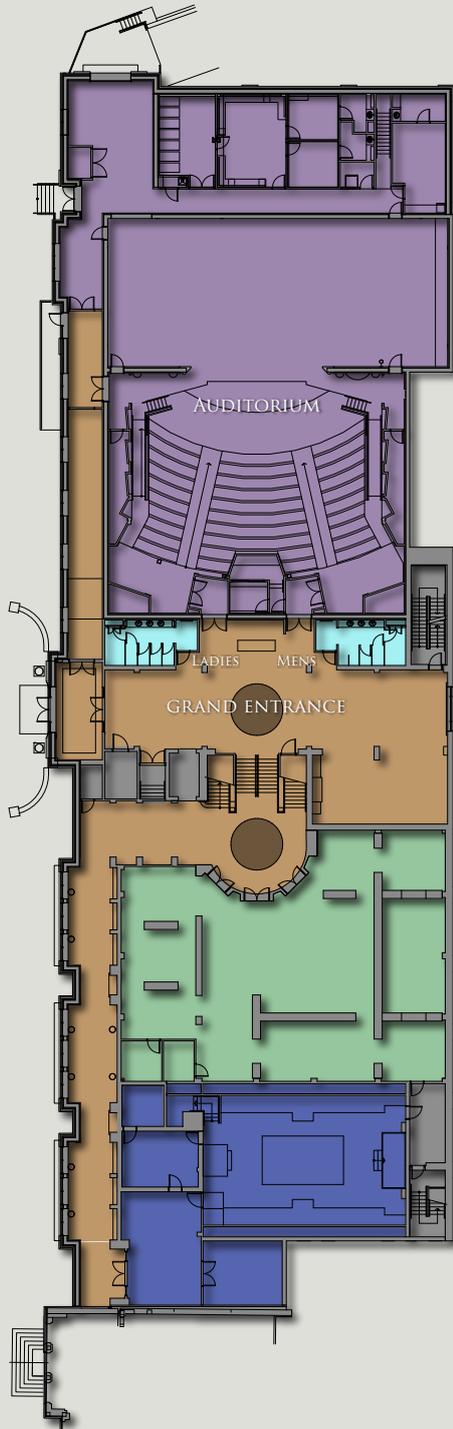
Minnesota Masonic Heritage Center offers guests the flexibility of choosing their own caterer for events requiring such service. And any caterer would be happy to serve at the Heritage Center! The state-of-the-art catering kitchen was designed by caterers and offers every conceivable amenity.

Guests are welcome to tour the kitchen with their chosen catering staff, or inquire about our in-house catering or Preferred Caterers. For more information on Evergreen Hall rental availability, pricing and capacities, visit [MasonicHeritageCenter.org/Rental](http://MasonicHeritageCenter.org/Rental).

### READY ROOM

What respectable venue would be complete without a Ready Room? From celebrities and lecturers to ballerinas and bridesmaids, the Ready Room at MMHC offers a space to prepare for event activities. Conveniently located across from Evergreen and adjacent to the Hall's dedicated bathrooms, the Ready Room is provided free of charge with rental of the Hall.

