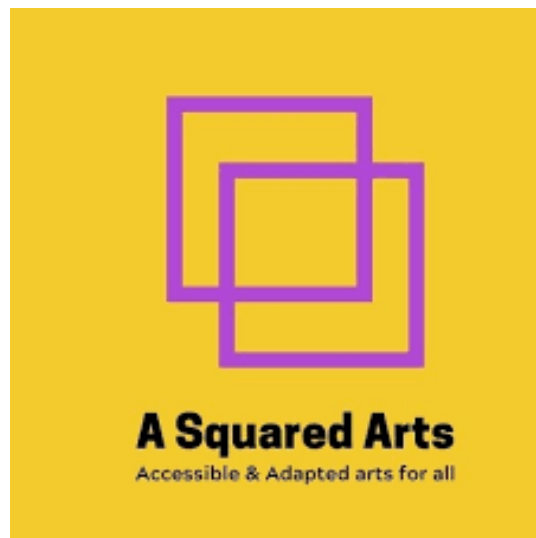


METROPOLIS

P E R F O R M I N G A R T S C E N T R E

Metropolis Performing Arts Centre

The Tortoise and the Hare Accessibility Guide



This guide is a collaboration between Metropolis Performing Arts Centre and A Squared Arts, with a focus on accessibility in the performance arts. Please email info@asquaredarts.org with any questions or accessibility concerns.

Table of Contents

[Click on the table of contents to go to that section of the document.](#)

Metropolis Performing Arts Center	1
Getting to the Theater	3
Building Design	5
Building Space	5
Lobby	6
Bathrooms	7
In the Theater	8
Further Resources	9
Prior to the Show	10
Sensory Tools	10
Set Description	10
The Tortoise and the Hare	11
Prologue: Stringbean Valley County Fair	11
Scene 1	11
Scene 2	11
Scene 3	12
Scene 4: City Limits	12
Scene 5: Bunny Hill	13
Scene 6: Bear's Burger Barn	13
Scene 7: Crooked Road	14
Scene 8: Finish Line	14
Bows	14

Getting to the Theater

The nearest parking to the theater is in the Vail Avenue Garage, which has entrances on both Vail and Highland Avenue. To reach the main entrance from the garage, go right on Highland Avenue and turn right onto Campbell Street, or go left on Vail and turn left onto Campbell Street. The address for Metropolis Performing Arts Centre is 111 West Campbell Street, Arlington Heights.



Metropolis main entrance. ID: Two sets of gold double doors to a brick building. Above the doors is a large red marquee reading "Metropolis Performing Arts Centre."

Patrons entering through the main doors will need to continue straight and go through two more sets of doors to reach the theater lobby.

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Metropolis lobby entrance. ID: A set of two double doors, made of clear glass and metal, at the end of a brick hallway. Above the doors is a sign reading “Metropolis Whisler Family Lobby.”

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Building Design

Metropolis Performing Arts Centre shares a large, multi-story building with several other businesses. The theater, lobby, and other spaces used during and before the performance are located on the ground floor only.

Building Space

Entering the building through the main gold doors, there is a mat on the ground. Passing through a second set of doors the floor transitions to tile. Moving into the lobby through another set of metal doors, the door frame is raised slightly on the bottom and the flooring changes from tile to laminate. The hallway leading from 6 South Vail Avenue to the lobby features multiple flooring changes between tile, carpet, and laminate, as well as a slight incline.



Image 1, right: Floor moving through the second set of doors after the main entrance. ID: Image of a gray striped floor mat on tile. Farther forward are a set of metal and glass double doors. Through the glass, more uncovered tile is visible.

Image 2, left: The final set of doors leading into the theater lobby. ID: A set of metal and glass double doors. Closer to the camera, the floor is gray tile. Past the doors, the floor changes to darker gray laminate.

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Lobby



ID: A view of the left side of the Metropolis lobby, a large rectangular room with a gray floor and white walls and ceiling. The Metropolis Performing Arts Centre logo is displayed on the left wall. Farther right in the photo, along the room's longest wall, a large display screen reads "Metropolis Performing Arts Centre" in white letters on a blue background.

The lobby is a large, open room with a laminate floor. The only seating in the room is a bench to the left of the main entrance, which is raised about 30 inches off the ground. In the center of the room's long wall is a large display screen. Bathrooms are located along the left wall of the lobby, and the box office is to the right. Staff and volunteers will be available here



Metropolis lobby, right side. ID: The right side of a lobby with a gray floor and white ceiling and walls. Straight ahead is a gray door with a sign reading “Metropolis Theater.” Along the right wall is a service window with a sign reading “Box Office.”

Bathrooms



Bathrooms area. ID: A photo of the left side of the Metropolis lobby. To the left of a wall featuring the Metropolis logo is a sign reading “restrooms” that points to a recessed area.

