



THE Marquee

From the Desk of Vonnie Corsini, Executive Director

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Pittsburg's Fun Depot Is open!! Larry and Sookie Fields are no strangers to local historic and creative reuse of Pittsburg's heritage resources. They successfully renovated the Frisco Railway Depot at 4th and Joplin, which operates today as the Frisco Event Center. Their most recent success is the transformation of the old PittCraft building into the Pittsburg Fun Depot. The Fun Depot features a gaga pit, arcade games, a climbing wall, other fun inflatables, an interactive floor projector and a bar where drinks and light food will be served. These attractions will be cycled out for newer ones as time goes on to prevent the attractions from becoming stale. Larry and Sookie also included various historical details in the renovation, including an old bell, previously graced in the Hallmark headquarters on the Plaza in Kansas City and an old camera, also featured in the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. For hours of operation visit: www.facebook.com/funzonedepot.



Name that Tune! Brittan Brenner, the Community Development Specialist for the City of Pittsburg, had a grand idea! Covid-19 nixed the Christmas Parade, so she proposed another way to enjoy a downtown Christmas. She invited downtown businesses to decorate their windows in the theme of a Christmas song. Downtown shoppers could stroll amidst storefront windows decked out in holiday style. Along the way, they would guess which song inspired each window display. Whoever successfully guessed the most window themes received \$100 in Chamber Bucks! Can you guess which song inspired the Colonial Fox window?

Thank you! We extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the almost 200 donors who made our 2nd Annual 1920 CIRCLE Fund Drive a success. Your generosity secured challenge grant dollars and raised more than \$100,000! Your charitable gift is recognized in the attached 1920 CIRCLE Annual Fund DONOR HONOR ROLL. **Thank you for ending our year on a high note!**

Where is it going?! Not to worry, the Fox Marquee will return, better than ever. However, to save it from further deterioration and to make necessary repairs to the magnificent terracotta details of the grand arch entrance, we had to remove and store our treasure. When it came down on March 28, 2013, suddenly something that hadn't been visible to Broadway since the 1920s was revealed – the original grand arch entrance. Yes, original. You may not know that the Colonial Theatre wowed Broadway without a marquee when it



opened in 1920. The first marquee was installed circa 1930 and remained until it was replaced by the Midland Theatre marquee, which adorned the Midland Theatre, directly across the street from the Colonial. The “MIDLAND” letters were replaced with “FOX” letters and the rest, as they say, is history! B&R Services, (Greg Blanco) carefully removed the Fox marquee. Greg tells of a special connection to the Colonial Fox. He worked as a projectionist, but was often tasked with changing the marquee letters.



The Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the Kansas Department of Commerce, awarded a \$20,000 Short Term Operational Support (SOS) grant to the Colonial Fox Theatre Foundation. The SOS grant is funded by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to assist organizations facing financial hardship due to unforeseen circumstances beyond their control. We are grateful to be a recipient of this grant.



Did you know? *The first dwelling in Pittsburg was built by J.T. Roach in July 1878, and the first business house, a General Store, was erected around the same time by G.W. Seabury & Co. By the fall of 1878, Pittsburg boasted 100 inhabitants.*

QUESTIONS?

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The MARQUEE is provided to individuals and businesses who help advance the cause of philanthropy through the renovation and operation of the Colonial Fox Theatre.