## [ FIRST FLOOR ]



## GRAND ENTRANCE

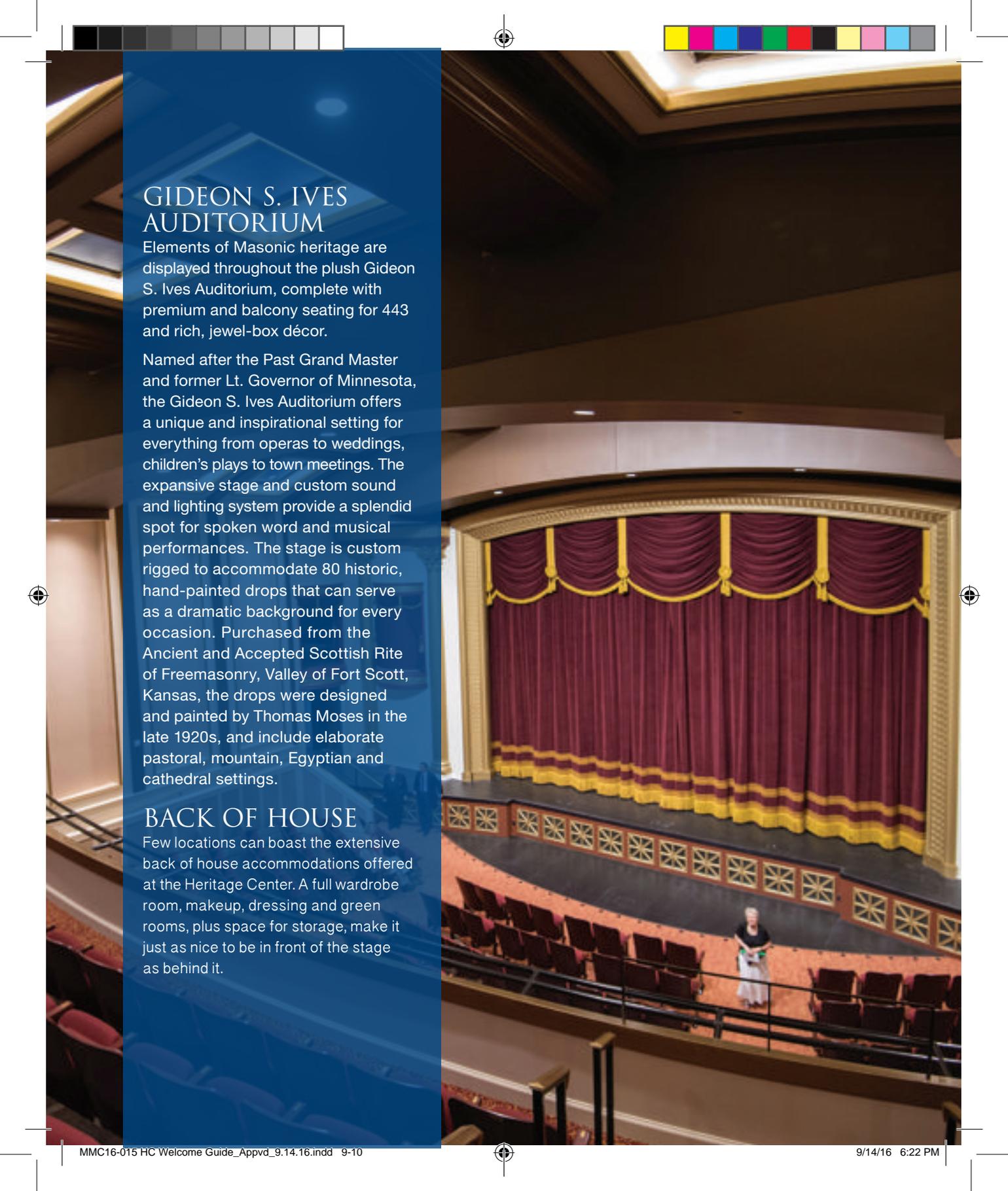
Guests enter the Center through front doors guarded by the symbolic bronze columns of Jachin and Boaz. Designed and constructed by acclaimed local sculptor, Nicholas Legeros, the pillars were detailed in the Old Testament as standing in front of King Solomon's Temple. Together, Jachin and Boaz signify "In strength Jehovah will establish," alluding to God's promise to King David to establish his kingdom in strength. In Freemasonry, the two pillars are topped by globes, celestial and terrestrial, which are emblematic of the extent of God's creation. This beautiful artistry was made possible through a donation by The Grand Lodge of Minnesota, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

## PRE-FUNCTION AREA

With its polished stone floors and rich wood molding, the Center's foyer serves as a magnificent gathering place for pre-function activities or main events. Bordered by the Ives Auditorium entrance and the staircase to the Ladd Museum, the wide foyer is illuminated by a dramatic, two-story rotunda and a 17-foot stained glass window built by Gaytee-Palmer Stained Glass of Minneapolis and inspired by William Blake's design, *The Ancient of Days*.



