



Colonial Fox Foundation

Green Room Newsletter

Ways to Help:

- Join our mailing list (free)
- Donate funds
- Pledge funds
- Volunteer
- Tell others
- Serve as a liaison for a group you belong to
- Host a presentation
- Contribute memories and/or memorabilia from the Colonial Fox
- Attend upcoming events

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Ben Miller Band Benefit Concert
March 3rd, 2007
JB's Bar & Grill

Colonial Fox Birthday Bash - Date and Location TBA.

The Race to Revive the Colonial Fox Theatre Is Now!

The Colonial Fox theatre is at a critical point in its history. For generations, it has been a community gathering place as well as a showcase for live performances and film. Sadly, for the past years, it has sat as a lifeless shell in the downtown core of Pittsburg.

Built just prior to the height of the traditional movie palace years (1925-1930), the Colonial Fox is Pittsburg's only remaining theatre from this era. Revitalized, it will be a vibrant, sparkling space that will contribute to the economic health and revival of downtown Pittsburg.

"Now, we have an opportunity to revive this historic treasure," said Rhona Shand, Chair of the Board for the Colonial Fox Foundation. "Our Foundation is made up of everyday Pittsburg citizens that have come together to develop a plan so that Pittsburg can once again enjoy the Colonial as a vibrant, self-sustaining theatre center. It would provide a venue that will generate tourism and revenue for the city in a unique environment. During the past two months, we have worked hard to form a nonprofit organization, intent on acquiring and rehabilitating the Colonial Fox theatre "

The Colonial Fox Foundation has no ties to the owner (except to the purchase of the property) or to prior groups that have attempted to save the Fox.

The first step is an immediate show of support of every day individuals who care about reviving the Colonial Fox.

"Every supporter is another voice to revive the Colonial Fox.," says Shand. "Beyond that, we are urging those supporters to indicate other ways they would like to participate. We welcome all kinds of help."

The clock is ticking however and your immediate support is needed. Crawford County will be auctioning the Colonial Fox Theatre for back taxes on April 11, 2007. This means the Colonial Fox Foundation has to raise enough funds to acquire the first mortgage on the building and cover the back taxes before this date.

The Colonial Fox Foundation Executive Board has negotiated an option to purchase the mortgage with the lien holders of the property. "My primary concern in these proceedings is that the theatre, the Foundation, and the many people who already support us are protected and represented fairly," says Shand.

This is just one stage toward re-opening the Colonial Fox in its original splendor but it is the most critical. Pittsburg faces the possibility of losing the Colonial Fox forever.

To add your support, participate, and make a difference, complete and mail the form in this newsletter. The Colonial Fox Foundation can also send forms to others you know that are interested.

In addition, if public or private groups you belong to would like to learn more, the foundation will be happy to schedule a free multimedia presentation.

The Long Road Ends for the Stilwell and gives hope for the Future of the Colonial Fox Theatre



An architectural detail from inside the Colonial Fox Theatre.

***“It was as if she
(Stilwell Hotel)
Had died and nobody
cared.”***



The Victoria 18 projector in the Colonial Fox theatre still has film waiting to run!

The journey from the first vision in 1992 to the full restoration of the Hotel Stilwell in 1997 was a long one. Many people had thought it couldn't be done, that there was too much damage and too little money. From 1992 to 1997, the fate of the Hotel Stilwell was always in question: would the Old Girl come back to life or would she be torn down? The answer came from the determination, hard work, and vision of individuals in the community who stood up for the historic hotel during the darkest times. At last, the moment came when people stopped shaking their heads and began to believe the transformation could be done.

The years of planning, of striving, of despairing and hoping had come to an end. In that time, \$3.6 million in funding had been found and a tremendous number of hours of labor had been donated. On August 30th, George Timmons wrote a Letter to the Editor of the *Morning Sun*, describing what it had been like at the beginning: "I'll never forget that day many, many years ago when a banker let Mother and me into the side door of the Stilwell. It was so dark and damp, all the windows and doors boarded up on the ground

floor. It was as if she had died and nobody cared. We walked into the lobby and flashed our flashlights on the dome and the beautiful stained glass windows, both so dirty. But their proud beauty shone through. My mother said 'We must do as we can to see that this corner doesn't turn into a vacant lot. It is a Pittsburg treasure that we must not lose.' . . . Then came a true angel, Laura Carlson. She and a few dedicated people saw the importance of saving this historic gem. Their work, sweat, and tears brought back this beautiful building." That December a symbolic Christmas tree was erected in the lobby, laden with Victorian decorations to denote the past, and then lit, for the first time inside the hotel, to denote the future. The Hotel Stilwell was 107 years old, ready for 100 more.

From the very beginning it had seemed as if there were a Spirit of the Stilwell leading preservation on. Now it is as if that spirit has gone forward to lead the rest of Kansas into the future.

Excerpt from *The Hotel Stilwell: A Vision Refound* by Kathy De Grave, with Laura Carlson.

Needed: Vintage Colonial Fox photos and memorabilia

We encourage past Colonial Fox Theatre-goers to look through old albums for photographs of activities at the theatre. These photographs will help the CFF (Colonial Fox Foundation) address the numerous requests to see inside this long-inaccessible structure. Please help us by sharing your stories, photographs and other memorabilia with the many interested Green Room Readers and Colonial Fox Foundation supporters.

