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The Grand Theater and Miron Construction Break Ground on Second Century Renovation Project

WAUSAU, WI May 13, 2026 – The Grand Theater and general contractor Miron Construction held a groundbreaking ceremony on the morning of Wednesday, May 13, for the ambitious **Second Century Project**, a transformative \$17+ million initiative to revitalize the iconic Grand Theater for its next 100 years.

Members of the staff, the Performing Arts Foundation board, The Grand Theatre Foundation, and the Second Century Campaign committee, removed the final seats from the historic theater, and swung at a bullseye on a wall, as part of a ceremonial groundbreaking.

"This is a monumental day for our historic theater, as we celebrate the next century for The Grand Theater," said **Sean Wright, Executive Director of The Grand Theater**. "On behalf of our entire team, we are incredibly grateful for the support of our patrons, donors, our incredible Campaign Committee, and our partners at The Grand Theatre Foundation."

"When we undertook this project, we knew that it would be an ambitious, yet important one. And as they have every time since the mid-1980's, our community has stepped forward to support The Grand. I'm reminded of the words delivered by John Slayton, the Chair of The Grand Theater Restoration Committee in May of 1985, when he announced that The Grand would be restored at a cost of \$1.7 million. He said that the committee had complete confidence the money would be raised because 'Restoring The Grand is something the community thought of, wants to do, and will do.' It still holds true 41 years later and we are incredibly excited to get this project underway!" **Wright** added.

Key parts of the project include:

- **Patron Experience Upgrades:** New theater seating throughout the house with improved ergonomics and modern amenities.
- **Accessibility Enhancements:** Installation of an additional men's restroom, a family restroom, and expansion of ADA-compliant pathways in the ticket office.
- **Building System Modernizations:** Replacement of end-of-life systems throughout the facility.
- **Structural Restoration:** Interior and exterior restoration work, including a full roof replacement.

Construction on the Second Century Campaign will be complete by November 7, 2026, when The Grand's 2026-2027 season kicks off.

About the Performing Arts Foundation: The Performing Arts Foundation is the nonprofit steward of the historic Grand Theater in Wausau, Wisconsin. Built in 1927, the venue serves over 175,000 guests annually, providing a wide range of entertainment, educational programs and community performances.