



The Pershing Miracle

A Personal Letter from Liz Shea-McCoy, Chair - Pershing Mural Preservation Committee

This dramatic photograph appeared on the front page of the Lincoln Journal Star on August 8, showing the demolition of Pershing Auditorium underway in downtown Lincoln. What is “miraculous” is the absence of the iconic Pershing Mural, thanks to the intervention of thousands of Nebraskans. It was rescued before the wreckingball arrived. The Mural is now safely located in a Lincoln warehouse... undergoing a precise piece-by-piece restoration.

It was not easy getting to this point in the process. Volunteers and donors worked tirelessly to save the historic Pershing Mural by first raising \$850,000 in 4 short months to fund the careful removal of the 140’ x 38’ artwork from the front of Pershing Auditorium. The indexed 4’ x 8’ sections were successfully stored in a warehouse thanks to the community’s support of the rescue fundraising (Phase 1).

The Committee’s current focus is raising funds to pay for the restoration (Phase 2) and reinstallation (Phase 3) within historic Wyuka Park (Lincoln’s first park established in 1867) in 2024.



Our immediate need is to raise an additional \$170,000 to obtain a \$250,000 matching grant. If we are successful, combined with the \$500,000 already donated, we will reach \$1 million toward our \$3.1 million goal.

What I am hoping is that every Nebraskan who contributed to rescue (Phase 1), and every Nebraskan who has reflected on the wonder of this project, will take a moment to help us “meet the match” and send a contribution of any size to the Pershing Mural Project at the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation (our fiscal sponsor for tax-deductible donations).

We promise every dollar of your contribution will go to restoring and erecting the Mural and establishing an endowment for the Mural’s future maintenance. This remarkable artwork, one of the world’s largest, will be treasured by current and future generations of Lincolnites and all Nebraskans.

I am most grateful for your serious consideration of this request. With your help, and the help of thousands of Nebraska who played and enjoyed their memorable experiences at the Pershing, and the thousand more who anticipate the reinstallation in a fabulous new framework... we can do this!

Project Update: The mural team is currently in the restoration phase. Using modern 3-D technology, drone footage, and good old-fashioned elbow grease our team is cleaning, restoring, and realigning each tile in precise 12 x 12 reinstallation grids. “The work is delicate and time-consuming,” said Michelle Mc Cullough, project architect, “but we have the plan, the time and the tools to reinstall one of the world’s largest artworks into a beautifully landscaped frame.”

[Donate to the Pershing Mural Project](#)



Questions:

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