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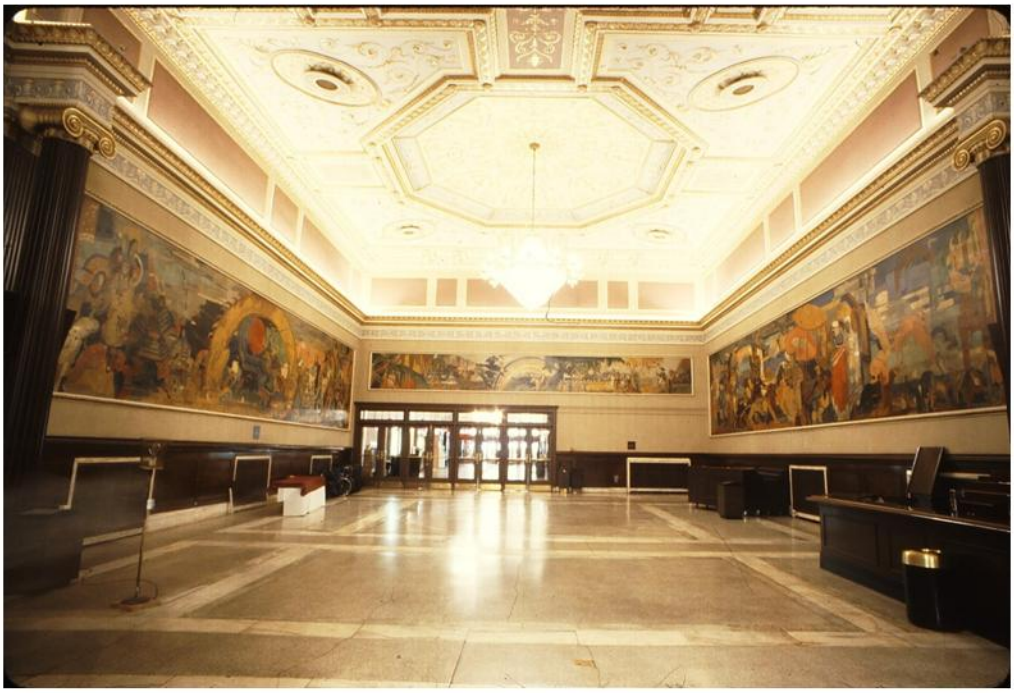
Playhouse Square Theater Murals



Playhouse Square Foundation
1501 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44110

Project Duration: June 2002–February 2003

The ICA was contracted by the Playhouse Square Foundation to conserve four large murals (each measuring 10 ft. x 46 ft.) located in the lobby of the State Theater. Given the importance of this mural cycle by modernist painter James Daugherty, half of the funds for the conservation were provided by *Save America's Treasures*. The majority of the treatment involved removing several layers of extremely discolored, uneven varnish which significantly altered the original vibrant color. Minor consolidation and retouching were also necessary. Since the surface coatings proved insoluble in standard conservation solvents, samples were sent for analysis and the results aided in the development of treatment protocols by ICA paintings conservators.