*Inspired by William Blake's design, **The Ancient of Days**, the extraordinary stained glass window, a gift from Brother Glenn Keicker and Patricia Mass, incorporates Masonic symbols.*



## GIDEON S. IVES AUDITORIUM

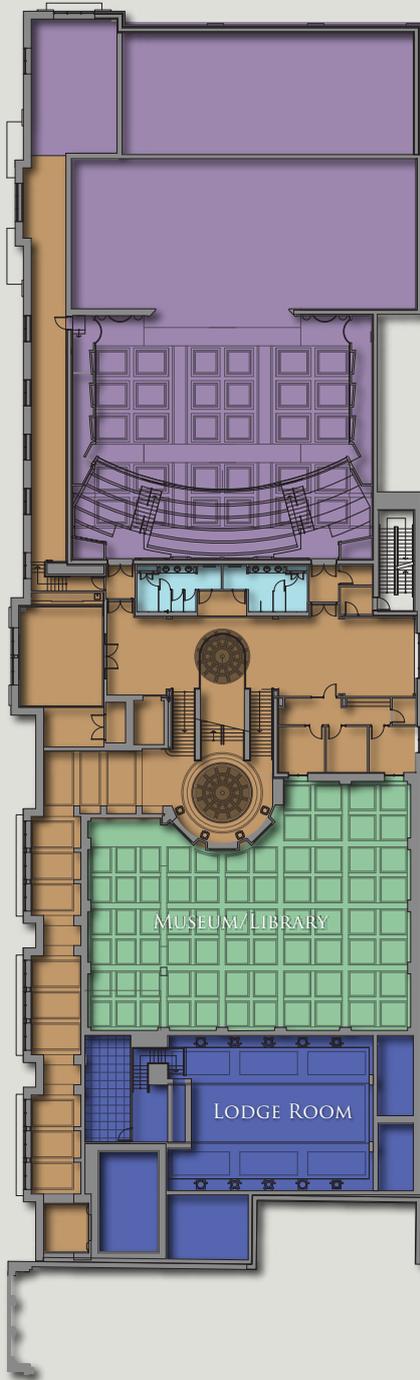
Elements of Masonic heritage are displayed throughout the plush Gideon S. Ives Auditorium, complete with premium and balcony seating for 443 and rich, jewel-box décor.

Named after the Past Grand Master and former Lt. Governor of Minnesota, the Gideon S. Ives Auditorium offers a unique and inspirational setting for everything from operas to weddings, children's plays to town meetings. The expansive stage and custom sound and lighting system provide a splendid spot for spoken word and musical performances. The stage is custom rigged to accommodate 80 historic, hand-painted drops that can serve as a dramatic background for every occasion. Purchased from the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Valley of Fort Scott, Kansas, the drops were designed and painted by Thomas Moses in the late 1920s, and include elaborate pastoral, mountain, Egyptian and cathedral settings.

## BACK OF HOUSE

Few locations can boast the extensive back of house accommodations offered at the Heritage Center. A full wardrobe room, makeup, dressing and green rooms, plus space for storage, make it just as nice to be in front of the stage as behind it.

## [ MEZZANINE ]



## COLONEL JAMES B. LADD MUSEUM

In 1995, the Minnesota Masonic Historical Society and Museum (MMHSM) was created to preserve the artifacts and documents of Minnesota Masonry. Directed by Worshipful Brother Charles W. Nelson, the first historical architect in the State of Minnesota's Historic Preservation Office, the MMHSM collected and preserved thousands of significant Masonic artifacts, some of which have found a home at the Ladd Museum.

The museum is named as a tribute to the generosity of Colonel James Burdick Ladd, a member of Fides Lodge No. 246 in Sanborn, Minn. Ladd established a charitable trust in the early 1900s that has distributed nearly \$3 million to the Grand Lodge of Minnesota to aid those in need.

Stroll the museum and discover the history of Freemasonry, how Masons played a part in the formation of Minnesota, the legends of Masonry and much more.

