



News Release

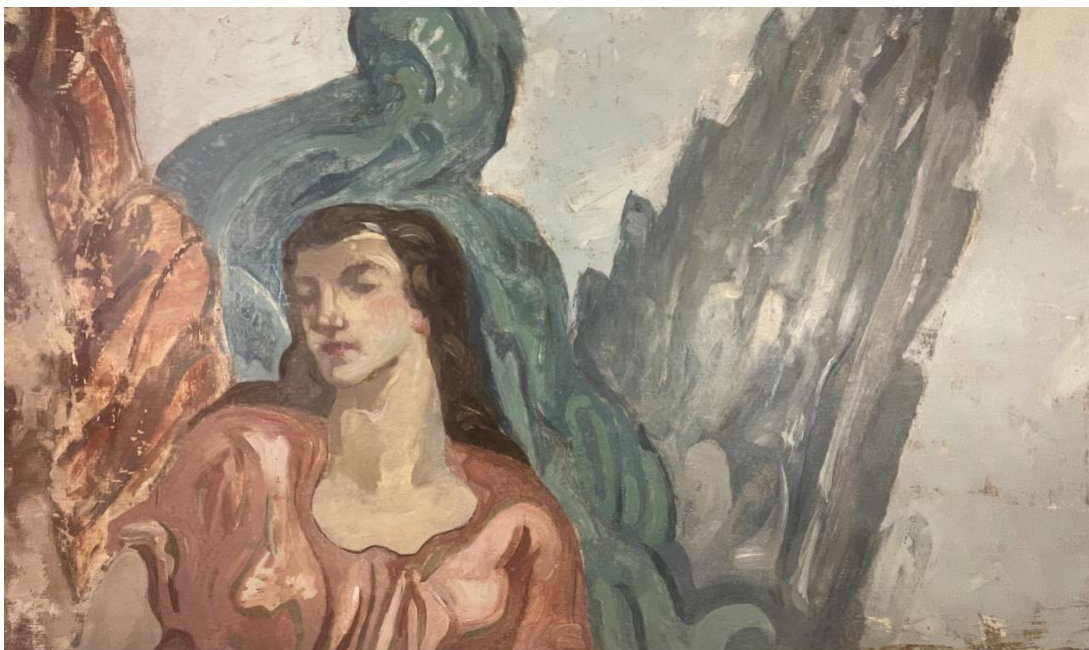
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April 18, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Donald T. Sanders, Executive Artistic Director

THE RESTORATION IS COMPLETE THE VICTORY THEATRE MURALS ARE IN HOLYOKE



HOLYOKE, MA - MIFA Victory Theatre is excited to announce the Victory Theatre's historic murals restoration project is complete. Expert restorationists Evergreene Architectural Arts of New York City fully restored the two 23-foot-tall Vincent Maragliotti WPA murals on April 8, 2024. Evergreen's team moved the murals back to Holyoke masterfully implementing and overseeing their protective storage where they will await reinstallation. The mural's completion is a key step in bringing us closer to a reopened theater. A future public exhibition of the completed murals is in development, stay tuned.

“What a wonderful achievement for MIFA and the City of Holyoke. A significant piece of the city's history has been preserved for future generations. The mural restoration represents a terrific cooperation between MIFA and the Community Preservation Act Committee, among other donors, and a special shoutout should go to Kip Foley and Meagan Magrath (CPA Committee Chairs), and their committees, and to Michael J. Sullivan for making this happen.”

- Don Sanders, MIFA Executive Artistic Director



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The Murals

After a damaging fire in 1942, the Victory Theatre's interior was refreshed by noted Italian American New York artist Vincent Maragliotti (1888-1978), who supervised the decorative interior treatment as part of the renowned Works Progress Administration (WPA) project. Maragliotti's two murals depicting War and Victory were created when the outcome of WWII was in no way certain, and an integral historical part of the proscenium and the Victory's stage surround recognized as such by the Massachusetts Historical Commission. MIFA raised funds from the

National Trust for Historic Preservation, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund for Historic Interiors, the Massachusetts Office of Travel & Tourism, the Beveridge Foundation, Friends of MIFA Victory Theatre, and funds in part from the Citizens of Holyoke, MA through the Community Preservation Act, to complete this \$400,000 project. Recently, MIFA completed a yearlong exhibition of the right mural lunette for display at Wistariahurst Museum as part of Holyoke's 150th anniversary celebration.

EverGreene Architectural Arts

Experts in historic preservation, restoration & design. Established in 1978, EverGreene has provided design, restoration, and conservation services for some of the most significant art, architecture, and artifacts across the United States. Their award-winning work on historic landmarks, adaptive reuse, and contemporary environments has earned them an international reputation for being the foremost authority on architectural arts. They have worked on more than 400 theaters; 38 of the fifty state capitals including the US Capitol and other civic buildings; commercial buildings; numerous sacred spaces; and museums. See all of EverGreene's projects and awards at, www.evergreene.com.

