

The Wang Center for the Performing Arts/ Boch Center

Wang Theatre Seating

Design Review

March 28, 2017





Current Condition: Wang Theatre Seats

All 3,460 seats in the orchestra, mezzanine and balcony are in poor condition and in need of replacement. The fabric of many seats is frayed, ripped and faded. Often duct tape has been used as a temporary repair.

The orchestra and mezzanine seats have been replaced several times and are not original to the Wang Theatre (then called Metropolitan Theatre).



Current Condition: Wang Theatre Seats

The seats in the upper balcony (shown left) are believed to be original. However, these seats do not meet current fire code requirements.

These shall serve as the basis of design for establishing the character of the proposed new seats.



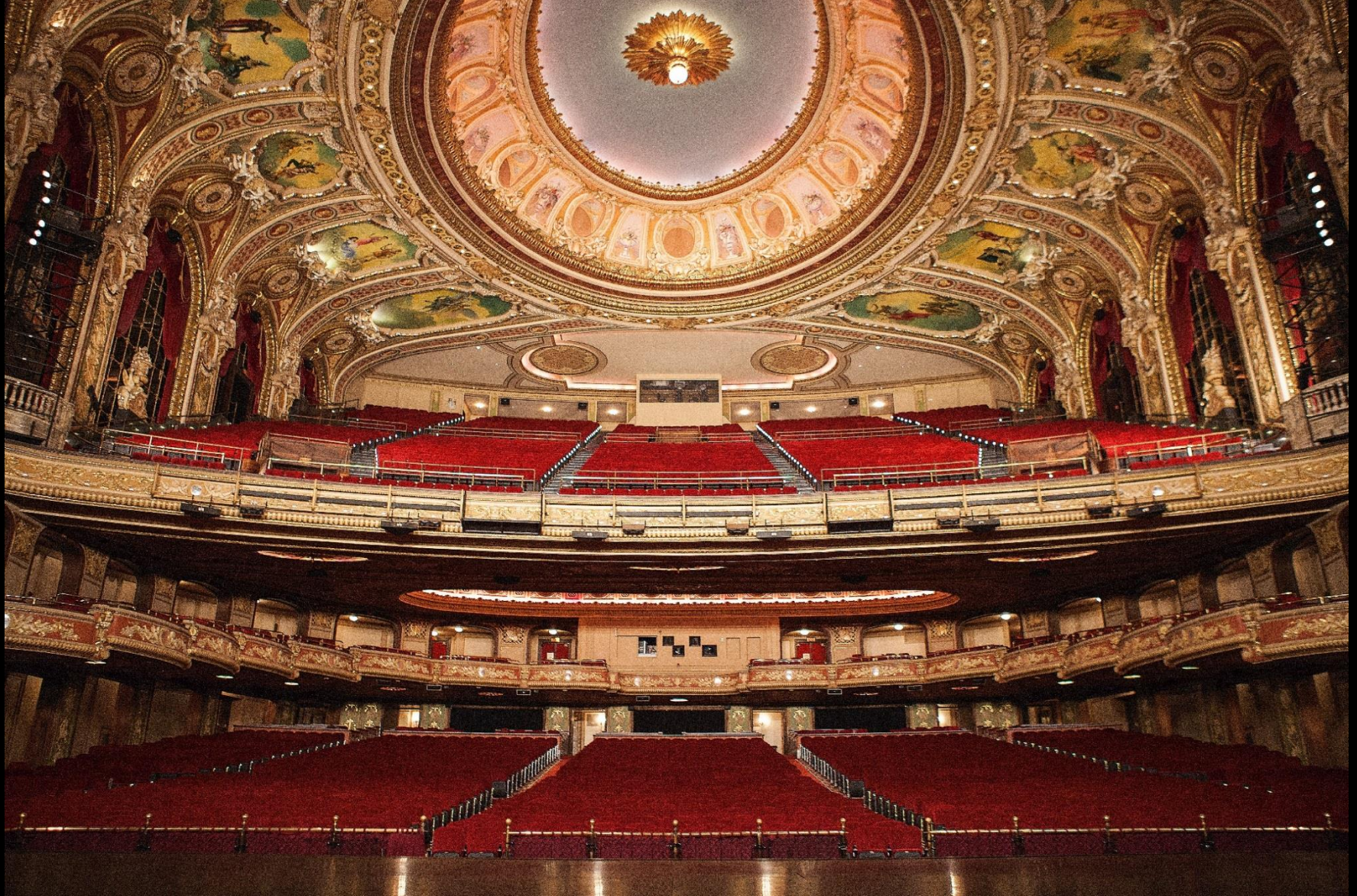
***Current Condition:
Wang Theatre Seats***

Irwin Seating, a leader in historic theater seating, has recommended replacement of the seats because many of the seats are beyond repair.

The new seats will be in the spirit of the Wang's character and similar to the existing seats.



The Wang Center (then Music Hall), February, 1976 Photo: William F. Owens, Jr.



The Wang Theatre, February 2017 Photo: MEDIABOSS

The Theatre was restored to its former glory in the late 1980s/early 1990s and then achieved landmark status. The green/yellow-hued murals had previously been missing.

Replacement of seats is one-for-one without a design change to the layout of the theater, and with no impact on the architectural features, walls or circulation.



Wang Theatre Seats Proposed Design

**New theater seats would be
comprised of:**

- **Metal frames with maple armrests**
- **Ergonomic features for patron comfort**
- **Velour fabric which we believe is similar to the color before fading occurred (as well as the existing seats)**
- **Include end panel aisle lighting for safety and code requirements**



Wang Theatre Seats Proposed Design

The proposed new end standards are replicas of the original Metropolitan Theatre relief carving pattern and shape (shown left).