## CHARLES W. NELSON LIBRARY

This 8,000+ collection of rare Masonic books and manuscripts is one of a very few that exists in the United States. The oldest volume of the collection, *Histoires Francoises Galantes et Comiques*, was published in Amsterdam in 1710. Ask a Museum Coordinator or docent for assistance in perusing the many offerings of the Charles W. Nelson Library, or for help with your research.



## ALFRED E. AMES LODGE ROOM

Named after the first Grand Master of Minnesota Masons, the Alfred E. Ames Lodge Room incorporates all the symbolism of the traditional Blue Lodge and is available for rental by Masonic Members. Visitors are welcome to tour the room when not in use, and should note the extraordinary artistry of the Lodge, including:

### FIVE ORDERS OF ARCHITECTURE

**Tuscan, Doric, Ionic, Corinthian and Composite** – originated from Greek and Roman architecture and are symbolized in the beautiful columns that line the north and south walls of the Lodge Room. These Orders are reviewed in Masonic teachings and were passed down from operative to speculative Masonry.

### BLAZING STAR

The Blazing Star, pictured within the domed ceiling of the Lodge Room, is a central Masonic symbol that represents enlightenment, divine providence, and more literally, the sun. In the lectures adopted by the Grand Lodge of England in 1813, the Blazing Star “refers us to the sun, which enlightens the earth with its refulgent rays, dispensing its blessings to mankind at large and giving light and life to all things here below.”

### MOSAIC PAVEMENT

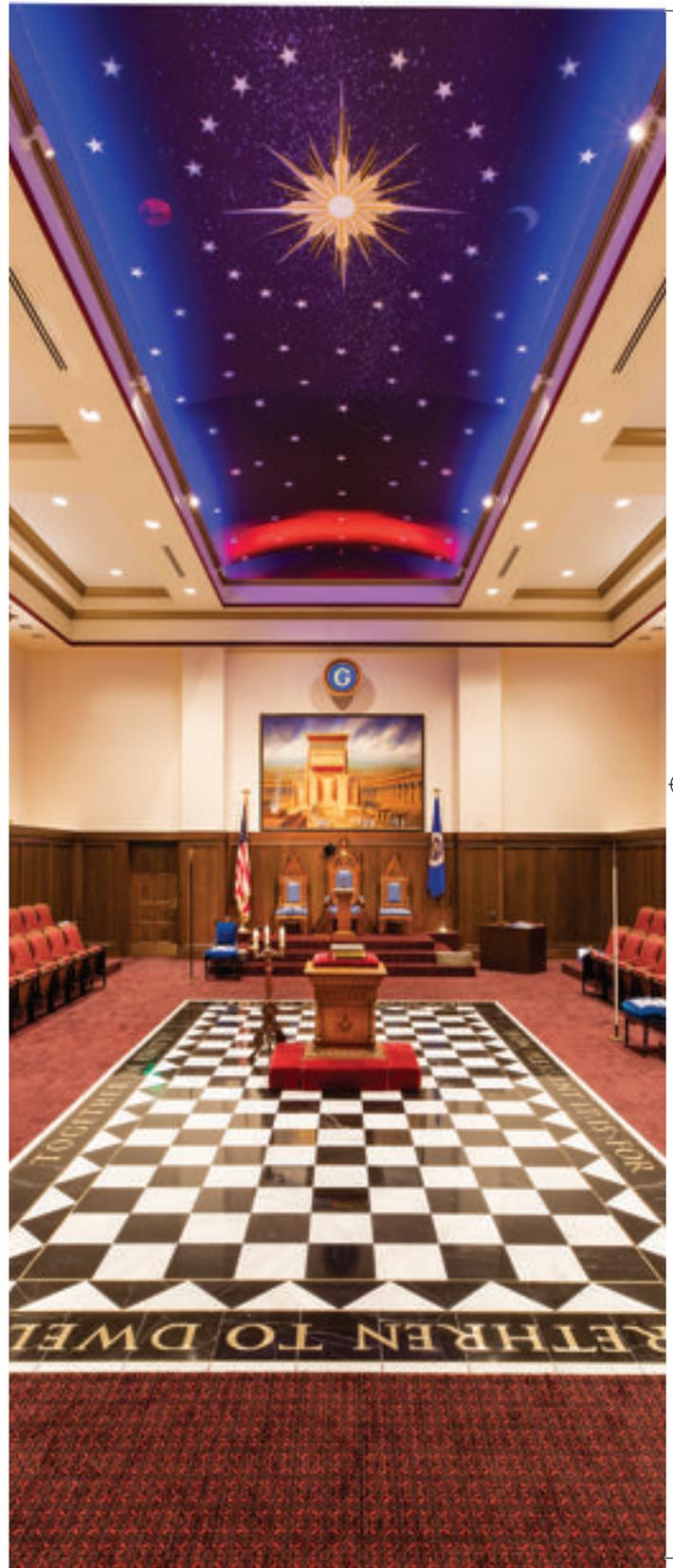
According to Masonic tradition, the ground floor of King Solomon’s Temple was paved with black and white stones, “emblematic of human life, checkered with good and evil.” The marble, black and white tiling in the Lodge Room is bordered with an indented tessellated mosaic that also figures into the legend of King Solomon’s Temple and is referred to in the Entered Apprentice Degree of the Blue Lodge.

