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MEDIA RELEASE

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CSI Restores Vintage Projector in Tandem with The Lincoln Theatre Renovation

Johnson Nominated for Builders Exchange of Central Ohio Craftsmanship Award

COLUMBUS, Ohio – May 6, 2009 – Construction Systems Inc. (CSI) got a first hand look at how difficult the two-year Lincoln Theatre renovation might have been for those involved in the project. CSI completed the restoration of a 1920's Simplex Projector once used in The Lincoln Theatre and as a result, CSI Craftsman Mike Johnson has been nominated for the Builders Exchange of Central Ohio Craftsmanship Award.

Known for accomplishing difficult and challenging work, it wasn't surprising when Columbus Association of the Performing Arts' (CAPA) Vice President of Operations Todd Bemis came to CSI to request the completion of a restoration project for the historic Lincoln Theatre.

"Of course we said we could help them. We have worked with CAPA over the past 17 years and have completed restorations and renovations at the Palace Theatre, the Ohio Theatre and the Great Southern Theatre," stated CSI President JD Flaherty, Jr. The next day, five pallets of rusty pieces and parts were delivered to CSI's 14th Avenue millwork shop.

Mike Johnson, CSI millwork and furniture craftsman, was told that the pile of rust was once two 1920's Simplex Projectors that had been used in the Lincoln Theatre from the 1920's through the 1960's. After the Theatre closed, the two projectors were stored for 45 years in an unprotected area. Once standing 6' tall and weighing almost 300 pounds the projectors had a light source that was an 18" carbon rod, similar to a welding rod, that burned inside a small furnace with it's own built-in chimney. The plan was to restore one or both of them to be used on display at the Theatre.

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CSI – Lincoln Theatre Projector

Embracing the challenge with patience and skill, Johnson first set out to determine which components belonged to which projector. The Internet proved to be a useful source providing a few illustrations; unfortunately none were the same model. Without assembly instructions or images showing what the assembled projectors looked like, Johnson's quest was to determine how the projector should look and how it functioned.

Johnson developed a system to catalog and tag all the parts. Simply removing the screws and fasteners was a tedious process because they were so heavily corroded. And without the luxury of replacement parts, Johnson knew that if one piece was damaged, the restoration could not be completed.

Over 6 months, the parts were soaked in solvents to remove the rust, and then a neutralizer was used so the paint would adhere to the parts. Johnson's ingenuity enabled him to build one complete and restored vintage projector swapping in some missing parts from the second projector. To everyone's surprise, including Bemis, the projector had moving parts and could hold film. The restored projector will be available for public viewing during the grand opening of The Lincoln Theatre (771 E. Long Street) in May and will be on display thereafter in the Theatre lobby.

Mike Johnson has been nominated for the Builders Exchange of Central Ohio Craftsmanship Award for the Lincoln Theatre Film Projector renovation. The Craftsmanship Awards are presented annually by the Builders Exchange to individuals who have performed the highest quality work on projects, both large and small, throughout the central Ohio area. Award winners are chosen based on innovation, workmanship and overall quality of the project. It is one of the highest honors for those in the commercial construction industry.

About Construction Systems Inc.

Construction Systems Inc. (CSI) is a commercial general trades and specialties subcontractor, and a leading facilities renovation contractor. CSI also serves as the exclusive central Ohio installation contractor for Haworth TecCrete™ raised flooring products. CSI serves central and southeastern Ohio from its headquarters in Columbus Ohio. CSI self-performs general trades work, and is one of Central Ohio's largest employers of skilled craftsmen. Celebrating its 42nd year in the building industry, CSI has completed over 13,000 projects and worked in hundreds of buildings in central Ohio. For more information about any of CSI's service offerings, projects or company contacts visit www.ConSysOhio.com or call 614-252-0708.

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