



NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PHOENIX'S HISTORIC ORPHEUM THEATRE REOPENED 20 YEARS AGO AFTER MASSIVE RESTORATION PROJECT



PHOENIX (Jan. 27, 2017) – Did you know that it has been 20 years since Phoenix's historic Orpheum Theatre reopened after a 12-year, \$14M restoration project? On Jan. 28, 1997, the theater reopened to the delight of local residents who held fond memories of the historic venue, which was the last major construction project in Phoenix prior to the Great Depression.

Originally constructed as a vaudeville house, the state-of-the-art Orpheum Theatre was ahead of its time and solidified its reputation as a magical place where one could go to enjoy the arts. The theater changed its name to the Paramount and Palace West under different ownership while continuing to serve the entertainment needs of the community, at one point it served as a Spanish movie house. By the early 1980s, the aging facility was in need of major repairs and the City of Phoenix purchased the property and placed it on the National Register of Historic Places. Through public and private support, the theater closed in 1985 to undergo a massive renovation to restore the venue back to its original grandeur.

Upon completion of the restoration project, the Orpheum ushered in a new era and celebrated a grand reopening with Carol Channing starring in a performance of Hello Dolly. Over the last two decades, the venue continues to host notable performers such as Lily Tomlin, Bryan Adams, Lewis Black, Boz Scaggs, Eddie Izzard, Jimmy Fallon, David Feherty, Michael Bublé, Louis C.K. and others.

The Orpheum Theatre, which originally opened in 1929, will celebrate its 90th Anniversary in 2019.

About the Phoenix Convention Center & Venues:

The award-winning Phoenix Convention Center is one of the largest convention venues in the United States. It offers nearly 900,000 square feet of rentable meeting and exhibition space. Established in 1969 as a department of the city of Phoenix, the Phoenix Convention Center is a vital economic enterprise for the state and local economy. The Phoenix Convention Center & Venues include the Phoenix Convention Center, Symphony Hall, Orpheum Theatre and five parking garages.

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