### PORTRAIT OF KING SOLOMON’S TEMPLE

The story of King Solomon’s Temple is used allegorically in Freemasonry to inspire its members to contemplate their relationship to God and to make themselves “living stones for the spiritual building, that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.” All Masonic Lodges symbolically represent King Solomon’s Temple, here interpreted by local artist Wendy Waszut-Barrett, Ph.D.

### LETTER “G”

In Masonic legend the middle chamber of King Solomon’s Temple was used as a meeting space for the craftsmen during the temple’s construction. In a Masonic Lodge, it is depicted with a letter “G” suspended over the Worshipful Master’s station, symbolizing geometry and God.



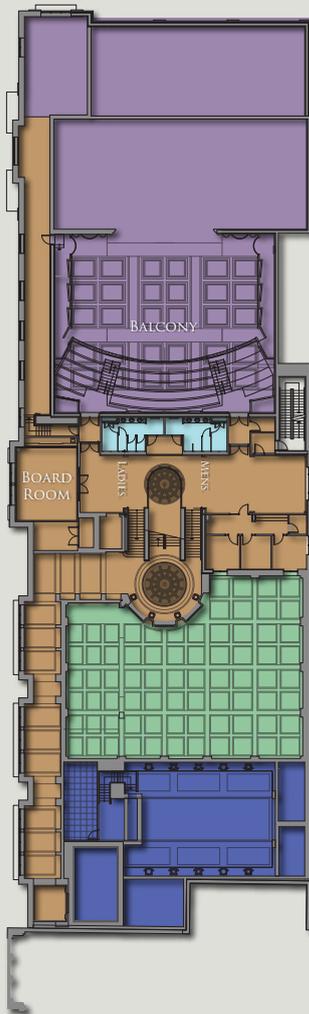
## [ SECOND FLOOR ]

### AUDITORIUM BALCONY

Be sure to check out the view of the jewel box theatre from the balcony of the Ives Auditorium.

### EXECUTIVE BOARD ROOM

The executive board room provides an impressive setting for corporate meetings with its striking bank of windows, generous seating and every conceivable amenity, including teleconferencing capability. A beautiful oil painting of the Heritage Center by Joe T. Burns adorns one wall of the room.



## BRING YOUR EVENT TO US

Schedule your next special occasion at Minnesota Masonic Heritage Center (MMHC). Perfect for private gatherings, corporate events, theatrical and musical performances, the Heritage Center is both elegant and accessible. Located close to the airport and downtown Minneapolis, the Center boasts amenities galore, including free and ample parking, free WiFi, reasonable pricing and flexible catering options.

For more information, including venue capacities and pricing, visit our website at [MasonicHeritageCenter.org](http://MasonicHeritageCenter.org) or call 952-948-6500.