



MIAMI BEACH

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Shows Goes on for Miami Beach's Historic Little Stage Theater *-- Grand Re-Opening Celebration & Ribbon-Cutting, Friday, February 26, 5:00 p.m. --*

Miami Beach, FL -- Curtains open again at the Little Stage Theater. Built in 1937, Miami Beach's Little Stage Theater had been shuttered for 10 years. The renovated theater creates an affordable and intimate venue for South Florida arts in the heart of Miami Beach's historic cultural arts district (CANDO - Cultural Arts Neighborhood District Overlay).

The Little Stage Theater and Carl Fisher Clubhouse complex sits just north of the Miami Beach Convention Center in a park-like setting alongside the Dade Canal between the Miami Beach Botanical Gardens and the Miami City Ballet. Designed by architect Robert A. Taylor, the complex is located at 2100 Washington Avenue, adjacent to the more contemporary 21st Street Community Center.

The City of Miami Beach and SoBe Institute of the Arts (SoBe Arts), the building's current tenant, collaborated in its renovation. The \$219,000 renovations to the Little Stage Theater/Carl Fisher Clubhouse complex included upgrades to meet American with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance, new floor finishes, new sound and lighting systems, casework, interior paint, lighting and air conditioning system replacement, among others.

The intimate venue seats up to about 90 with regular theater seating and about 60 cabaret style and is the ideal location for theater and music productions, in addition to meetings, lectures, and readings. The theater utilizes some of the architectural vocabulary employed by August Geiger, the architect who designed the adjacent Carl Fisher Clubhouse, which was completed in 1916 and is considered one of the oldest structures still standing in Miami Beach. The Little Stage Theater and the Carl Fisher Clubhouse, built contemporaneously with Deering's Viscaya across the Bay, show some of the earliest examples of Eclectic style architecture using Dutch South African architectural elements that are evident in the stucco-ornamented gable parapets and dormers.

SoBe Arts, a non-profit performance and arts education organization operating in the historic Carl Fisher Clubhouse and adjoining Little Stage Theater, opened the theater on January 1, 2010 with a limited-run of the award-winning Grand Opening Cabaret. SoBe Arts offers year-round classes in music, theater and dance for children and adults (visit www.sobearts.org for more information), as well as innovative performance programs featuring chamber music, theater and multi-disciplinary works.

As part of the lease agreement with the City of Miami Beach, Mystery Park Arts Company (DBA, SoBe Arts) has committed to offer early pre-registration for Miami Beach residents one day before enrollment for classes. If enrollment reaches capacity, Miami Beach resident applicants will be wait-listed for preferential placement, in the event of any openings. They will also offer a comprehensive scholarship program for youth participants; discounted ticket prices for Miami Beach residents; youth and senior discount tickets for matinee performances and events produced or coordinated by SoBe Arts; at least ten free community cultural programming events open to the public each year; and free quarterly programming for the Parks and Recreation Department's Teen Club.

SoBe Arts will continue to offer innovative performances, including the upcoming Shakespeare production "Twelfth Night," which previews March 18 and 19 and runs March 20 through April 4. An "Arts of Transcendence" production will follow in May.

The Little Stage Theater was formerly known as the Acorn Theater. Renovations to the Little Stage Theater and Carl Fisher Clubhouse were made possible by City Center Redevelopment Capital Funds.

The Little Stage Theater is also available for rental to other organizations. Contact SoBe Institute of the Arts for availabilities and rentals at 305.674.9220 or info@sobearts.org.

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