Bathrooms are located on the left side of the lobby, indicated by a sign reading “Restrooms.” The restrooms are gendered, but have signage indicating they are “open

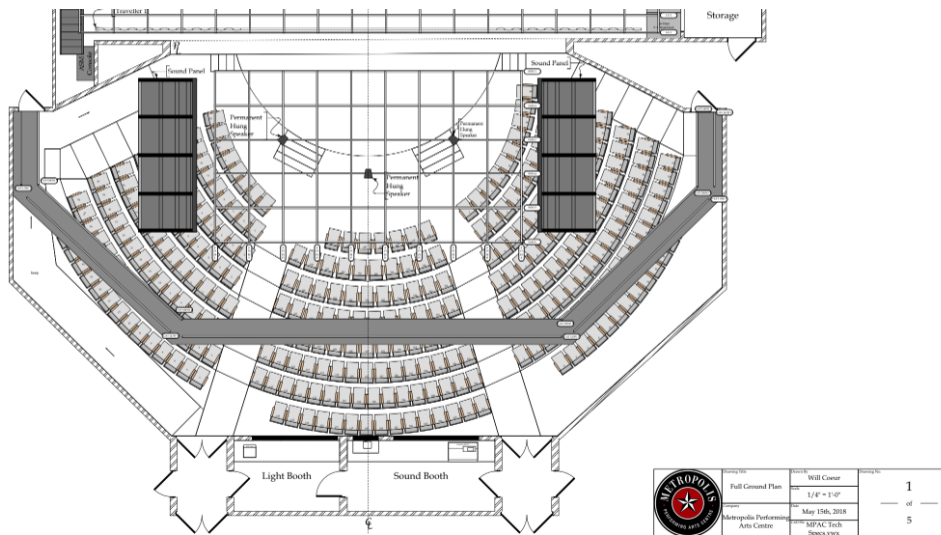
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for use by anyone who feels comfortable.” Restroom doors do not have an electronic opening mechanism; volunteers or staff will be available to help open doors. The bathrooms each have one wheelchair accessible stall.



The women’s restroom. ID: Five bathroom stalls separated by gray dividers. The farthest from the camera is larger and has a door that opens outwards to facilitate wheelchair access.

In the Theater



ID: A diagram of the theater seating area viewed from above, as described below.

The theater is accessible through doors on either side of the lobby. Seating is arranged in eight arcing rows, with two sets of stairs on the sides of the house, and two more that divide the seating into three sections. There is also a ramp on the left side of the house,

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allowing wheelchair access to the front row. All rows besides the front and back are accessed by stairs only, with one step per row. The stairs are carpeted, the front row has laminate flooring, and the other rows have concrete floors. Seating at sensory friendly performances is open, so you may take any open seat.

The seats are padded and measure 19 inches wide and 18 inches deep. Each seat has armrests on either side with cup holders built in.

There are speakers throughout the theater. The sound and lighting booths are located at the back of the house, in the center. The stage is elevated about 1 foot above the first row of seats.



Image 1, right: An aisle at Metropolis Theater. ID: A row of widely spaced, carpeted brown stairs going down. There are red folding theater seats visible on either side, with one row per step.

Image 2, left: A seat in the front row. ID: A folding theater seat with red upholstery and black armrests. The left armrest has a cup holder. The floor below is wood-patterned laminate.

Further Resources

- [A virtual tour of Metropolis Theater](#), featuring 360° views of spaces from the main entrance through the lobby and theater
- [A video guide to entering Metropolis Performing Arts Centre](#), featuring closed-captioned narration and descriptions

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Prior to the Show

Doors will open 30 minutes before showtime. Staff and volunteers will be stationed at both the main and car dropoff entrances to guide patrons to the lobby. From there, ushers will be available to direct guests to their seats or help with other questions. Additional volunteers and staff will assist in the sensory area. Some personnel in all areas will be carrying and trained to use core communication boards.



Metropolis front-of-house staff in uniform. ID: Four people wave at the camera. All of them are wearing red shirts, name tags, black pants, black shoes, and face masks. Behind them, the Metropolis logo featuring a star is printed on the wall.

Sensory Tools

There will be a designated sensory/quiet area off of the lobby with sensory tools available. Fidgets may also be used in the theater.

Set Description

Upstage center is a red barn roof with white beams crossing it. In the center of the roof is a green sign with red writing reading “County Fair.” The supports holding up the roof are covered by painted cutouts of grass. On either side of the barn are painted cutouts of trees. Downstage from the barn is a podium decorated painted blue and yellow, with a sign reading, “WINNER” and “1st”.

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The Tortoise and the Hare

General Note: Microphones are used throughout the performance. There is a possibility for feedback at any time.

Prologue: Stringbean Valley County Fair

Lighting: The stage is dark at the opening. Lights start dim and brighten.

Sound: Pig shouts, “Welcome to the Stringbean Valley County Fair!” followed immediately by high-energy singing and dancing.

Set: Three striped rolling carts are visible upstage, each with a different painted cutout on top. One shows a perfume bottle, one shows a pie, and one shows a wheel of cheese with a slice missing. These are brought downstage center as each contest is judged.

Final line: Yee-haw!

Scene 1

Beginning line: As we gather here today...

