



COLONIAL FOX THEATRE FOUNDATION *Green Room Newsletter*

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Dry as a Bone

Construction professionals are amazing. No matter how daunting the task, they have a can-do attitude. If you don't believe it, just check out our day-to-day pictorial updates at www.colonialfox.org where we document the basement project progress. What those pictures do not adequately represent is the monumental task of removing the excavation debris from the drainage trenches.

In the east basement alone, 245 feet of trench 12 inches wide by 18 inches deep had to be dug. That equals approximately 114,048 cubic inches or 4 tons of concrete chunks and 459,648 cubic inches – 15 tons of wet clay. All of that was carried up the stairs and



...15 tons of wet clay . . . carried up the stairs and out the building one 5-gallon bucket at a time...



out the building one 5-gallon bucket at a time – 100 buckets a day for 4 weeks. That was just the START. After digging the trenches, they had to refill them with crushed rock and cement – again, one 5-gallon bucket at a time. And, they still had the west basement to do! You had to be there to appreciate the tenacity of those Home Center Construction workers.

The upshot of this tremendous undertaking is that, probably for the first time in 30 years or more, the Colonial Fox Theatre has dry basements. More importantly, she now has a system to remove the water that wants to come into the basements before it has a chance to get to the floors. DRY BASEMENTS ... what a treat.



Dig Deep!

Remember our 400 for \$40K campaign in 2007? Over 450 of you said “YES, the Colonial Fox is an important part of our downtown culture!” and stepped up with \$58,000 to save the theatre from demolition. Right now, we could use another shot in the arm to help us match the \$500,000 in Save

2009: New Roof Installation – \$81,819



America's Treasures grant fund. We are using the Save America's Treasures fund and our Kansas Heritage Trust Fund grant to finance the east and west basement dewatering and structural repair project. The total cost of the basement repair phase is estimated to be \$254,359.

Fortunately, the building envelope is almost secure and our bricks and mortar projects are almost complete: First was the new high-tech roof, then new tuck-pointing on the west and south walls and

2011: North Wall Repair – \$17,010



a patched and repainted north wall for a total cost of \$188,647. However, what happens next is up to you.

The deadline to match our \$500,000 Save America's Treasures fund is serious. Please help us secure this fund by contributing as much as you are able today. And, remember to

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SEEING IS BELIEVING!

By now, you most likely have heard us repeatedly suggest that the Colonial Fox Theatre will be the economic anchor for our downtown district and will offer economic vitality to the entire Pittsburg community. If you haven't, or if you're skeptical, you may be wondering "What's the impact?" A recent Economic Impact Report, conducted by Steve Robb, has revealed some mind-blowing facts about the potential

economic impact of our theatre as a finished product.

An economic impact study identifies the economic contribution an organization makes to the community in which it operates. The results of Mr. Robb's study provide us with the table below, which in his words puts "quantitative values on qualitative ideas." He and his team have created these statistics based on their investigations as well as stats provided by the Kansas Department of Tourism.

TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE PROJECT

	<u>First Year</u>	<u>Over Ten Years</u>
Jobs Created	6 – 8	12 – 35
Increase in Local Personal Incomes	\$233,500 - \$270,300	\$2.6 million - \$3.1 million
Increase in Local Retail Sales	\$4.1 million - \$4.3 million	\$13.4 million - \$15.3 million
Increase in Rollover Spending	\$10.4 million - \$10.7 million	\$34.5 million - \$40.7 million
City/County Sales Taxes Generated	\$92,737 - \$94,416	\$293,337 - \$337,131
Transient Guest Taxes Generated	\$446 - \$2,338	\$4,464 - \$23,377

Making Waves in the Downtown Economy



Breaking down an economic impact report can be as simple as watching ripples expand from a rock tossed into a pond. Consultants study facts related to how big a splash an organization will make on its community and mesh those facts with standard formulas to determine how many ripples it produces. Steve Robb, with Municipal Consulting, LLC, conducted the Colonial Fox Theatre economic impact study. "It is clear," says Robb, "that a downtown theatre will impact an economy." How, specifically the Colonial Fox will impact the economy is what we wanted to know.

Taking a conservative, yet realistic approach, Mr. Robb

looked at our first year programming plan and began plugging those numbers into formulas describing how they might impact the local economy. For instance, let's begin with the cost of tickets. Those ticket dollars will be spent at least two and one half more times (roll-over spending). Additionally, assumptions can be made regarding what percentage of those people attending a show are likely to do other things: book a hotel room or dine at a restaurant. The bottom line – these increases in retail sales and sales tax will significantly stimulate our local economy.

Mr. Robb encourages donors to look at this report and think, "If I want to invest in my community, this is where my money should be going."

MEMORY LANE

Free Dish with Purchase

Recently, Marie Brinkman generously donated an antique plate, as well as some wonderful old newspaper clips for our archives. Marie's mother received the plate as a free gift when she bought a ticket to the Colonial in the 1930s. As Marie tells it, each week one could collect a piece of china (place, cup and saucer, or bowl) to build a matching set.

In addition to the treasure of this wonderful plate, Marie also opened her memory bank. Did you know that in the 1950s Pittsburg enjoyed three active downtown theatres? The Colonial (now Colonial Fox), the Midland (demolished), and the Cozy (demolished) were all in the heart of downtown Pittsburg. Marie's favorite was the "elegant" Midland which



housed two large spiral staircases leading from the lobby to the balcony.

Marie frequently attended double features at the Colonial while her dad was at the bowling alley on 6th Street. She remembers hearing the sounds of the singing cowboys, Roy Rogers and Gene Autry, perfectly from her favorite balcony seat. Marie also remembers her mother's stories of the beautiful sound of the background music for the silent movies. Mrs. Brinkman's friend was the piano player accompanist for those movies.