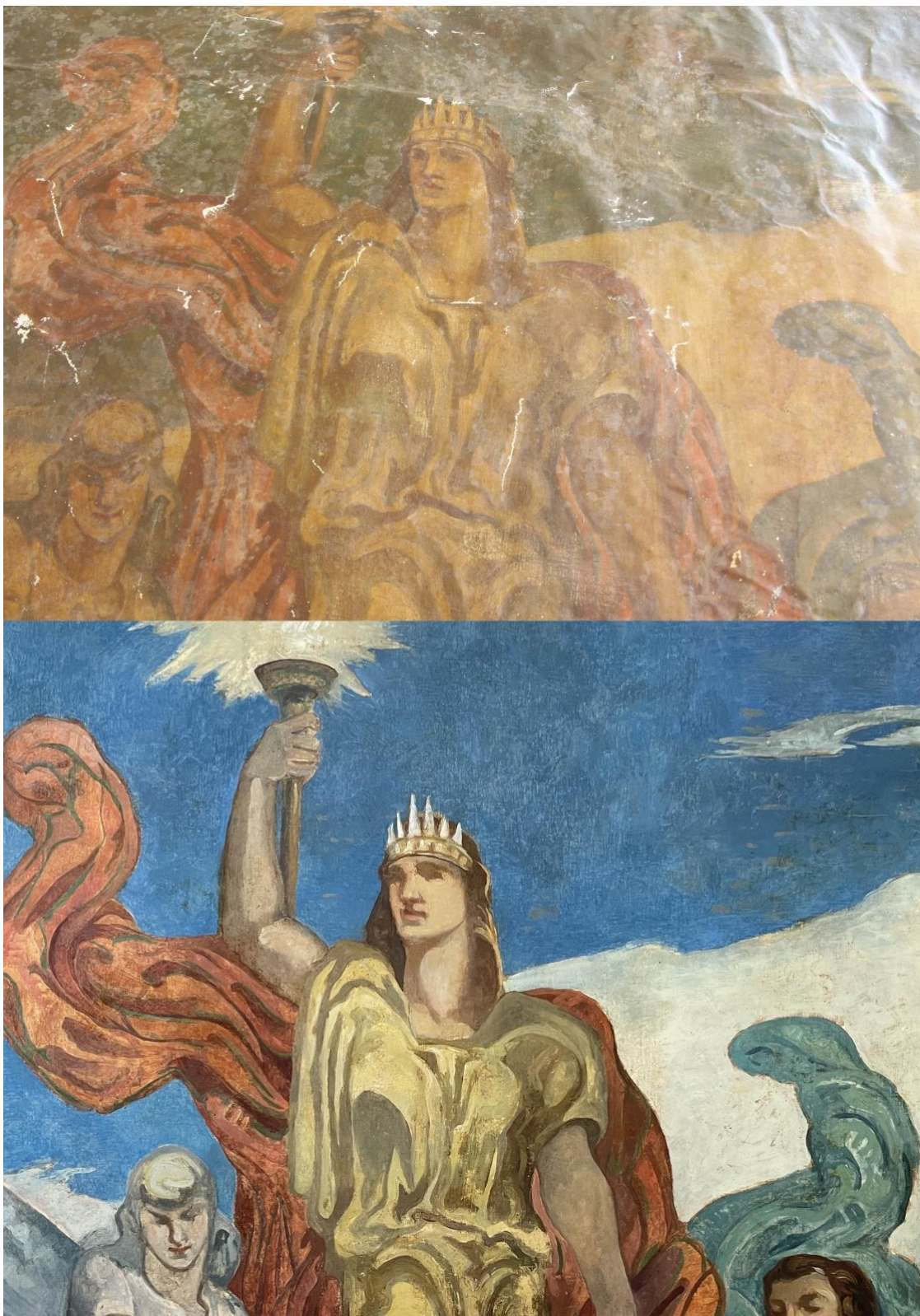
MIFA Victory Theatre

Over the past 30 years, MIFA has presented the finest examples of contemporary practice in performing, visual, and literary arts, bringing esteemed artists and world-class events to Holyoke and Western Mass. MIFA serves the economic revitalization of Holyoke and the region through the preservation and reopening of the historical landmark Victory Theatre as a performing arts center for the region. To build an appetite for programming at the future reopened theater, MIFA presents events in a variety of venues and virtually, to enhance Holyoke and the region's reputation in arts, tourism & entertainment. Learn more at www.mifafestival.org

Photo



Before and After photos of Right Mural depicting Victory
Courtesy of Evergreene Architectural Arts



Learn more about the Victory Theatre's historic Vincent Maragliotti murals here:

www.mifafestival.org/murals