

Neely, Robert

From: Checco, Gerald
Sent: Wednesday, March 24, 2021 12:50 PM
To: Blake Robison; Mann, David; Neely, Robert; Michael, Rahiel
Cc: Charles Gerhardt; Alana Tucker
Subject: RE: [External Email] Playhouse capital project
Attachments: Mayor Cranley capital letter.docx; Business Guild letter.pdf; Rouse Theatre interior.pdf; MACA Letter of Support for the Playhouse .pdf; New Playhouse facade.pdf

202101226

Robert:

Both Councilmember Mann and Mayor approved having the Playhouse present at the next B&F meeting, Monday March 29 at 1:00pm. Please follow up with the individuals in this email to set it up.

Thank you!

Gérald R. Checco - Chief of Staff
Office of Councilmember Mann
Gerald.Checco@Cincinnati-OH.gov
City of Cincinnati
801 Plum St, Suite 349
Cincinnati, OH 45205
p: 513.368.0950

From: Blake Robison <Blake.Robison@cincyplay.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 21, 2021 10:13 AM
To: Checco, Gerald <gerald.checco@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Mann, David <david.mann@cincinnati-oh.gov>
Cc: Charles Gerhardt <cgerhardt@govstrategies.com>; Alana Tucker <atucker@govstrategies.com>
Subject: [External Email] Playhouse capital project

External Email Communication

Dear Councilmember Mann and Mr. Checco:

Though we were unable to connect last week, I'm writing now to give you a brief update on the capital project at Playhouse in the Park and to ask for your support.

Our \$49.5 million project is nearly ready to enter its final phase. We have \$45.8 million committed to the new theatre, and we are nearly ready to break ground.

Given that the Playhouse is a city-owned building and that other recent arts projects have received some level of support, we are asking the Mayor and City Manager to consider a \$500,000 appropriation in the upcoming budget.

Attached to this email, you will find a copy of our letter to the Mayor, letters of support from the Mount Adams Civic Association and the Mount Adams Business Guild, and a couple of beautiful renderings of the new Playhouse.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. You have always been such a friend to the arts. We hope you will lend your support to this once-in-a-generation project that will mean so much to diverse youth and adults throughout our community.

Sincerely,

Blake Robison
Artistic Director
Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park

Mt Adams Civic Association
P.O. Box 6474
Cincinnati, OH 45206



March 19, 2021

Blake Robison
Artistic Director
Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park
962 Mt. Adams Circle
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Dear Mr. Robison:

I am writing on behalf of the Mount Adams Civic Association (MACA) in support of The Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park's request for funds from the City of Cincinnati for its building project.

MACA offers its full-throated support to the Playhouse, which has worked proactively to keep our community – its nearest neighbors – engaged and informed about the project.

It would be difficult to overstate the importance of the Playhouse to Mt. Adams. The hundreds of thousands of visitors it draws (in a normal year) support our businesses. The Playhouse's out-of-town performers, who may live and dine in Mt. Adams during their long stay in Cincinnati, add vibrancy and flare to our community.

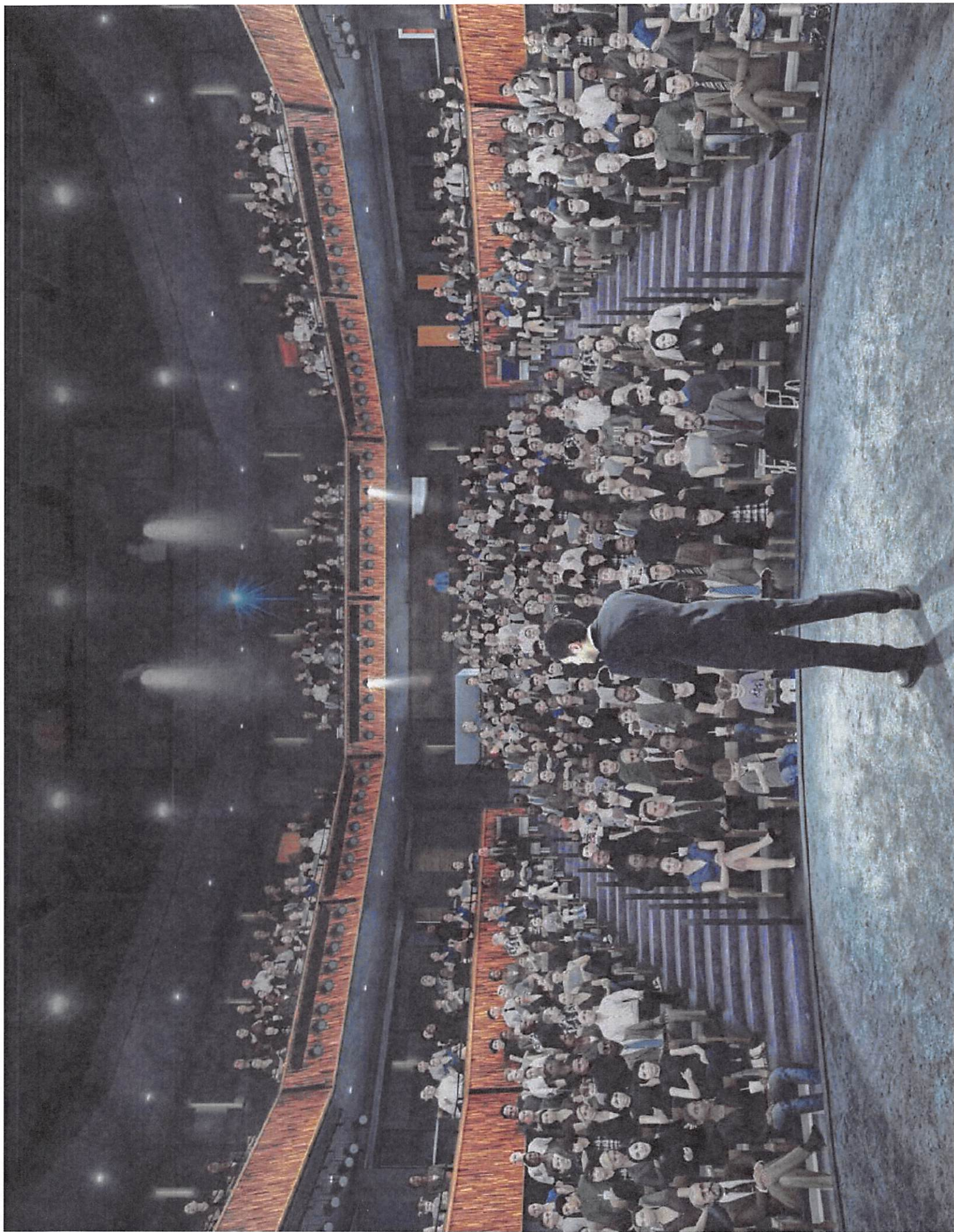
And the Playhouse isn't just important to Mt. Adams. It is one of the most important homes for the Arts in our entire region. Through its programming, the Playhouse not only entertains but also educates, encouraging discussion about the key social questions of our day.

