



the Legendary
ROY WILKINS™
AUDITORIUM

ABOUT THE LEGENDARY ROY WILKINS AUDITORIUM

Opened: 1932

Renovated: 1984

Owner: City of Saint Paul

Operator: Saint Paul Arena Company (SPAC), an affiliate of Minnesota Sports & Entertainment

Architect: Renowned African American municipal architect Clarence W. Wigington

- The Legendary Roy Wilkins Auditorium is a 5,500-seat auditorium with floor and balcony seating. The main level features 44,800 square feet of exhibit space and 32,000 square feet on the lower level, which adjoins the Saint Paul RiverCentre Exhibit Hall.
- The Legendary Roy Wilkins Auditorium was originally called The Saint Paul Auditorium. The University of Minnesota's men's hockey team used the arena as one of their home rinks from the 1930s until 1950. The Minneapolis Lakers utilized the venue when their regular home, the Minneapolis Auditorium was not available. The Minnesota State Boys' High School Hockey Tournament was held at the auditorium from 1945 to 1968. It was also home to the Minnesota Fighting Saints hockey team in the fall of 1972 before they moved to the adjacent Saint Paul Civic Center. The St. Paul Slam of the International Basketball Association also called Roy Wilkins Auditorium home for two seasons, 1996-97 and 1997-98.
- In 1984, the auditorium was renovated and renamed Roy Wilkins Auditorium after Roy Wilkins, a Saint Paul native and former director of the NAACP. He was a legendary historical figure in America's climb towards achieving civil rights for all of its citizens.
- In 2005, the auditorium underwent numerous upgrades including the addition of a full service production audio system, upgraded production lighting and communications options, installation of a new balcony curtaining system, video screens in the main lobby, acoustical treatments, balcony seating refurbishments, improved HVAC controls, new concession equipment and restroom renovations.
- The Grateful Dead, David Bowie, Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young, Conway Twitty and Loretta Lynn, George Thorogood, and Bob Dylan are among the celebrated artists that have performed within the auditorium's storied walls over the past 25 years.
- Other notable acts include: 3 Doors Down · Beck · Jewel · BB King · Alice Cooper · Bill Cosby · Foo Fighters · Goo Goo Dolls · Elvis Costello · KISS · Ben Harper · Nirvana · Sting · Journey · Kansas · Ziggy Marley · Dave Matthews Band · Moby · Alanis Morissette
- Since 2005, the Minnesota RollerGirls have called The Legendary Roy Wilkins Auditorium home. The RollerGirls is an all-women amateur flat-track roller derby league based in the Minneapolis–Saint Paul area. Founded in August 2004, it is the first flat-track roller derby league in the state's history and was among the first ten flat-track leagues in the United States to hold a bout. The popular league is volunteer-based and donates its proceeds to local charities.
- The Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists Dance Instruction School currently resides in the upper level of The Legendary Roy Wilkins Auditorium. The school features four 3,240 square foot dance studios with spring loaded flooring, 18' ceilings, and built-in sound systems.

The Legendary Roy Wilkins Auditorium

175 West Kellogg Boulevard

Saint Paul, MN 55102

(651) 265-4800

www.theroy.org