



FRIENDS OF THE FOX

SUMMER NEWSLETTER - JULY 2022



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Happy Summer! We kicked off an exciting summer last month with the return of the Coca-Cola Summer Film Festival (CCSFF) here at the Fox Theatre. The movie series had been paused since 2019 and we celebrated its return with an exclusive Friends of the Fox event featuring the movie *Coco*. The return of the CCSFF was a comforting reminder of past summers for our Fox Staff and felt like a welcomed return to normal. The many shared laughs, numerous smiles, as well as the sights of families returning for the traditional Saturday morning cartoons, kicked off our summer in a special way.

This summer we will wrap up our 2021/2022 Fifth Third Bank Broadway in Atlanta 40th Anniversary season with *Mean Girls*. Beyond Broadway, we know many of you will enjoy concerts from contemporary artists including Tedeschi Trucks Band, Lady A, Leon Bridges, and the long-awaited four-night engagement of Widespread Panic. We hope you are planning to be with us this summer to see your favorite artists. If have not yet returned to the Fox, it's not too late to choose from more than a dozen shows before Labor Day! To learn more about our upcoming events, please visit <https://www.foxtheatre.org/events>.

As always, thank you for your support of the Fox Theatre Institute through the Fox Theatre! As we begin our new fiscal year, we reflect on the progress made possible with your generosity. We are highlighting one of our Friends of the Fox this month who continues to find the magic of the Fox by returning from far away. We look forward to featuring more members in future newsletters and please let us know if you would like to be included.

On behalf of myself, Maggie Fuller, and our Fox Team, we hope you have a wonderful summer!

Warmly,

Leigh Burns, FTI Director

ARCHIVES NIGHT



FOX ARCHIVES NIGHT

The Fox Theatre, in partnership with the Atlanta History Center (AHC) hosted our first Archives Night here in the Grand Salon on Thursday, June 16th. The evening was planned originally in 2020, then later revived at the beginning of 2022 with the support of our colleagues at the AHC. Beyond working with the staff on the event, we also enjoyed meeting many of their devoted members here to discover our Fox Theatre archival collections.

The sold-out event welcomed guests to discover items (many for the first time) from the Fox's archives firsthand with rotating presentations from three archival experts including Paul Crater, Debra Freer and Josh Kitchens. These consulting experts highlighted the Fox's original furniture, lighting, artwork, movie and show posters, as well as 1970s Save the Fox campaign memorabilia. We want to share an extra thanks to Paul Crater, Vice-President of Collections and Research Services at Atlanta History Center who delivered the opening address. Paul's personal interest in our own collections and devotion to preserving Atlanta history is admirable.

We look forward to hosting more Fox Archives events and hope you will join us next time! Beyond our own collections here, please learn more the Atlanta History Center, by visiting <https://www.atlantahistorycenter.com>.





FRIENDS OF THE FOX

PROFILE: MARGARET ROSS

Please enjoy this testimonial from our generous Friend of the Fox!

My first introduction to the Fox Theatre was about 40 years ago, when I was in town for a conference and accidentally came within two blocks of the Fox on my way to dinner with another conference attendee. I saw the marquee lit up on this fancy building and we decided to see what was going on. As we approached, I realized I was seeing an old theater, obviously from a bygone era and my love affair began in that very moment. Going to the box office, it so happened to be the last night of *Les Misérables*. We looked at one another and I asked, "Do we want to have dinner or go to the show?" We opted for the show. At intermission, I walked into the orchestra section and looked up. When I saw the ceiling, the balconies, and the exquisite décor, I was "blown away." As we settled into our seats, I noticed in the playbill that there were tours of the Fox. I decided to skip my meetings to come for the tour the next day. A few years later, my husband and I visited Atlanta as a Christmas gift. We didn't come to see a show, just to enjoy Atlanta and to tour the Fox.

After my children were grown and I had retired, I became a Friend of the Fox and as a member, I began receiving emails about Fox happenings. In 2018, I learned that *Hamilton* was coming to the Fox and decided if I could get tickets, I would plan a trip to Atlanta, which I did! When I learned about the Broadway in Atlanta season, I thought it would be fun to make mini-vacations to Atlanta share my love of the Fox with others. After one season, I was hooked! It's been wonderful introducing my friends to the Fox and I always try to get tickets to a Fox tour, too. I recently enjoyed the *Mighty Mo* tour, which I recommend to all who love that wonderful theatre organ.

The Fox Theatre is unique in so many ways. I plan to continue my annual contributions to the Fox to assist in its preservation for future generations of lovers of history, architecture, and theatre. It's a joy to bring others to Atlanta to enjoy its treasures, especially the Fox.

My most memorable performance would have to be *Hamilton* in May of 2018, which helped me decide to be a regular visitor to the Fox and Atlanta. I hope this beautiful and historic 1929 building will forever be preserved. I have been a longtime member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and enjoy seeing places that are being maintained as they were when they were built. Atlanta should be very proud of the Fox - it is a real treasure.

Thank you for your continued support, Margaret, and we look forward to seeing you again soon at the Fox!



FTI 2021-2022 GRANT PROGRAM WRAP-UP

As we wrap up the current fiscal year's Preservation Grant program, we celebrate nine historic theatres across Georgia whose projects were partially or fully funded by FTI, totaling nearly \$249,000 in grant awards. These projects included theatre seat renovations, a stage curtain replacement, new HVAC and air quality systems, roof repairs, development of both a strategic and historic preservation plan, and working on two different marquees. Thanks to our partnership with Southface, two of the grant recipients received an additional \$33,700 in funding through their Good Use program. From the Tooga Theatre in the northwest corner of Georgia in Summerville to the Thomasville Municipal Auditorium in the very south of the state, FTI is proud to support these historic theatres. Contributions from our Friends of the Fox and excess revenues generated by our public and private events help to support FTI's Preservation Grant program which in turn pay it forward to revitalize communities, one theatre at a time. Thank you!

