



THE Marquee

From the Desk of Vonnie Corsini, Executive Director

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Thank you! \$115,000 was raised during our year-end **1920 CIRCLE DRIVE**, with 168 individuals participating. We had friends making gifts from 38 communities and 9 states. The 1920 CIRCLE Drive funds our utilities, insurance, and other annual operations. As an expression of our sincere thanks and appreciation, enclosed you will find our 1920 CIRCLE HONOR ROLL of DONORS for 2021. Thank you for making the Colonial Fox a focus of your giving!

What does a renovated and expanded Colonial Fox Theatre achieve for Pittsburg and the region? We've done our homework and the benefits are significant.

A Case Study: Emporia

Historic theatres across the state of Kansas have been used as tools to rebuild and transform the economies of rural downtowns by driving entertainment opportunities, community and business events, as well as art and



cultural programming. These activities draw tens of thousands of people to downtown, creating benefits for downtown businesses and other organizations. This significant cultural and economic impact builds community. This can happen in Pittsburg.

This "impact" on the downtowns can be experienced in a variety of ways. For Pittsburg, Emporia is a best-case study. We are both communities of about 20,000, we each have a state university, and we both have historic theatres. Like Pittsburg, Emporia's theatre sat shuttered and dilapidating for decades. The Emporia community raised the necessary money and the Granada was restored and reopened 14 years ago. Its economic impact has been dramatic ever since. (The top picture is the exterior of the Granada Theatre; the bottom picture is the interior.)



The Granada Theatre hosts popular entertainers, cultural performances, film festivals, anniversaries, weddings, business retreats, workshops, community functions and more. Its 1920s interior, restored with modern technology, is what the Colonial Fox Theatre Foundation seeks to achieve.



Since the Granada's renovation and opening, downtown Emporia has added restaurants, breweries, coffee shops, boutiques, a chocolate company and winery. A new bank, a renovated bank, and more have produced in excess of \$150 million in construction.

Five new mixed-use commercial facilities have been built. The Kellogg, The Preston, The Chelsea and Granada Lofts all have retail/commercial on the ground floor with apartments and condos on the upper floors. Later this year The Baldwin will open. The Forde is planned for 2023. Three more are pictured to the right: Legacy Lofts and Citizens Bank Lofts (top two photos) are all apartments. The Ambassador is a townhome complex built one block off of Main Street. (pictured at bottom)



In Kansas, Salina, Hutchinson, Arkansas City, McPherson, and Emporia are seeing growth in their downtowns, in large part because their historic theatres create reasons to bring people downtown on a daily basis. Over time, as seen in Emporia, entrepreneurs and business people see a place in which to invest. Citizens and college students see it as a place they want to live.



Much work has been completed on the Colonial Fox Theatre in recent years. Now a group working with the Colonial Fox has helped develop plans for the final renovation of the theatre complex. In 2022, we look forward to sharing more of these details. Pittsburg and the region will benefit immensely from a restored and operating historic Colonial Fox Theatre.

QUESTIONS?

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