

MGM Springfield Tour Script, August 2018

Art Program Introduction

- MGM Resorts has made it a priority to integrate public art into every new property it develops. Committed to connecting with the local community, MGM Springfield's public art collection brings together artists from Springfield, greater Berkshires, New England and beyond.

The Flying Tidings Whirled by Mia Pearlman

- "The Flying Tidings Whirled" is the first piece in the Collection you will come across. It is a sculpture by Mia Pearlman.
- Pearlman was inspired by the resilience of the city following the 2011 tornado and wanted to create something commemorating the perseverance of the community.
- Pearlman named the sculpture for a line in Emily Dickinson's poem, "There Came a Wind Like a Bugle."

Lobby

- Designer: Avenue Interiors.
- Warm and welcoming, the lobby is the prelude for MGM Springfield's overarching design philosophy, creating a social gathering space and whimsical gateway designed to spark curiosity.
- Found objects, many salvaged from the Brimfield Antique Market, are a major component of the lobby decor.
- Floor-to-ceiling shelves lined with books scale the lobby walls - evocative of a Victorian era personal library
 - The salvaged antique books, recovered and re-spined, include classic titles and works by notable local authors alongside forgotten local yearbooks.
 - Several of the books were also donations from the Springfield Public Library.
 - An antique spiral staircase set leads up to a second floor of bookshelves, almost like a "staircase to knowledge."
- The check-in desk is in front of a collage of vintage printing press letters - you can spell out "MGM Springfield" from these letters - a nod to the city's literary legacy.
- **Other Design Facts**
 - Old copies of Webster's Dictionary are placed throughout the space. This is a subtle celebration of the first-ever publishers of the American English dictionary, Merriam-Webster - still a Springfield resident to this day.
 - The treasures include a vintage gaming wheel mounted on the wall, a set of turn-of-the-century printing plates atop a coffee table, stuffed collecting jars, hand-painted antique card tables and clusters of antique globes.
 - Throughout the lobby, clusters of chesterfields, seating arrangements and curtained "nooks" invite guests to unwind, mingle and take in their surroundings.
 - Classic board games - an ode to Springfield's own Milton-Bradley - are abundant, perched on coffee tables and stands ready for guests to play.
 - **The "HOTEL" light-up sign was salvaged from the historic Golden Gate hotel in Downtown Las Vegas. It was the first Las Vegas Casino opening in 1906, making a fitting tribute to the hotel's Las Vegas connections.**

Lobby Bar

- Lobby Bar is the most innovative cocktail bar on property
- Some of Springfield's history has been incorporated into this space as well - note the beautiful carved mantle, which came from the United Electric Company Building.
- The table have Milton-Bradley games embedded in them for another playful nod.

Up guest elevators to Guestrooms and Spa on the 2nd floor

Elevator vestibule

- This vintage gas-lamp chandelier once illuminated a music hall in the early 1800s. The piece was hand-selected by Jim Murren, MGM Resorts' Chairman and CEO, who found it while perusing an antique store in New York City.
- The elevator cab itself is inspired by Springfield's industrial history. The double paneled peekaboo glass doors further the industrial feel.
- Below, the custom carpet depicts abstract gears, another allusion to Springfield's industrial heyday.

Corridor Art

- These three, big black and white works of art are by Sandra Allen, an artist who lives and works in Boston.
- The four smaller gray and white works on the ramp are by Kim Faler, an artist who lives in western Massachusetts.
- The blue and black sculpture is by Isamu Noguchi, a Japanese American artist who worked in the late twentieth century.

Armory Square, The Plaza, Retail

Armory Square Overview

- This stunning structure is the Armory, which was originally built for the Massachusetts Militia and later used by the Massachusetts National Guard.
- It sustained significant damage during the tornado, and the former historic, **200-foot-long drill shed was removed in the clean-up efforts.**
- The first pop-up art gallery in the Armory is by John Simpson, a Springfield muralist and UMASS Amherst professor whose work can be seen all over town. He also created an Indian Motorcycle mural on the back of the Armory.

Bench of Expectation by Jeppe Hein (Pronounced Yep-pay Hine)

- In the center of Armory Square is an exquisite commissioned piece from Danish artist Jeppe Hein called the Bench of Expectation. The stunning sculpture doubles as a functional piece of art, on which guests can relax, slide or climb.

The Plaza

- The Plaza is inspired by the classic commons that play a central role for community engagement in towns across New England.
- MGM Springfield's outdoor plaza was envisioned as a thriving public space that will be activated 365 days a year. As the anchor for downtown's pedestrian crowd, The Plaza will inspire guests to explore the many local businesses and historical sites nearby.

