

PRESS KIT

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About the Lincoln: The Lincoln Theatre is a cinema and performing arts space in downtown Bessemer, Ala, set to undergo a multimillion-dollar renovation. Built in 1948 to show first-run movies for African American audiences, the Lincoln is the last remaining historic theatre in the Marvel City. The mission of the Lincoln is to preserve, promote, present and celebrate diverse cultures with special emphasis on African American cultural heritage. The Lincoln will show movies and provide production capacity for the performing arts, including drama, dance and music. We envision the development of educational programming for Bessemer youth, designed and directed by creative professionals from Alabama and visiting artists from around the world.

About The Holland Project: The Lincoln is owned and will be operated by The Holland Project, a federally recognized 501c3 non-profit organization founded in 2017 by the family of acclaimed actor and Bessemer native André Holland. The mission of the Holland Project is to preserve and protect the Lincoln Theatre, the Albano Pharmacy building and other historic Bessemer buildings that may be in danger of neglect or demolition, and to find a use for these buildings that will enrich the lives of Alabama citizens and their descendants.

Lincoln Theatre renovation project personnel:

André Holland has extensive stage and screen experience, appearing as an actor in a dozen films, including the Oscar-winning *Moonlight*. Having directed and performed at The Globe in London and the Manhattan Theatre Club, he is uniquely positioned to create a performing arts center in Bessemer

Mary Holland retired from U.S. Steel after 36 years as a business planner. As a lifelong resident of western Jefferson County, she is committed to providing access to the arts for children of Bessemer.

As the principal-in-charge of Studio2H, **Nolanda Hatcher** completed the repurposing of the Famous Theatre Building on Fourth Avenue North in Birmingham and is the architect of record for the Carver Theatre/Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame.

Glenny Brock is a journalist and educator, as well as the former outreach coordinator for Birmingham Landmarks, Inc., the nonprofit that operates the historic Lyric and Alabama Theatre.

View and download high-res images below:

CAPTIONS

[LINCOLN ARCHIVAL](#). Photo courtesy of Birmingham Public Library Archives.

The Lincoln was at the center of a Black entertainment district that included beauty and barber shops, pool halls, and cafes. This photo from the Jefferson County Board of Equalization was taken in 1948, when First Avenue North was occupied by thriving black businesses.

[LINCOLN EXTERIOR](#). Photo by Jeff Newman.

The Lincoln is situated at 1926 First Avenue North in the Downtown Bessemer Historic District, designated on the NPS National Register of Historic Places. The green and white glazed brick on the façade appears as beautiful now as when it was installed in 1948.

[LINCOLN BALCONY SEATS](#). Photo by Donna Sanders Ware.

Of the 400-plus seats originally in the Lincoln Theatre, only these 60 in the balcony remain intact.