



COLONIAL FOX THEATRE FOUNDATION

THE

Marquee

From the Desk of Vonnie Corsini, Executive Director

June 2019 / ISSUE ONE / VOL 1

“Communication is the essence of appreciation.” I don’t know who said that, but I love the sentiment and it is in this spirit that you are receiving this inaugural edition of the **MARQUEE**, a monthly memo from the Colonial Fox Theatre Foundation! Think of it as a chance for us to sit down and visit over a cup of coffee or tea.

Just look what you have done. Yes, YOU. We have a way to go before finalizing our work on the theatre, but we would not be able to move forward had it not been for all of the help you have given since 2007. Give yourselves a hand! You and hundreds of donors and volunteers like you have driven the CFT Foundation (the 501c3 who owns and operates the theatre) to accomplish so much. Collectively, you have gifted more than \$2 million to complete structural work on this historic landmark, including the roof, the basement and the electrical and HVAC systems.



We have always seen the Colonial Fox Theatre as a catalyst for “building community” and energizing downtown Pittsburg. Communities like Emporia, Arkansas City, and Salina, to name a few, used their restored historic theatres to launch their downtown “renaissance.” Their downtowns have become magnets for citizens and visitors. Thanks to Pitt State, the City, BLOCK22 and other projects for fanning the fire of downtown revitalization in Pittsburg.

Although not complete, the Colonial Fox has already presented more than 89 performances, workshops, films and programs since 2010. Beyond these community and school focused activities, the Theatre itself has become the site of FOX TALKS, a video series launched by 2019 PSU graduate, Abby White. Once the theatre is completely renovated, a wide variety of programming will be possible.

THIS PLACE MATTERS



Third grade students from Meadowlark and Westside toured the Theatre on April 29th. These English for Speakers of Other Languages students read a story about a young girl who saved a theatre called the Colonial and their teachers rose to the occasion by scheduling a tour. These bright youngsters had numerous questions about the building and the history behind it; including the story of the orchestra pit that was present before the stage expansion. We loved meeting these young people who are learning about historic preservation and couldn't help but notice that kids sense the intrinsic value of the legacy left by an earlier generation.



Did you miss the SOUNDCHECK? SOUNDCHECK is the brainchild of local singer, songwriter, and touring artist, Lem Sheppard. His idea serves two purposes:

one, it gives us a low-maintenance way to keep musically active while we focus on theatre restoration; and, two, it provides an opportunity for local artists and/or bands to bring their talent to the Colonial Fox Theatre. Lem realized that bands generally check their sounds and repertoire inside a garage or in their backyards. However, they rarely get the opportunity to discover how they sound in a large

shoe-box auditorium, much less an almost acoustically perfect concert house. The SOUNDCHECK series made its debut on May 4th at 7:00 p.m. featuring Joey Pogue, Johnny Rose James Ortolani, Jeff Simpson and a special appearance by Lem Sheppard. SOUNDCHECK was a great success and we are currently setting up more shows for the future. If you will **Like** our Facebook page you will receive news and updates on the SOUNDCHECK Series. Don't miss the next one!

Did you know? The Fox was not always the name of this theatre. She was The Colonial in 1920 and became the FOX in 1959 when the COLONIAL marquee was replaced with the FOX marquee.

QUESTIONS?

Please call us at (620) 235-0622 or e-mail us at info@colonialfox.org

Our website – www.colonialfox.org Our address - P.O. Box 33 / Pittsburg, KS 66762
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.