

better sounds, sights, & seats

in the Curley auditorium



Work in Progress!

Improvements under way will make the Curley Auditorium a better place for music, dance, and theater performances and other events. New acoustic panels on the walls will help us hear performers and speakers more clearly. New stage curtains will replace the torn and worn existing curtains, improving stage appearance, function, and acoustics. New LED stage lights will make performers more visible, and add striking color to dramatic performances.

How was this work funded?

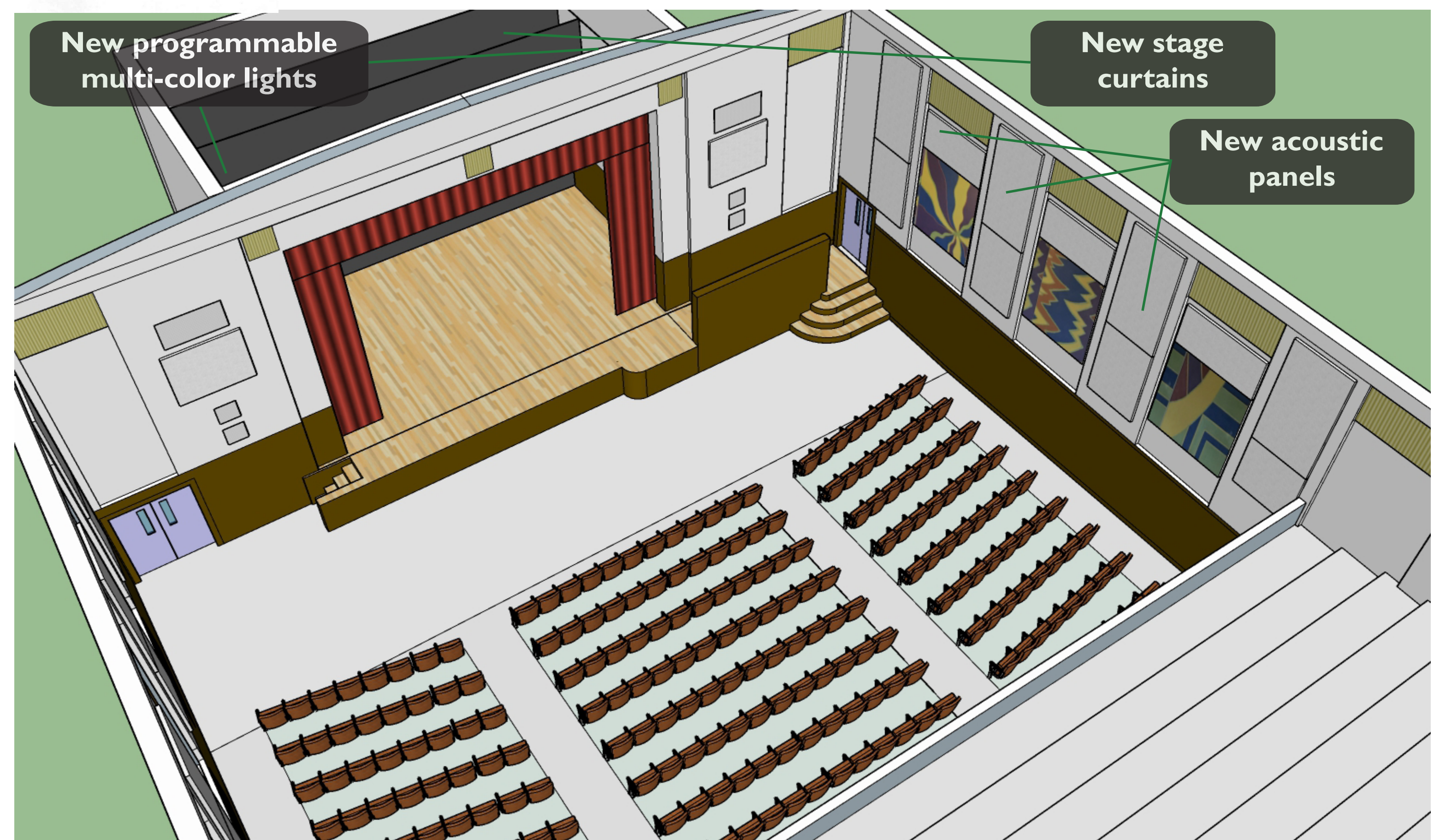
The acoustic panel and curtain investments were made possible by \$17,500 in generous contributions from the Curley community, combined with more than \$20,000 from BPS towards materials and installation. Thank you for the support that made these projects possible!

The Curley
Auditorium is at
the heart of our
children's
performing arts
experiences

- Annual musical
- Six to eight vocal and instrumental music concerts per year
- Multiple dance performances
- Middle school theater arts elective class
- Guest performers
- Also hosts monthly Curley Cares assemblies for all students.

