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## Monroe [NC] anxious to open renovated downtown theater for live shows and movies [2:05].

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City leaders in Monroe are hoping to bring more people out and about as coronavirus restrictions loosen in order to grow the city's economic and developmental footprint. It's a process that's been years in the making, starting with the full renovation of the Dowd Center Theatre downtown.

The theatre first opened back in the 1940s and after a nearly \$7 million renovation with help from the city, county, and private donations the theatre will re-open in April with limited capacity and a brand new look.

**LINK:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4NcKlrYdIA>

**TODAY...** Following its opening in 1940, the Center Theatre emerged as the premier source of movie entertainment in the Union County area. Now that the rehabilitation is complete, the Dowd Center Theatre will provide the region with a professionally-staffed, multi-purpose cultural, entertainment, and community events center in an historic and unique venue without peer.

Its 560-seat theatre and gallery space will serve not only as a focal point for classic and arthouse cinema but also local, regional, and national artists and performers as well as a facility for meetings, receptions, and conventions for businesses, civic organizations, churches, schools, and individuals.

**LINK:** <https://dowdcentertheatre.com/about/>