

A presentation by the Parthenon Speakers Bureau is perfect for civic meetings, garden clubs, and other small groups. For a minimum \$25 donation to the Conservancy for the Parthenon and Centennial Park, you will receive an educational program from a trained volunteer. Your donation helps support The Conservancy's programming and outreach in the community.



To schedule a program call the Parthenon at 615.862.8431 or email the details of your request to info@parthenon.org www.parthenon.org

The Nashville Parthenon

Nashville undertook the construction of a full-scale replica of the Parthenon to house the art exhibition for the Tennessee Centennial Exposition of 1897. Cities, major industries, and other interest groups also built pavilions for the celebration. Nashville's 1897 Parthenon was constructed of brick, plaster and wood lath. It was intended to reflect the city's reputation as *The Athens of the South*.

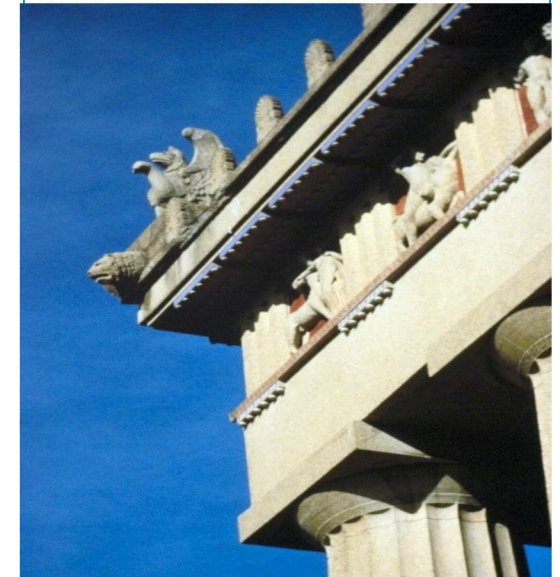
After the Exposition, backed by popular demand, Nashville left the temporary structure standing. In 1921, faced with crumbling pediments and decaying plaster, the Park Board authorized reconstruction of the Parthenon with permanent materials.

This time, a commitment was made for a more complete replica, both inside and out. The interior was redesigned, replicating the floor plan of the original Greek structure. What had been the basement of the 1897 Parthenon was reclaimed for use as gallery space. The Parthenon remained virtually unchanged until 1987, when a radical renovation began, adding an East ground level entrance, office space, and making the building fully handicapped accessible.

Alan LeQuire sculpted a statue of Athena, standing almost 42 feet tall, which was unveiled in the Parthenon's Naos in 1990. In 2002 that statue was gilded and painted making the sculpture more historically accurate. Efforts are currently underway to revitalize Centennial Park, the site of the 1897 Exposition, by broadening its appeal to Nashvillians and visitors alike and enriching our cultural and educational landmarks.

The Parthenon Speakers Bureau

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We May Have the Solution...