



Photos: Daphne Borowski

BROAD STREET BALLROOM

Originally used as the main banking hall for Lee, Higginson & Co., a now-extinct investment bank, our 5,700 square foot space, designed by Cross & Cross, is complete with thirty-foot bronze-capped grand pillars, gilded details and intricate mosaics. The beauty of the ballroom is wrapped in a two hundred-twenty foot mural entitled "A Pageantry of the History of Commerce by Sea" by Griffith Baily Coale, a World War II Navy combat artist. Beginning with ancient galleys, the mural depicts caravels and clippers to the latest (as of 1929) ocean liners, ending with the skyline of Lower Manhattan. Above float even more modern means of transportation of the times: a biplane and two dirigibles. To the left of the skyline are two historical ships: one is Henry Hudson's Half Moon, and the other is Robert Fulton's steamboat, the Clermont.

In 1933 after changing ownership numerous times, 41 Broad Street was purchased by the New York Stock

Exchange. After housing some of their offices for the better part of a decade, the NYSE sold it to the Public National

Bank in 1941. In 1955, Public National Bank merged with Bankers Trust. The Ballroom was the banking hall for Bank of America International, which used the building as its national headquarters until 1988. The space sat mostly unused for a fifteen years following the bank's departure. In 2003 the space was taken over by MetSchools, Inc, a private education company with plans to use the entire 120,000 square foot space for creating the first ever K-8 private school below Canal Street. After a two-year renovation and restoration, the building has been brought back to its former glory, specifically in the grand banking hall, now the Broad Street Ballroom, where previous highlights such as thick bronze doors and massive pillars are complimented with modern features including a 200-light, Broadway quality Audio/Visual production system, and restored porcelain-tile floors.