TAP Sports Bar

TAP

- TAP Sports Bar is long standing among MGM Resorts' portfolio, with locations at MGM Grand Las Vegas, MGM Grand Detroit and MGM National Harbor.
- TAP at MGM Springfield is the only location to have a 10-lane bowling alley and arcade.
- The design team at STUDIO McCORMACK was inspired by the idea of adapting the 1907 YWCA building into a high-energy restaurant and bar that is sure to become a hub of the action at the resort.
- **Other Design Details**
 - Moving through the main bar area towards the bowling lanes, you can see a custom chandelier. This unique lighting installation is crafted of gymnastics rings and vintage ropes, which designers salvaged at the Brimfield Antique Market.
 - The stools near the bowling alley and back bar feature repurposed bowling bags as seat cushions; authentic antique bowling pins from numerous eras decorate a standing screen between lanes.
 - As an homage to Springfield as the birthplace of basketball, TAP features a mini-basketball court with the first hoop –[a peach basket](#) – hung overhead hard wood flooring painted with the original basketball key.
 - At the check-in desk, the pennants on the walls look like old gymnasiums' flags.
 - Overhead, the vintage gymnasium theme is reinforced through creatively repurposed objects such as an antique electric scorekeeper. The gameboard reads the score of one of the first basketball games ever played in Springfield. The varsity felt banners flanking the scoreboard were inspired by nearby schools to emulate the vintage championship flags one might find adorning a high school gymnasium.
 - The bowling lanes are a unique element within MGM's portfolio.
 - On the wall, you can see a mural for Shaw and Company, one of Springfield's first breweries. It emulates a vintage advertisement of the time. The trellis that blocks part of it was by design - like the ad, it was put up decades ago and forgotten- and the trellis was put up years later.
 - There's even other old, found objects from the job site such as chalkboards, vintage marquee lights and neon signage.
 - The wall separating the main restaurant/bar area is reminiscent of collapsible bleacher seating.
 - The ceiling to the left of the entrance features reclaimed wooden floorboards and original nails salvaged from the former YWCA building.
 - Along the wall closest to The Plaza, you can see an antique wooden sign that reads, "The Keg Room." Although now long shuttered, The Keg Room was a downtown mainstay and beloved local watering hole.
 - TAP is filled with references to professional New England sports and even local collegiate teams sourced from antique brokers throughout the area. Gallery wall montages that adorn the walls in private booths include several vintage felt pennant flags in the letters of junior colleges and prep schools.
 - Walking through the main bar, you will notice the table tops are made of reclaimed wine barrels with many of the vintner and customs stamps still visible.

Up escalator to see Regal Cinemas, Dome, Terrace & M&C

United Electric Company

- Built in 1910, the United Electric Company headquarters are now preserved as part of MGM Springfield.
- This is Union Electric's original lobby — complete with its gorgeous, antique stained-glass dome, terrazzo floors and marble walls.
- Each fixture was carefully restored and reassembled down to the space's unique hexagonal shape.

Showcase casino floor, Commonwealth and Knox Bar

Casino Overview

- The casino's vaulted ceilings incorporate truss-like structural elements inspired by the Armory's architecture.
- The carpet has several fun details:
 - It's inspired by a vintage city bus line ticket. Conceptualized by Friedmutter Group, the design team took in the concept of Springfield's 17 distinct neighborhoods, conceiving MGM Springfield as the 18th district (keep an eye out for the lucky gaming number 8 and this number 18 in the carpet).
 - The old bus ticket from Union Station had street names on it from these neighborhoods, and these are now superimposed into the carpet.
 - In the carpet more male and female forms are apparent in the plaid, florals and scrollwork. The slot machine stools are inspired by menswear winter jackets with the quilt, patchwork detail.
- **Other Design Details**
 - The vintage-inspired tin ceiling tiles look a lot like the ornate stamped plating seen in buildings around town.
 - The chandelier has a horn-blowing effect, which is a fun nod to Horton Hears a Who by Dr. Seuss. Throughout the casino, you'll see even more whimsical references.
 - The bricks within each column are a testament to Springfield's past meeting the present. The older bricks merge in with the chrome.
 - In the high-limit table games area, you'll find "New England Dreaming," one of two acrylic canvases on property from contemporary abstract artist Marlon Seymour, who is a Springfield native. His second piece is located on the 2nd Floor spa level.

The Knox Bar

- This is The Knox Bar, the high-limit lounge. It has an edgier vibe because it's on the high-limit floor. Notice these gemstone shapes, designed to mimic treasures you'd find in a vault.
 - The lightwells will incorporate vintage Indian Motorcycle parts for additional curiosity.
 - This real vault door was installed in the basement of the Mass Mutual Financial Building in 1908. It was forgotten about until 2017 when our designers found it and used it as inspiration to create Knox Bar.

Commonwealth Bar and Lounge

- Commonwealth Bar and Lounge is the nightlife hub of the casino floor. Its design is inspired by a vintage haberdashery where you'd go to buy lotions, fabrics and the like back in the day.
 - There's a lot of urban, menswear elements with plaids on the floor, rich leathers and fabric-studded wallcovering.
 - The chandelier is made of vintage photographs with bizarre scenes — like one of a man riding an ostrich. They could even be considered original “selfies.” By the mid-19th century, mass-produced cameras had made self-portraits an affordable and extremely popular pastime. The light-hearted snapshots capture fun unfolding in front of the lens — a lot like a selfie but in sepia.

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