The Playhouse is a Cincinnati treasure and is foundational to the identity and economy of Mt. Adams. I hope that the City will grant its request for funds to assist with the building project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F. Obermeyer", is written over a white background.

Frank Obermeyer
President





March 17th, 2021

Dear Mayor Cranley and City Councilmembers:

By means of this letter, the Mt. Adams Business Guild would like to voice our full support of Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park and its capital project to build a new mainstage theatre. They are great neighbors and provide numerous benefits and opportunities for the business community in Mt. Adams.

The Playhouse attracts large audiences of people who are going "out for the evening" many of whom are interested in dining before or after the production. The Playhouse is a great source of business for our restaurants and bars. We are confident that the new facility will draw even more people to Mt. Adams and help support our businesses as we emerge from the pandemic.

We urge you to invest in this important civic project. The Playhouse is an integral part of the Mt. Adams community. We have enjoyed their support over the years and are looking forward to the addition of their new state-of-the-art theatre.

Sincerely,

Todd Byers
Mt. Adams Business Guild
President

**MOUNT ADAMS
BUSINESS GUILD**

1111 St. Gregory Street, Suite 160, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

MtAdamsToday.com

March 19, 2021

TO: Mayor John Cranley
CC: City Manager Paula Boggs Meuthing; Assistant City Manager John Juech; Assistant City Manager Chris Bigham; Assistant City Manager Sheryl; City Council
RE: Playhouse in the Park Capital Project

Dear Mayor Cranley:

Thank you for your recent support of our new lease and for guaranteeing that the Playhouse remains in Eden Park for our children and grandchildren to enjoy. We are thrilled to continue the partnership between the City of Cincinnati, Cincinnati Parks and the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park for the next 99 years, and we are sincerely grateful for your efforts.

Of course, Playhouse in the Park is so much more than what occurs on the stages in Eden Park: one of our core responsibilities is to serve the needs of our community. Our education and outreach programs, from in-school workshops to our touring family-friendly productions, reach over 60,000 students annually. Our efforts often replace many school drama departments disappearing due to shrinking budgets, and many of these experiences are provided to students in Title 1 schools at little or no cost to the students or the schools themselves. As a leader in Cincinnati's arts community, we understand the important role we play in the city's cultural life. This is why we are coming to you today with an important request.

The Playhouse has embarked on our DIRECTING THE FUTURE capital campaign to replace the aging Marx Theatre with a modern, inclusive facility that will welcome our diverse citizens to Eden Park and the Mount Adams neighborhood. This \$49.5 million campaign will ensure that future generations of Cincinnatians will enjoy the same level of artistry that they have come to expect from the Playhouse, even as we reach out to new audiences and communities.

The Playhouse is a city-owned facility. We maintain it, and we pay the city \$85,500 per year in rent. Moreover, the Playhouse is a vital economic driver of the Mount Adams business district and crucial to the fabric of its unique residential neighborhood. We have attached letters of support from both the Mount Adams Business Guild and Civic Association. We are writing today to request a one-time investment in this important community asset.

We are in the home stretch of the campaign and nearly ready to break ground on the final phase construction. To date, we have \$45.8 million available for the project, including \$2.2 million from the State as part of the past two capital budget cycles. That leaves just \$3.7 million to go, and we need your help to get us there.

We hope that you will consider a budget appropriation of \$500,000 to this effort which would help to close out the last phase of our capital campaign.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this critical request. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Best regards,

Blake Robison, Artistic Director

Buzz Ward, Managing Director

Woody Taft, Campaign Co-Chair

Rob Riefsnyder, Campaign Co-Chair