

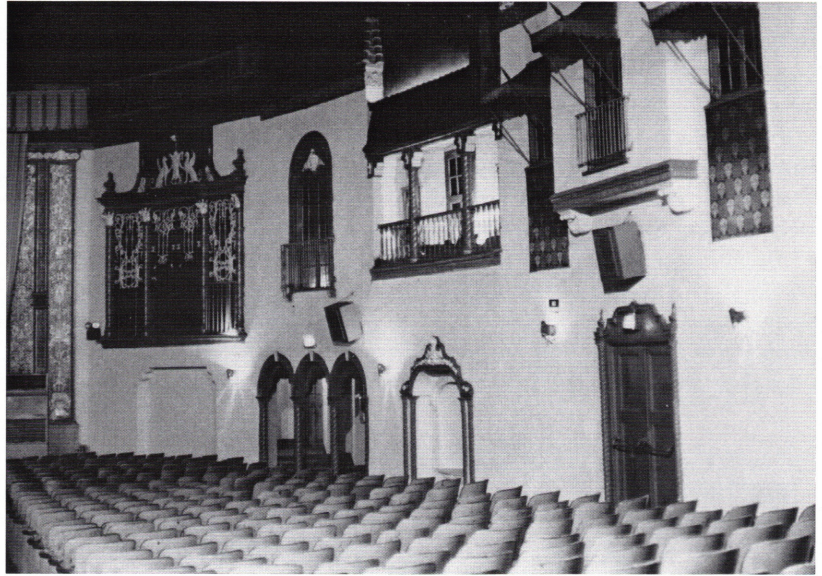


A Chicago Hidden Jewel Awakened After A 35 Year Pause

The Ramova Theater was built by Jokubas Maskoliunas, a Lithuanian immigrant who settled in Chicago's Bridgeport neighborhood in the early twentieth century. The venue is a companion theater to the Music Box Theater in Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood.

The initial film to be screened at the Ramova was Warner Brothers *The Desert Song*, starring John Boles. This theater was designed in the atmospheric style, with the auditorium resembling a Spanish courtyard, complete with a cobalt blue ceiling and twinkling stars. For many decades, the Ramova was the south side of Chicago's predominant first run cinema.

This popular neighborhood house closed in 1985, with a screening of Warner Brother's *Police Academy 2*. After sitting vacant for 16 years, the City of Chicago purchased the theater in 2001 to preserve it for future development. The City spent \$350,000 on roof



Abandoned image courtesy of Matt Lambros

repairs and struggled for the next 19 years to find qualified developers who were willing to restore the Ramova.

In 2020, the theater and adjacent commercial block were sold to developer and investor Tyler Nevius and his wife, Emily, who built a diverse investment group and Board. Project investors include Chicago natives Quincy Jones, Jennifer Hudson, and Chance the Rapper. The City of Chicago also pledged \$9.1 million in tax increment financing to assist with the project, which, at the time, was promoted as a \$30 million project.

Groundbreaking commenced in October, 2021. Today's Ramova encompasses a 1,500 seat concert venue, and in the adjacent structure an intimate performance and event space, a VIP lounge, a brewery, and a 1950s style diner. The complex re-opened on New Year's Eve, 2023.

For additional information please visit www.ramovachicago.com

Courtesy of Matt Lambros



RAMOVA THEATER

3508 – 3518 South Halsted Street – Chicago

OPENED: August 18, 1929

ARCHITECT: Myer O. Nathan

STYLE: Atmospheric

CAPACITY: 1,300 (Original)



Below, renovation image courtesy of Clayton Hauck

