

UPDATE ON KIMBALL ORGAN AT WORCESTER AUD

Unfortunately there's no new news, but there have been several inquiries so we thought we'd offer a brief update.

The [1933 Kimball organ](#) in the Worcester Memorial Auditorium was last used in WorcAGO's [2016 Organ Week](#) at the AUD featuring our own William Ness (Emeritus Director of Music and Arts, First Baptist) and Peter Krasinski (Principal Organist, Mechanics Hall). Shortly thereafter, the building was shuttered due to fire-life safety issues. Since then, negotiations have continued between the City of Worcester and the [Architectural Heritage Foundation](#) to preserve the building and the organ. Jake Sanders (AHF project director) reports that they continue to make progress for securing partnerships that will aid in the preservation and redevelopment of the building. The Kimball Organ is a critical piece of the character of the Auditorium and both the City and AHF view it as an asset to differentiate the building from other similar facilities. As long as AHF is involved in this project (AHF recently extended their agreement with the City through December 2024 with an option to extend it further), the Organ will be celebrated and included in the preservation plans.

The four-manual 1933 Kimball is the second largest pipe organ (behind All Saints) in Worcester and one of the last large pipe organs Kimball built, and is a fine example of American craftsmanship and tonal design.

AHF brings passion and expertise to the intersection of historic preservation and economic development, catalyzing lasting change in Massachusetts neighborhoods. They have adopted AUD as a project to work with the City of Worcester and have a creative and innovative vision to develop it as a performance destination: The venue will house "emerging events" including E-sports as well as augmented reality and virtual reality programming, robotics competitions, immersive exhibits and other contemporary performances.

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