

Jayhawk Theatre
State Theater of Kansas



Jayhawk Theatre
COOLED BY A
\$50,000 Refrigeration Plant
Come at 12-1-3-7 or 9 and enjoy the cool arctic breezes along with your amusement!



When the Jayhawk Theatre opened in August 1926, it was the first "air-refrigerated" theater in Topeka. It was designed by Kansas City's Bohler Brothers, working for Thomas Williamson, who designed Topeka High School. It was the first of their theaters designed from the start to accommodate both films and stage presentations.

This jewel of theater construction was designated the state Theater of Kansas in 1993. Plaster sunflowers and Jayhawks line the proscenium arch, while the Goddess of Agriculture gazes over the assembled crowd.

Plans for the theater's rehabilitation include new lighting and sound systems, as well as a replacement pipe organ. Computer link-ups are planned as well, since the theater is also to be used for joint sessions of the Kansas Legislature.

Once the multi-million dollar renovation is completed, the auditorium will seat nearly 1,000, and provide space for lectures, conventions and meetings, cultural events, and cinematic endeavors, past and present.

~ Photos and text courtesy of Historic Jayhawk Theatre, Inc. and the Kansas State Historical Society.

