



The Historic Fox Theatre

Centralia, Washington



The City of Centralia includes the restoration and renovation of the Fox Theatre in its larger vision of a revitalized downtown core. In 1999, the City of Centralia presented its citizens with an open letter explaining the need to rebuild an active commercial district with a diversity of business and leisure options. The plan was to bring outside dollars to the community without significantly altering its small town appeal. The Fox Theatre is considered a cornerstone of this approach, offering an event destination that will generate secondary revenue for other downtown businesses.

Background

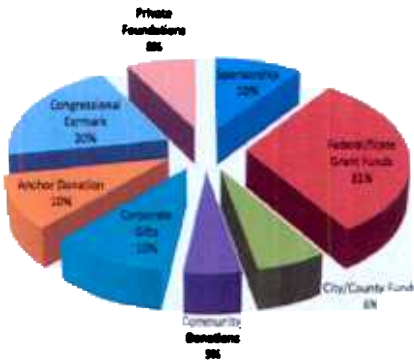
Located at the intersection of Tower and Centralia College Boulevard in the heart of Historic Downtown Centralia, The Fox was originally touted as “the finest playhouse between Portland and Seattle”. The original theatre showcased first-run films as well as known vaudeville performers, all accompanied by an impressive pipe organ.



The Fox Theatre was designed by Frank Wynkoop, who worked in the office of Robert Reamer, and built in 1930 by Fox West Coast at a cost of \$200,000. The architecture of each Fox Theatre defies categorization as they vary widely city by city. In Centralia, art deco is the motif, with exterior brick in several colors creating geometric shapes on the buildings exterior. Inside, the proscenium remains largely intact, including the carving and gold leaf overlay, as well as the original hardware and flywheel space. The original Tiffany lamps, a starburst design, hang in both the lobby and main theatre.

Although ownership of the theatre has changed several times in its history, it is now owned and operated by the City of Centralia. Historic Fox Theatre Restorations, a local non-profit devoted to the restoration, renovation and operation of The Fox, is currently an informal partner with the City.

Fox Theatre Centralia



More than Economic Development

Restoring and renovating the Centralia Fox Theatre will substantially increase the economic well-being of not only downtown Centralia, but also the entire City and the region. Because the theatre hosted several public events in 2008 and continues to do so in 2009, we have ample evidence that the facility is very capable of, on its own, creating a sense of economic vitality to downtown that has been absent for several years.

Once restoration starts and construction is underway, a new source of direct and indirect revenue will be injected into the local economy. But the real reward will come when the restoration and renovation is completed and the doors to the theatre are thrown open to the public. The economic gains from having this center for the performing arts in operation will be very evident.

Beyond economics, historic theatres hold a special place in the hearts of many Americans. They are places of magic and invention, places where anything can, and just might happen. The Centralia Fox Theatre is a unique architectural, historic and cinematic treasure that is worthy of preservation as an entertainment venue.



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Restoring and renovating The Fox will help preserve downtown Centralia’s identity and character. Most importantly, a restored Fox Theatre will provide our children and all generations to come with a glimpse of the stunning creativity of our forefathers and mothers.

Fund Development

Historic Fox Theatre Restoration and the City of Centralia have developed a fund raising strategy which includes a \$1 million Federal Appropriations Request.