

# MORTON THEATRE

195 West Washington Street, (Downtown) Athens, Georgia 30601

Phone: (706) 613-3770 • Fax: (706) 613-3773 • Events/Tickets Line: (706) 613-3771

 Website: [www.mortontheatre.com](http://www.mortontheatre.com) • E-mail: [mortontheatre@accgov.com](mailto:mortontheatre@accgov.com) 

Box Office Hours: 12:00 PM –4:00 PM weekdays, and one hour prior to scheduled events

Built in 1910, the Morton Theatre is one of the first, and the oldest surviving vaudeville theatre in the United States, uniquely built, owned, and operated by an African-American. Monroe Bowers ("Pink") Morton had little formal education; however he became a successful businessman and prominent figure in Athens' history. Many of Athens' Black doctors, dentists and pharmacists and other professionals practiced in the Morton Building. Among these were Dr. Ida Mae Johnson Hiram, the first Black woman to be licensed to practice medicine (dentistry) in the State, and Dr. William H. Harris, one of the founders of the Georgia State Medical Association of Colored Physicians, Dentists and Druggists. The Theatre hosted such renowned performers as Duke Ellington, Cab Calloway, Bessie Smith, and Louis Armstrong. Changing with the times, the theatre became a movie house in the 1940s. A fire in the projection booth led to the theatre's closing in 1954; however, businesses still operated in other spaces in the building. In 1980, the historic Morton was purchased by the nonprofit Morton Theatre Corporation, with state and federal funds, to be refurbished and dedicated to the arts. Local bands of fame such as R.E.M., Dreams So Real, and The B-52's have since used this space for rehearsal space and filming music videos. In 1991 ownership was handed over to the Athens-Clarke County Unified Government, and the building was rehabilitated in 1993 using funds from a citizen-approved sales tax program. The Morton, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, is a unit of the Arts Division of Athens-Clarke County Unified Government's Leisure Services Department, and is supported by the Morton Theatre Corporation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The Morton operates as a 480-capacity rental facility that hosts live theatre, music concerts, church services, weddings, dance concerts, receptions, seminars, awards shows, pageants, community events, and more.

- Restored and adapted as a performing arts space available for performance rentals, tours, seminars, small banquets, meetings, conferences, receptions, film screenings and more
- Meets Americans with Disabilities Act requirement
- 480-Capacity, 3-tiered, acoustically superb auditorium
- **Lighting system:** ETC Ion Xe 20 console controlling theatrical, architectural, and LED lights.
- **Sound system:** Behringer X32 32-channel audio mixer feeding a more than adequate PA.
- **Rigging system:** 24 line-sets that includes theatrical soft goods and electrics
- **Projection system:** Digital Projector - Output can be sent to your choice of 3 different screens.

Seating Capacity	Theatre & Lecture Seating	Conference Arrangement	Seated Banquet Style	Standing Cocktail	Sq. Feet
Theatre Auditorium	480	n/a	n/a	n/a	10,000
Theatre Stage	75	50	50	75	700
Lower Lobby ◊	40	40	60*	125*	750
E.D. Harris Pharmacy ◊	n/a	n/a			1,050
Conference Room ◊	30	20	20	30	500

\*The Lower Lobby and adjoining E.D. Harris Pharmacy are used together for banquets and receptions.

◊ Denotes where Food and Drink are allowed.