Paul Winter, Irwin Seating: “The end standard matches the original end standard. It is not in the style of, but a replica of the original.”



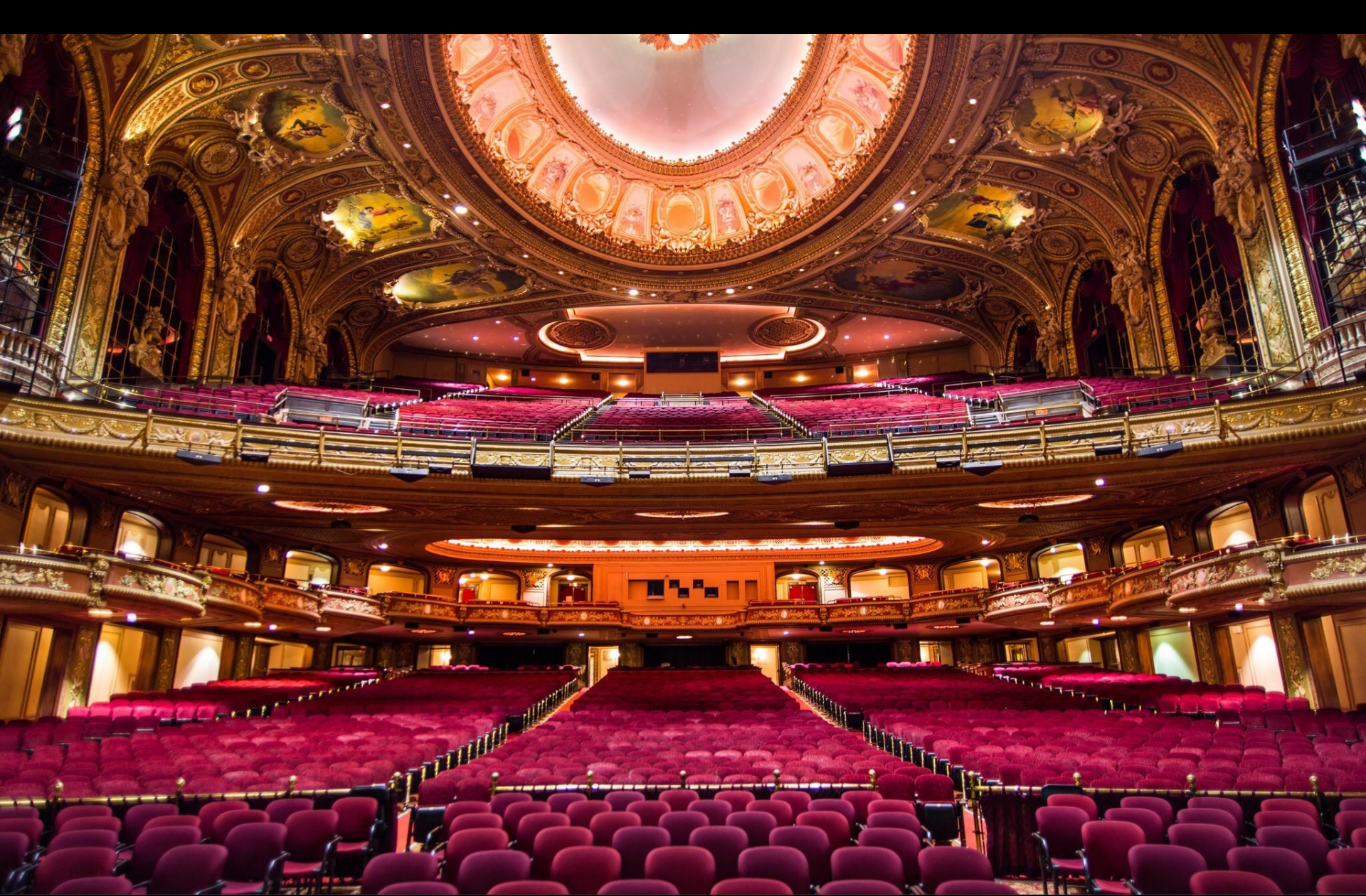
Wang Theatre Seats Proposed Design

The proposed new aisle end standards are in the style of theaters of the 1920s and match the original. Their colors mirror the green, gold and yellow details of other areas of the theatre, respecting the venue's character and ambiance as well as its history.



The Wang Theatre, February 2017 Photo: MEDIABOSS

End standard new colors replicate the green, yellow and gold hues of the murals found on the ceiling and restored in the late 1980s/ early 1990s.



The Wang Theatre, February 2017 Photo: MEDIABOSS

Because Irwin Seating has played an important role in evaluating the best choices in seating options, other Projects by Irwin Seating are listed below for reference:

- **Emerson Colonial Theatre, Boston**
- **The Paramount Theatre, Boston**
- **Cutler Majestic Theatre, Boston**
 - **Carnegie Hall, New York City**
 - **Lincoln Center, New York City**
- **The Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, Washington DC**

Contacts:

Josiah A. Spaulding, Jr.
President and CEO

The Wang Center for the Performing Arts/ Boch Center
617-532-1286 | jspaulding@bochcenter.org

Michael Szczepkowski
Vice President and General Manager

The Wang Center for the Performing Arts/ Boch Center
617-532-1107 | mszczepkowski@bochcenter.org

Bruce Herrmann AIA
Director, Wilson Butler Architects

617-720-7127 x 249 | hbh@wilsonbutler.com

