HISTORY OF SEATING  

TIMELINE

1929

Left: Detail of historic fabric pattern

Left: Metal end standards with "feet" also notice seats are aligned, one behind the other and not staggered

Below: Original box seating chairs

1954 ±

Excerpt from a 1955 proposal or invoice:

Seats may have been reupholstered in the 1950’s renovations

4. Refinish all seats; new covering material, foam rubber in seats and tie springs, painting, etc. $56,000.00

1966 ±

Possible Scope of Work:

Fixed and box tier seating:

• Reupholstery of existing seat backs and pans

Scope of Work:

Manufacturer: American Seating

Original Historic Fixed seating:

• Wooden seat backs, with donor plaques
• Wooden seat pans (most likely)
• Blue and Taupe Jacquard Velour upholstery fabric
• Metal (possibly wood) end standards

Original Historic Box tier seating:

• Wooden x-back chairs
• Upholstered to match fixed seating

Note: All information in this timeline came from researching historic photos, historic documents and a conversation with the current Managing Director of Constitution Hall. It is presented to the best of our knowledge.
HISTORY OF SEATING  TIMELINE

1977 ±

Scope of Work:
Manufacturer: Country Roads (later acquired by Irwin Seating)/DGI
Partial fixed seating replacement:
• New wood upholstered seat backs to match historic
• New metal end standards to match historic, with new DAR insignia
• Reupholstery of existing metal seat pans
• Refurbishment of existing spring mechanisms

Full box tier seating replacement
• Wood framed oval-back chairs, with a combination of arm and side chairs

Above: End standard and fabric option mockups for the 1990’s renovation.
Left: Chosen end standard with applied DAR insignia detail (not originally part of historic design). End standards may have been salvaged from another historic theater, however, Irwin Seating currently sells this exact end standard design.

Left: Detail of seat front with yellow automotive upholstery fabric
Above left: Detail of blue plastic seat back currently located in deep storage at DAR Constitution Hall

1990’S

Scope of Work:
Manufacturer: Most likely Irwin Seating, but possibly American Seating (later acquired by Irwin Seating), or Heywood Wakefield
Full fixed seating replacement:
• Blue plastic seat backs
• Yellow automotive upholstery fabric (reversed)
• Metal Seat pans with spring mechanisms
• End standards with a faux wood patterned vinyl-like cover
• Seating framing and structure

Full box tier seating replacement
• Gray steel framed chairs with blue automotive upholstery fabric (reversed)

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