

# Historical Murals

INDEPENDENCE  
HALL

FRENCH  
EXPLORERS



WHEELING CIVIC CENTER

FORT  
HENRY

TRANSPORTATION  
HISTORY

## Dedication Program

MONDAY, JUNE 22, 1981



11:30 a.m.

## **"a truly unique Civic Center"**

The historical murals dedicated today mark the completion of a project adding a new dimension to the truly unique character of the Wheeling Civic Center. The versatility of this unique multi-purpose building challenges the imagination. Although only four years old, nearly one million persons have attended its wide variety of entertainment events and athletic contests in addition to the many conventions, trade shows, exhibits, dances, banquets and other meetings in the main arena or the smaller meeting rooms. The building also houses the Wheeling Hall of Fame honoring present and past accomplishments of Wheeling citizens in all walks of life. Other notable accomplishments are honored by plaques mounted in the main lobby.

In 1979, the Wheeling Municipal Auditorium Board embarked on a project to recognize historical events which occurred in the immediate vicinity of the civic center depicting such events in a colorful and dramatic fashion upon large murals to be painted on interior walls at the four corners of the building. To manage and direct the historical mural project, the Municipal Auditorium Board appointed a special committee of dedicated local persons qualified in art and local history.

The committee determined the subject matter of the murals and selected the artists on the basis of personal interviews and preliminary sketches submitted after its review of the initial applications submitted by almost 30 artists. Funding for the payments to the artists was obtained by matching grants from the Council of the City of Wheeling and the West Virginia Department of Culture and History acting by and through its Arts and Humanities Commission. Additional costs of wall preparation, materials, equipment rental and other incidental expenses were paid from additional funds provided by the City Council and the Municipal Auditorium Board. These city and state agencies cooperated and enthusiastically supported the effort to promote public awareness of the significant historical events depicted upon the murals and to advance the program of displaying art in public places.

Thanks to the combined efforts of the West Virginia Department of Culture and History, its Arts and Humanities Commission, the City Council and Administration of the City of Wheeling, the Municipal Auditorium Board, its management, staff and its special mural committee and with special thanks to the talent and creative abilities of the artists, the four historical murals are now on permanent display for the enjoyment and enlightenment of the crowds attending events at the Wheeling Civic Center.

A walking tour of the halls of the Wheeling Civic Center provides students, tourists and other interested persons quick courses in city and state history and art appreciation. These added dimensions make the building a *truly unique Civic Center*



## WHEELING CIVIC CENTER

EAST MEETING ROOM



MONDAY, JUNE 22, 1981

# Program

Buffet Luncheon..... 11:30 a.m.

Greetings and Introductions..... William H. Muegge,  
Vice-Mayor, City of Wheeling

Master of Ceremonies..... Clark Morton, Member Municipal  
Auditorium Board and Chairman  
of Special Murals Committee

Introductions of Special Committee

Presentation of the Artists

*Independence Hall and  
French Explorer Murals*..... Mark Missman

*Fort Henry Mural*..... Walt Courtney

*Transportation Mural*..... Ellen Elmes

Formal Dedication of Murals..... Hon. John D. Rockefeller IV,  
Governor, State of West Virginia

Acceptance of Murals..... Cuyler E. Ewing,  
Mayor, City of Wheeling

Closing of the Program



*Guided Tour Of Halls to View the Murals*





## WHEELING MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM BOARD

Robert E. Sadler, Chairman	Clark Morton
Edmund Berardinelli	Richard A. Smith
J. Ross Felton	H. Mendel Spears
Elmer H. Freese	Frank Rodriguez, Civic Center Manager

## SPECIAL MURALS COMMITTEE

Sr. Margaret Brennan	Historian, Teacher of West Virginia History, Wheeling Central High School
Beverly Fluty	Historian, Curator at West Virginia Independence Hall
Dr. Bruno Hartung	Historian, Professor at Wheeling College
John A. Hazlett	Historian, past President Wheeling Historical Society
Steve Vasiliou	Artist, Professor at Wheeling College
Wes Wagner	Artist, Professor at Bethany College
Clark Morton, Chairman	Member and past Chairman of Wheeling Municipal Auditorium Board

## WHEELING CITY COUNCIL

Cuyler E. Ewing, Mayor	William H. Muegge, Vice Mayor
John W. Carenbauer	Robert E. Sadler
John A. Hazlett	L. Lloyd Stenger
Stella Koerner	W. Alex Wilson II
John W. Lipphardt	City Manager - Wayne Barte

## WEST VIRGINIA DEPT. of CULTURE and HISTORY

Norman L. Fagan	Commissioner
James B. Andrews	Arts and Humanities Division Director
Mack Miles	Arts Coordinator
Lyn Wyatt	Special Projects
Janis Stein	Vice Chairman and Wheeling area Member Arts and Humanities Commission