

OUR PLANS

FRONT OF HOUSE

The Next Act Campaign is designed to address the pressing needs of an aging theater. Through careful and thoughtful planning, Paper Mill Board and executive leadership developed a master plan to complete what was started in 2018. The journey from the parking lots to your seats brings you to the Front of House. Outdated infrastructure constrains audience flow and creates accessibility issues for our patrons. New and improved facilities will dramatically impact accessibility, comfort, and the entire patron experience.

Front of House modernization efforts include:

- A double-storied lobby connected by a grand staircase
 - Increased restroom facilities to serve large audiences
 - Additional concessions and merchandising areas
 - An enlarged donor lounge
 - Re-envisioned entrance
 - Accessibility improvements
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BEHIND THE SCENES

Paper Mill staff and artists have worked behind the scenes for decades in worn down, tired, and inefficient space. The Back of House includes dressing rooms, costume/wig shops, the green room, the Mickey McNany Black Box Theater, administrative offices, and a variety of other support spaces. These facilities exist in three separate but connected buildings, with the oldest dating back to the origins of the theater as a working paper mill in the 1800s.

Back of House modernization efforts include:

- New HVAC system
 - Upgraded electrical and lighting systems
 - New plumbing and restroom fixtures
 - Roof repair and upgrades
 - Accessibility improvements
 - Repainting, carpeting, and re-outfitting of dressing rooms
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BEYOND THE STAGE

The F.M. Kirby Carriage House at Paper Mill Playhouse hosts patrons, artists, and visitors to Millburn throughout the week and throughout the year. Exceptional meals and drinks await diners, but the space is limited, hindering the demands for dining pre- or post-show. A renovation and expansion to the Carriage House is an opportunity to serve more guests, while solidifying a key component to Paper Mill's business and operational plan that includes expanded programming.

Expansion of the Carriage House will include:

- Doubled seating capacity to 222
 - New meeting and performance space with the addition of a second floor
 - Accessibility improvements
 - Expanded space for ancillary programming and events throughout the year
 - Larger kitchen to support the growth in restaurant capacity
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A NEW GATEWAY

The historic theater facade of the original theater will be rebuilt as the southern face of the F.M. Kirby Carriage House, creating a gateway to the Paper Mill campus and our central courtyard. A monument to our past, this new gateway will honor Paper Mill's legacy while creating a vibrant, welcoming, and accessible space for patrons and community to gather. Overall site improvements to the parking lots, courtyard, brookside walk, and gardens will enhance the overall patron experience.

Improvements to Paper Mill's 9-acre campus will include:

- Improved parking
 - An expanded courtyard
 - New gardens and green spaces
 - Accessibility improvements
 - Updated river retaining wall
 - New exterior lighting and signage
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COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION

Paper Mill Playhouse is a center of learning, offering education programs that span the entire State of New Jersey, with an influence that extends nationwide. Through the purchase of land and facilities in downtown Millburn within walking distance from the main campus, Paper Mill will be able to house and expand its celebrated and nationally recognized education programs and create a place to explore new works and other artistic projects without the constraints of the mainstage activities. The downtown Education Center will feature 21st century ADA+ compliant facilities that will support in-person, remote, and hybrid learning for students of all ages across the region, country, and globe.

The Education Center will include:

- 6 dance studios
 - 4 private coaching studios
 - A black box theater with seating capacity for 300
 - A 50-person multipurpose conference room
 - Offices for teaching faculty and staff
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