Movement: Hare moves around the stage quickly throughout the scene.

Sound: Hare enters unexpectedly singing, “Oh, what a beautiful morning.”

Movement: Characters step to sides and forward in unison when Pig tries each sample.

Sound: Musical cues after contest winners are announced.

Sound: Characters scream after Skunk starts to spray Hare.

Movement: Characters jump sideways together after Pig says, “I’ve still got to judge...”

Sound: Hare sings, “Party people in the house tonight,” at start of cheese contest.

Final line: I’ll see you later, losers.

Sound: Scene transition music plays as characters argue loudly.

Movement: Tortoise enters slowly from house.

Scene 2

Beginning line: Excuse me!

Sound: Tortoise interjects loudly with “Excuse me!”

Sound: Tortoise holds out the word “well” for several seconds.

Sound: Pig uses a pitch pipe to start an a capella song.

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Movement: Hare enters quickly and starts dancing to “Can’t Stop The Feeling.”

Sound: Pig announces race competitors loudly, other characters cheer “Tortoise! Tortoise!”

Final line: I’ll see you eating my dust.

Sound: High-energy transition music plays.

Lighting: The lights dim between scenes.

Scene 3

Sound: “I Like to Move It” plays loudly.

Lighting: Lights flash and change colors in time with music.

Set: The rolling carts are gone. Upstage left is a white sign with black dots and red letters reading “START.”

Beginning line: I can’t understand you!

Sound: Accompaniment begins as Tortoise says “slow and steady.”

Interaction: Tortoise says “Right everybody?” and audience may repeat “slow and steady!”

Sound: Bugle call after Pig says “the county fair race.”

Sound: After Pig says “Are you ready to race?”, full group song starts immediately.

Choreography involves some clapping and audience may join.

Movement: Mayor waves a green flag while describing the race path, and to start the race.

Movement: Hare and Tortoise exit into house.

Final line (sung): Who will it be? The Tortoise or the Hare?

Sound: High-energy transition music plays.

Lighting: The lights dim between scenes.

Scene 4: City Limits

Set: The curtains are drawn, with a sign saying “city limits” in front of them.

Beginning line: Oh boy! Look how fast I’m going!

Movement: Hare and Tortoise enter through house and deliver several lines here.

Sound: Scene transition music starts abruptly.

Lighting: Lights dim abruptly.

Movement: Hare and Tortoise exit through house.

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Final line: Slow and steady!

Scene 5: Bunny Hill

Set: A bridge upstage, with a sign downstage right reading “Bunny Hill”

Beginning line: Tortoise! Tortoise!

Sound: Characters cheer loudly for Tortoise several times; audience may join in.

Movement: Hare crosses stage quickly several times.

Lighting: Background lighting drops as Hare says, “Victory is mine!”

Sound: Music starts as Hare says “Victory is mine!”

Movement: Tortoise enters and exits through house.

Final line: Slow and steady wins the race!

Sound: Background music.

Lighting: The lights dim.

Scene 6: Bear’s Burger Barn

Sound: “Bear Down, Chicago Bears” plays, beginning while lights are dimmed.

Set: A small food stand labeled “Bear’s Burger Barn”, upstage center.

Beginning line (sung): Bear down, Chicago Bears.

Lighting: Stage lights flash as they come back on.

Sound: Bear talks over recorded music.

Movement: Bear and Hare hop sideways together.

Movement: Hare and Tortoise enter from house.

Sound: Tortoise and Hare talk over each other.

Movement: Tortoise exits through house.

Final line: Slow and steady!

Lighting: The lights dim.

Set: A sign downstage right reads “Crooked Road.”

Scene 7: Crooked Road

Beginning line: Hey! Watch where you're going!

Movement: Hare enters from offstage.

Sound: Soft music starts after Hare says "in plenty of time." Background music continues for rest of scene.

Lighting: Lights dim after Hare says "in plenty of time."

Interaction: Skunk, Mouse, and Chicken enter house and ask, "Where's the Hare?"

Sound: Skunk, Mouse, and Chicken clap while cheering and singing.

Final line: Seriously? Tortoise!

Set: Curtains pull back to reveal the County Fair set. Upstage left is a white sign with black dots and red letters reading "FINISH."

Lighting: Lights come up on full set.

Scene 8: Finish Line

Beginning line: It's not fair!

Sound: After Pig says, "The winner is," characters shout "The Tortoise!"

Sound: Characters shout "Speech! Speech!"

Interaction: Tortoise asks, "Fast and furious only makes you lose focus and make mistakes. Right?" and gestures for audience to respond.

Interaction: Tortoise and Pig ask audience to repeat the new town motto, "Slow and steady wins the race."

Sound: After repeating "Slow and steady wins the race," all characters sing and dance a group song.

Interaction: Near end of song, characters ask audience to sing, "Slow and steady wins the race."

Final line (sung): Yee-haw!

Lights: Stage lights dim and flash as they come back on.

Bows

Sound: Characters clap throughout bows, and sing at the end.

Final line: Yee-haw!

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