Thank you Marie, for gracing our archives with this special plate and these delightful memories.

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renew that commitment in 2012.

You have a chance to positively influence our vision. A renovated Colonial Fox Theatre will serve as an anchor in downtown Pittsburg; drawing residents, visitors, new businesses and much excitement to the heart of our city.

Will you pitch in to help match the Save America's Treasures grant?

2009: Proscenium Arch Revealed—\$1320



2009: Tuck-Pointing —\$70,876



2011: Mold/Asbestos Removed—\$21,492



2011 Sustaining Members*

LEADING ROLES \$25,000 up

- Anonymous
- Dick & Faith Coleman Family Foundation
- Kansas State Historical Society
- Richard & Nancy Miller Family Foundation
- Fred Mitchelson
- National Parks Service

HEADLINERS \$5,000 - \$24,999

- Bess Spiva Timmons Family Foundation

ENCORE \$1,000 - \$4,999

- Brent Castagno
- Vonnie & Gene Corsini
- Gordon & Beverly Elliott
- Bill & Dot Hagman
- Heikes Masonry & Restoration
- KHTA Foundation
- MPIX
- Gina & Brian Pinamonti
- Sue Robinson
- Seward Electric
- Greg & Angela Shaw
- Tim & Louise Spears
- Talaat & Marie Yagmour

STANDING OVATION \$500 - \$999

- Accent Dental, LLC
- Carolyn Brooker
- Joe & Diane Levens
- M & I Bank
- Albert & Jennine Marrone
- Patrick O'Bryan & Tim Towner
- Pittsburg Farmer's Market
- Gene & Linda Vollen
- Lori Ann Spachek - State Farm Ins
- Wells Fargo Advisors

CENTER STAGE \$250 - \$499

- Mitch & Diane Bicknell
- John & Carol Casterman
- Warren Desantis
- Barry & Joyce Draper
- Cynthia Harvey
- Little Shop of Flowers
- Pairott Head Liquor
- Quality Floor
- Steve & Mary Beth Robb
- Jerry & Doris Sample
- Steve & Becky Sloan

RED CARPET \$100 - \$249

- Dennis Albergucci
- Marie Albertini
- Bath Naylor, Inc.
- Alexander & Lucy Bednekoff
- Marty & Pat Beezley
- Joe & Christl Beitzinger
- Lewis & Karolyn Bartalotto
- Aaron & Chloe Besperat
- Kip & Nancy Bollinger
- Joe Bournonville
- Brenner Mortuary
- James & Carolyn Buche
- Paul & Laura Carlson
- Lee & Sandra Christensen
- Ron & Nancy Close
- Dick & Faith Coleman
- John & Ruth Courter
- Stephen & Mary Lynne Crosetto
- Miles Crowley
- Chris & Jamie Lee Curtis
- Janet Dalton
- Stacey Darron
- Jane & Felix Dreher
- Steve Beykerich - Eagle Beverage
- John & Janice Evans
- Pete & Jo Farabi
- Glazers of Kansas
- Linda Grilz
- Paul & Marybeth Grimes
- Irma Hawley
- Tom & Denise Hayes
- Jon & Beverly Herron
- Don & Kay Holsinger
- In The Garden
- Russell Jones
- Shirley Beer & Michael Joyce
- Vance Kelley
- Jon Bartlow - Little Balkans Association
- Don Judd & Wendy Long
- Richard & Teresa Massa
- Wayne McCabe
- Kenny & Bonnie McDougle
- Todd & Kelli McKnight
- Dotty Miller
- John & Bev Mitchelson
- Kevin & Frances Mitchelson
- Ted & Susan Monsour
- Bill & Linda Morris
- Lillian & Paul Mundt
- Dorothy Nail
- David Nance
- Jack Overman
- Dean Papp
- George & Melissa Paterni
- PSU Women's Studies Club
- R. James & Judy Rhodes, Jr.
- John & Carole Robb
- Ron's Supermarket
- Ruth Short
- Sodexo
- Bill Sollner
- Jayne Sponser
- Jerry & Jo Ann Steele
- Louis & Corene Stroup
- Victor & Mary-Kate Sullivan
- Babs Tims
- Andy & Glenda Tompkins
- Sandra Turley
- Jim & Wava VanBeclaere
- Rack & Marsha Wallace
- Marinell Webber
- George & Marcia Weeks
- Gregory White
- Tony & Rhonda White
- Mary Kaye & Wayne Wiley
- Heather & Randy Winzer
- Delores & Thomas Wishart
- James Wood

*As of November 6, 2011



COLONIAL

FOX

Theatre Vocabulary

"Break A Leg"

by Kevin Stone

Saying "*break a leg*" is a thespian's way of saying "*good luck*," and they've been saying it since the 1920s, at least. No one knows for sure who first used the expression, but there are several theories of how it started. The superstitious may say that to bless an actor is considered by the eavesdropping spirits as a taunt, provoking them to respond in impish and ornery ways. Since saying "*good luck*" brings bad luck, actors say the opposite of a blessing, and the spirits of the stage are fooled (how bright can these spirits be, if they've never caught on to this ruse?).

Another theory is that the phrase refers to an actor's coming on stage to take a bow. To pass through a backdrop is called "*breaking curtain*," and the term for a curtain masking the wings is "*leg*."

Or, to "*break a leg*" may refer to the "*break*" in the line of the leg when a performer bows/curtsies to the audience.

Whatever the origin of "*break a leg*," be sure never to wish an actor "*good luck*." If you do, you must exit the theatre, turn around three times, spit over your shoulder, curse, and knock for readmittance—but only if you're superstitious.