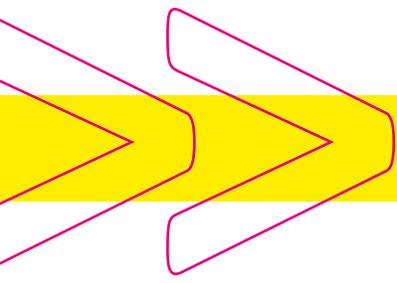




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KST Celebrates the Regent Centennial with Community Day and Toast

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Kelly Strayhorn Theater (KST) celebrates 100 years of the Regent Theatre — the building KST calls home — this month with a **community day celebration** on **October 11** and a **toast** on **October 16**. KST is also proud to announce **Capsule 15206**, a time capsule where patrons can submit their favorite memories of the neighborhood.

Originally a nickelodeon, the Regent Theatre opened in 1914 and began screening America's favorite silent films. Despite several openings and closings over the decades, the building remained a community destination for entertainment and cultural experiences. In 2000, the Regent Theatre opened as the Kelly Strayhorn Theater, in honor of Pittsburgh legends Gene Kelly and Billy Strayhorn. KST is currently in its seventh season of presenting a variety of performances from international and emerging artists.

Residents and friends of the community are welcome to join KST and the neighborhood in celebrating the Regent Theatre centennial on Saturday, October 11 from 10 a.m. to noon at the theater in East Liberty. Patrons can enjoy family-friendly entertainment by Soundwaves Steelband, the YWCA Lighthouse Project, tour the historic building, and share memories to the capsule, as part of KST's new project Capsule 15206. The first 100 members to attend will receive complimentary vouchers to upcoming KST Presents performances. "With nearly sixty percent of our audience coming from the East End, we wanted to have a separate event to recognize the amazing members of our community," says Janera Solomon, executive director of KST.

Kelly Strayhorn Theater is proud to announce Capsule 15206 at the community day on Saturday. As part of the centennial celebration, KST welcomes the community to share their history of East Liberty and KST. All those who have a special memory of the neighborhood can stop by the theater to donate one item that best represents them and East Liberty today.

Patrons may also visit the Pittsburgh Center for Creative Reuse table to decorate photos, write letters, and craft their hopes and dreams for the future the neighborhood and theater. Patrons' items will then be placed in a time capsule. Capsule 15206 will run for 100 days until January 16, which coincides with KST's "East Liberty Celebrates MLK Day." During MLK Day, the capsule will be lowered beneath the theater for the next 100 years.

On Thursday, October 16, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Kelly Strayhorn Theater invites the community to join them in honoring the patrons, leaders, and all those who have helped support the theater's mission of providing the community with quality arts and cultural experiences. The evening includes hors d'oeuvres,



1914



2014

A historic postcard showing the Regent Theatre in 1914, and KST today (© M. Simpson).



a toast and the chance to mingle with KST's friends old and new. The reception is free but RSVP is required to attend.

janera is excited about the upcoming celebrations. "We're honored to celebrate the Regent Theatre's legacy," she says. "KST brings audiences from all over the region together and celebrates our community's unique diversity with great arts performances. We look forward to growing with East Liberty and connecting with our neighborhood."

About the Kelly Strayhorn Theater

As the last of nine theaters from the 1950s heyday of East Liberty, the Kelly Strayhorn Theater uses the arts as a catalyst for continuing community revitalization. The theater, in its 12th season, continues to play a key role in the transformation of Pittsburgh's East Liberty neighborhood. An intimate, professionally equipped, 349-seat multiple-use performance venue, the theater demonstrates its commitment to Pittsburgh artists and audiences. The KST is a favorite venue of emerging local artists, regional artists and arts organizations who take risks and present new work. Noted Pittsburghers Gene Kelly and Billy Strayhorn, the namesakes, are among the 80 area artists honored on the theater's Gallery of Stars. The building, opening in 1914, is the former Regent Theatre, which served the East End as a movie house for eight decades.

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