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For Immediate Release - January, 2018

Civic to Partner with Allen County Public Library's Special Collections to Archive Program Books

The Fort Wayne Civic Theatre is pleased to announce a partnership with the Allen County Public Library's Special Collections. The Special Collections staff will be archiving the theatre's collection of program books, preserving the data for future generations.

Using optical character recognition technology, some of the data will be searchable, based on condition of the books, type size utilized and other factors. The database of archived program books will be accessible through the Allen County Public Library's Community Album website, with a link to the site also available on the Civic's website.

Curt Witcher, Special Collections Manager for ACPL, welcomes this opportunity to collaborate on a project that preserves such an important part of the community's history. "The Fort Wayne Civic Theatre has a long and rich history of lighting the community with talent and entertainment. Our collaboration will help ensure this history is known—this story is told—well into the future."

Phillip H. Colglazier, Civic Theatre's Executive/Artistic Director explains, "It is our goal to have a complete history from 1927 through the current season by our 95th anniversary, in 2022. We also would welcome donations of other season ticket brochures and other advertising pieces from our start in 1927 through 1980."

The Civic Theatre is also in the process of having old photos archived by volunteer, Toddeh Manoukian. If you have old photos, particularly ones where the show or volunteer names are included, please consider donating them to the theatre. Plans are to eventually combine the photo and program book archives on the ACPL Community Album site.

Currently the Civic Theatre has program books dating back to the 1943-44 Season. As a part of this project, the Civic staff is reaching out to the community to help locate earlier books and to fill in some gaps in the records. Individuals who have old Civic programs photos from any season who would like to donate them to the theatre can contact Elise Ramel at (260) 422-8641 x 224 or eramel@fwcivic.org. Arrangements can also be made for the Civic to borrow and return books if the donor prefers.

**For more information contact:
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