You may donate your materials to the foundation; otherwise, they will be carefully copied and returned. If you have photographs or memorabilia, please call Heather Horton at 620.249.8982. Stories can be emailed to the Colonial Fox Foundation email address or shared on the Myspace site. Both addresses can be found on the back page of this newsletter.

Green Room Newsletter

From the Board of Director's Chair – Rhona Shand

Dear Supporters and Friends...

The Colonial Fox Foundation became a nonprofit on the 28th of December of 2006. In the same meeting, I was nominated Chair of the Board of Directors.

Since becoming Chair, life has been even more fast-paced than usual. Those of you who are aware of my normally frantic life at Pittsburg State University and owner of Creative Hub Studio are now asking how this can be possible! My reply is that the Colonial Fox Foundation's evolution has been fast.

There are a multitude of tasks, decisions and interactions, as CFF expands into a foundation and as negotiations with the owner and lien holders of the theatre advance. I point this out not as a complaint, but in a way, as a reason to smile. I am not alone in these tasks or decisions and the interactions are one of the

Call for Entries -

Race to Revive the Fox!

A call has been issued for artists to enter our "Race to Revive the Fox" poster contest. The theme is the Colonial Fox Theatre and its historic, architectural, economic and cultural benefit to the community. The goal of this project is to generate community awareness about the Colonial Fox Theatre project.

DEADLINE for submissions is 5pm Friday, March 2nd, 2007. Entry forms may be picked up at Pittsburg Art Supply or the Wishing Tree.

Finalists entries will be displayed on the Colonial Fox Foundation website. The winners' artwork will be reproduced as a poster and distributed as a fundraiser and generator of community awareness.

reasons I believe the Colonial Fox Theatre is worth the time, money and effort. I have enjoyed meeting and working with an amazing group of individuals. I believe the Colonial Fox Foundation has developed an excellent relationship that allows the organization to address challenges professionally.

The Foundation is in the process of creating formal budgeting and planning processes for operations. In addition, the Colonial Fox Foundation is pursuing an aggressive Fundraising campaign, which will allow for the acquisition, renovation and revitalization of the theatre.

Our building committee is made up of local area contractors. They are currently assessing the damage to the Colonial Fox Theatre and we are seeking the advice of a structural engineer. In the future, we hope to add the aid of an historical architect.

Is the theatre worth all the fuss? When open, the Colonial Fox Theatre will offer residents a wealth of cultural opportunities. Revitalized, it will be a vibrant sparkling space that contributes to the economic health and revival of downtown Pittsburg.

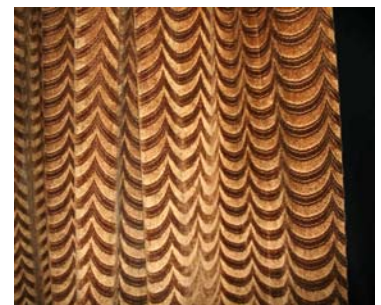
We're looking For A Few Good Board Members

We would like to expand the Foundation Board of Directors, so if you are interested, or would like to recommend someone, please call or email us and let us know. The time commitment is to attend board meetings and take on special projects as needed. We are especially looking for board members with fundraising experience, financial and/or tax accounting or structural engineering backgrounds.



The Colonial Fox Theatre has 804 useable seats. Each seat would need 1 1/2 yards of fabric to refurbish.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."
- Margaret Mead



The main stage curtains are in wonderful condition. The cooler weather might have played a factor in preservation.

**COLONIAL FOX
FOUNDATION**
PO BOX 33
Pittsburg, KS 66762

**Colonial Fox
Foundation**

PO BOX 33
Pittsburg, KS 66762

PHONE:

620. 704. 9794

FAX:

620.231.2405

E-MAIL:

colonialfox@sbcglobal.net



We're on myspace!

See us at:

www.myspace.com/colonialfox

Pittsburg Public Library is our new meeting location

If you would like to be more active in saving the Colonial Fox Theatre and helping the business and planning aspects of the project, please attend the Foundation's weekly general meeting, Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

These meetings will now be held at the Pittsburg Public Library, 308 N. Walnut, on the corner of 4th Street.

Please call 620. 704. 9794 for any last minute schedule changes.

* February 14th meeting will be held at Pittsburg State University in Porter Hall, Second Floor, due to a scheduling conflict at the Library.

Thank You!

Strecker Title Agency, Inc.
Meadowbrook Mall Merchants
Pittsburg Art Supply
Creative Hub Studio
The Wishing Tree
Laura Carlson
Grady Smoot
JB's Bar & Grill
Revolution Red
The Noise FM
PMB
Ben Miller Band
Roger Horton

Phil Martin
Bob Berry Construction
Paul Keys, Sewers, Drains & More
Chuck and Eddie Martin, Professional Carpet Services
Sherry Berndt, C&S Dry Cleaning
Scott Taylor, Taylor Roofing
Denis Miller; Buck Plumbing
Brent Linder, Brents Electric
Mike Joyce, Jon Splitter
Brian Berndt Construction
Joe Harmond, Glass Depot
Derek Heikes Masonary
Thos. Rewerts. & Co., LLC
Our Volunteers and Board Members

The mission of the Colonial Fox Foundation is to enhance and encourage the spirit of the Pittsburg area by the preservation and utilization of the Colonial Fox Theatre.