



NORTHLIGHT THEATRE

NEW THEATRE DEVELOPMENT IN THE HEART OF DOWNTOWN EVANSTON

CLIENT Northlight Theatre | **LOCATION** Evanston, Illinois | **SIZE** 24,200 sf

PROJECT SCOPE

Eckenhoff Saunders is proud to partner with Northlight Theatre in bringing the organization back to its Evanston roots, where it was founded more than 50 years ago. Following a ribbon-cutting celebration in summer 2026, the theatre will welcome audiences to its first performances this September, marking the beginning of a new chapter for one of the Chicago area's largest nonprofit professional theatres.

Located in the heart of downtown Evanston, the project transformed a prominent site through the demolition of two vacant buildings and the construction of a new 280-seat thrust mainstage theatre, rehearsal hall, and backstage support spaces. The design also preserves the historic Barn Steakhouse building, adapting the beloved masonry structure for continued use, while a new public café creates an inviting gathering place for patrons and the surrounding community.