

THE CRANE FAMILY TO BE HONORED WITH THE DREXEL HERO AWARD AT THE 2021 DREXEL THEATRE GALA

On Sunday, December 5, the Friends of the Drexel will present the Drexel Hero Award to the Crane Family as part of the 2021 Drexel Theatre Gala. The award acknowledges individuals who have made exceptional contributions in support of the Drexel Theatre and independent film in central Ohio.

The Crane Family is a multi-generational, philanthropic force that has supported the Friends of the Drexel since its founding in 2009. After the 2016 complete renovation of the historical, Art Deco landmark, the Drexel's 90-seat cinema was named the Crane Family Theatre. Family members continue to dedicate annual support to the Drexel, ensuring the longevity of the beloved community gathering place, and support the community's arts, education, social services, and public projects with equal enthusiasm.

"We are so pleased to serve as Honorary Chairs of the 2021 Drexel Gala and recognize the Crane Family with the Drexel Hero Award," stated Jane Grote Abell and Tom Krouse. "It is no surprise that the support from the community for the Drexel and in thanking the Crane Family for their leadership has been exceptional. We are looking forward to a wonderful celebration."

The 2021 Drexel Gala will be held at the Jeffrey Mansion Carriage Court at 6pm on Sunday, December 5. In-person tickets are sold out, but \$75 virtual tickets may be purchased [here](#). Proceeds from the gala provide essential operating support for

Friends of the Drexel, including programming for youth and families at the Drexel Theatre.

"It is so fitting that we are celebrating the Drexel, a true icon of our community, in the newly renovated Carriage House of the Jeffrey Mansion, another icon of our community. Both are symbols of historical importance, and both are cherished and supported throughout Columbus," said Friends of the Drexel board chair Bonnie Milenthal. "It is also significant that this year's Drexel Hero Award will be presented to the Crane Family for their multi-generational, caring leadership of our central Ohio community."

"The Drexel Theatre and Crane family are irreplaceable parts of the Bexley and Columbus communities," stated Gala chairs Kim Rice Wilson and Jim Wilson. "We are grateful to serve as chairs of a wonderful committee that has the opportunity to honor both at the 2021 Drexel Gala. The outpouring of support we have already seen confirms that, like us, many see how important the Drexel is to our community."

2021 Drexel Theatre Gala sponsors include The Tad and Nancy Jeffrey Fund, The Shackelford Family Fund, Mary Lazarus, Carol J. Andreae & Jim P. Garland, Donatos, Jill Jeffrey Kingsley, Susan Tomasky and Ron Ungvarsky, and Miriam and Bernie Yenkin.

About the Drexel Theatre

The Drexel Theatre opened on Christmas Day 1937, as a first run, single screen theatre. A Bexley staple for decades, it fell on hard times in the late 2000's and was saved by the formation of Friends of the Drexel in 2009. Today, the Drexel provides a first-rate neighborhood film-going experience featuring the best in independent cinema, special events, film festivals, and a Summer Kids Series to name a few.

For more information, please visit www.drexel.net.

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About the Drexel Theatre

For generations, the Drexel Theatre has been central Ohio's first source for independent film and the best of Hollywood and international cinema, striving to specialize in simply the best films from around the world.

About Friends of the Drexel, Inc.

Established in late 2009 by a group of committed community leaders and arts patrons, Friends of the Drexel, Inc. is an independent, not-for-profit organization dedicated to a more creative and prosperous future for the Drexel Theatre. Its mission is to secure and sustain the future of the historic Drexel Theatre as a distinctive cultural asset to Bexley and the greater Columbus community. It envisions the Drexel as a sustainable provider of unique arts content as well as a vibrant community meeting place that preserves the charm and eclectic, neighborhood film-going experience in a warm and inviting, yet technologically advanced, facility. The Friends of the Drexel, Inc. is grateful for the philanthropic support provided by individuals and corporations that make our work possible. For a full list of donors, please visit: <https://www.drexel.net/supporters/>

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