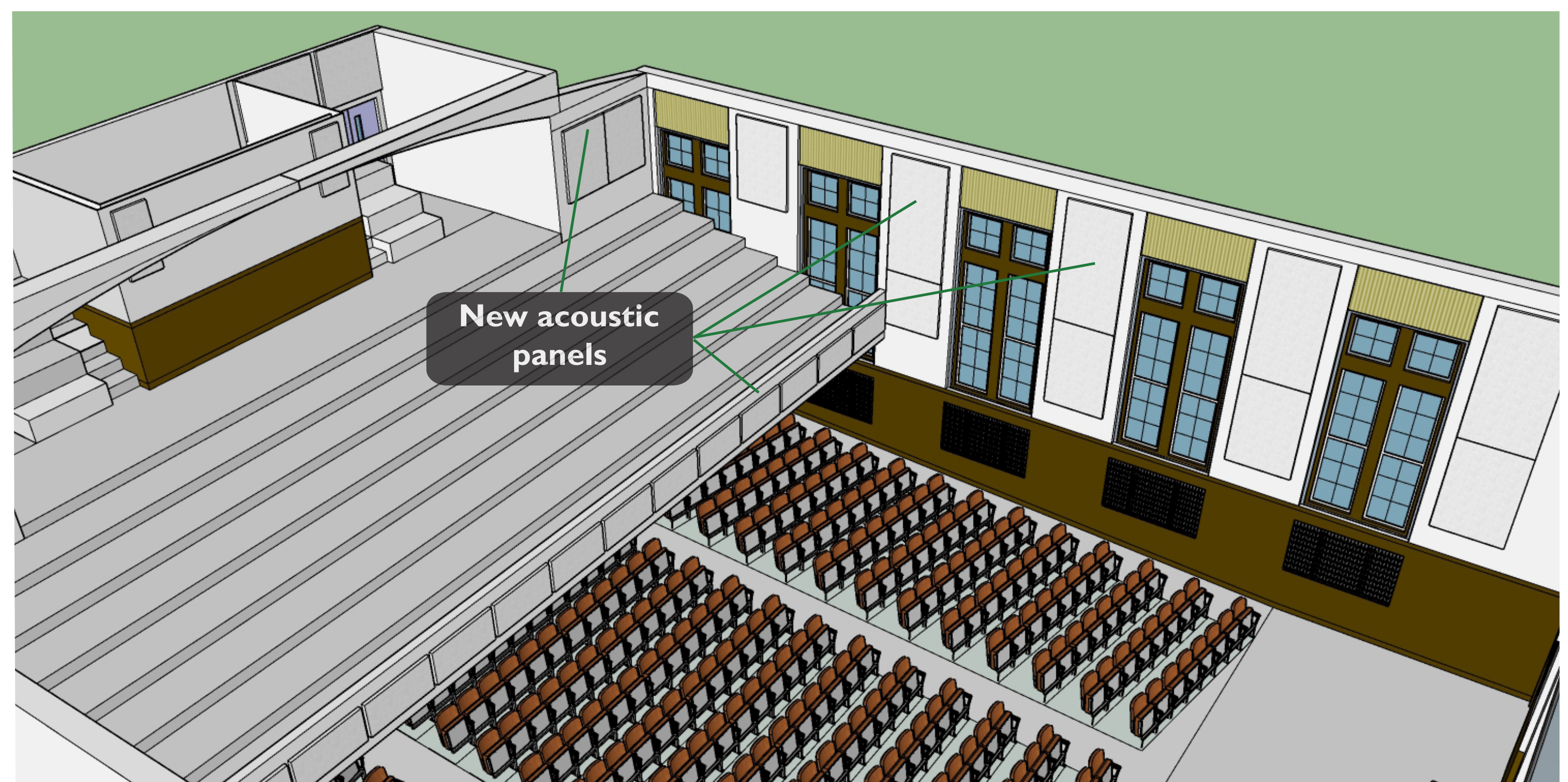
New acoustic panels

The auditorium's hard plaster walls bounce sound from the stage and the audience in all directions, creating a lot of background noise. This makes it hard for our stage microphones to pick up the sounds we want to hear, and hard for the audience to hear anything but itself. The most effective way to reduce unwanted echoes is to install softer materials that absorb sound. New acoustic panels totalling more than 750 square feet in area are being installed on walls and the balcony. They are located to reduce echoes around the audience, and to fit well with the auditorium's impressive Art Deco architectural design. With less background noise, the sound system can be reset to deliver more sound from the microphones into the speakers and our ears.



New stage curtains

Our main stage curtain is torn, dirty, and doesn't move well along its track. As a result, recent performances haven't been able to close and open it for scene changes. A new curtain is being installed, and the existing track restored, giving us an attractive and functional curtain once again. Additional curtains are being installed behind and above the stage -- not only improving stage appearance, but also adding another 750 square feet of soft surface to significantly improve acoustics. For now, the existing window curtains will remain.



New stage lighting

Using funding from Disney Musicals in Schools, Curley Arts Team volunteers purchased four LED lights, with laptop-based control software, that can wash the stage area with many color variations. The lights are being mounted above the stage, to either side. Using this equipment, middle school theater arts elective students will learn to design and operate lighting scenes for performances.

More improvements coming!

- Replacements for missing and broken seats on main floor
- Repaint flaking ceiling paint

Longer-term possibility:

- Restore and replace balcony seating to add 210 seats to the main floor seating capacity of 450.

Making change together

These investments resulted from collaboration among SPC leadership, Principal Grassa, the Curley Arts Team, the Health & Wellness Committee, the generous Curley community, and the Boston Public Schools Facilities Department

Questions? Want to help?

There's much more to be done! Contact Curley Arts Team co-chair Ben Carlson at 617 959 4667 or benmcarl@yahoo.com.