



JOHN W. SWEET

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to support Little Theatre on the Bay (LTOB).

LTOB, the second longest continuously operating theatrical arts group in Oregon, is an Oregon Coast icon. In the 73 years since its founding, it has brought joy, fun, laughter and tears to its audiences. It is community theater at its best, all made possible by hundreds of amateur performers and thousands of backstage and front office volunteers.

It is an organization that has endured because of its supporters' passion for the performing arts and our citizens' craving for high quality live entertainment. It has opened the doors to acting, singing, dancing, comedy and tragedy to thousands of young and old alike in Southwestern Oregon.

I am told that Oscar nominee Roy Scheider, of "Jaws" fame, honed his acting skills at LTOB while serving in the US Air Force in Coos Bay. I also suspect that LTOB played a role in exposing two local young men to the performing arts. One went on to win a Tony for writing "Avenue Q"; the other has received multiple Grammy's for his musical skills.

Adding to LTOB's contributions in the performing arts arena is a project undertaken about five years ago to rehabilitate and update the historic Liberty Theater, which had served as LTOB's venue since 1959. The theater, built in 1924, was in disrepair with worn out seats, bathrooms that no longer worked (patrons used Port-A-Potties on the sidewalk outside the theater) and inadequate lobby and storage space; the list goes on and on. Spearheaded by a group of local volunteers and fundraisers, the Liberty Theater has undergone an amazing \$1,600,000 transformation. It has been renovated inside and out, and currently stands beautifully and functionally suited to serve as LTOB's home for decades to come. Three more phases to the transformation are planned for completion in 2024.

In summary, it is the long history of high quality performances and the current drive to build a venue for the future, both accomplished with immense community and volunteer support that justify supporting LTOB.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John W. Sweet

Coos County Commissioner



Jessica M. Engelke, MBA/HRM

Mayor, City of North Bend

835 California Ave, North Bend, OR 97459-0014

541-297-7263 | jengelke@northbendcity.org

April 20th, 2021

Dear Oregon State Legislators:

I am writing in support of the Youth Theatre program and the Capital Campaign Phase VI at the Liberty Theatre in North Bend, Oregon. The importance of funding this second-story addition at the Liberty that will take these programs to a year-round, continuous level of operation cannot be understated.

As both a parent and newly elected Mayor of North Bend, I have seen firsthand the impact that *Little Theatre on the Bay* has had with youth in our community. My daughters have both been dancers on stage during the summer season of *Little Ole Opry*, and hundreds of local school children have performed in musicals, dramas and variety shows there since 1959. Living here on Oregon's south coast, we are more isolated and still economically depressed. But a report by the National Endowment for the Arts revealed that "students with a low socioeconomic status that have a history of involvement in the arts have better long-term academic, occupational, and social outcomes than their peers".

In 2015 the city pledged \$525,000 to help restore the Liberty building, and this project has been succeeding beyond our imagination due to the local and state-wide passion for the performing arts. Now is the time to build our youth programs and fill these new spaces with the sound of our next generation of actors, dancers, singers and dreamers.

Sincerely,

Jessica Engelke

Jessica Engelke

Mayor

Caddy Hanen McKeown
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
HOUSE DISTRICT 9
Coos Bay



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 18, 2020

Oregon Arts Commission
775 Summer Street NE, Suite 200
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Little Theater on the Bay 2020 Governor's Arts Award nomination

Dear Governor Brown,

As a member of the Oregon State House of Representatives, it is my pleasure to recommend Little Theatre on the Bay for the 2020 Governor's Arts Award.

Little Theatre on the Bay (LTOB) has been part of the regional arts community in the North Bend/Coos Bay area since 1947. For 73 continuous years they have been serving the communities of Coos, Douglas, Lane, and Curry counties with live performing arts. While most tickets are sold within an hour's drive, at least ten-percent are visitors and tourists from all over the state and country.

Acting inside of the world of make-believe, LTOB has had a long tradition of including all members of their community. While individuals might stretch their inner soul while taking on a role, a common purpose unites them onstage. Children and adults from ages 4 to 80 have regularly performed, making LTOB a multi-generational place. Parents and children perform together in shows or volunteer off-stage. Volunteering becomes a full education in theatre etiquette, costuming, makeup and set design. Speaking from personal experience, as a teen in the 1960s, I took on the role of Zaneeta Shinn in Meredith Wilson's *The Music Man*. A few decades later, my son Bradford delighted in becoming Rapunzel's prince in *Into the Woods*.

With ample evidence that the arts increase well-being and mental health, LTOB is regularly visited by busloads of groups from retirement homes (including those in Roseburg and Eugene) to see the shows. These groups spend time in North Bend, having lunch, enjoying the matinee and sometimes going to Shore Acres State Park as an added attraction.

Deferred maintenance took its toll on the historic Liberty Theatre, home of LTOB, which was built in 1924 as a movie palace, and it reached a critical time where some thought the only solution was to tear down the building. Luckily, in 2015 an invigorated group, consisting of both long-term members and people new to the area recognized its creative and economic potential. They made a commitment to restore the theatre to its former glory as a gem of downtown North Bend by its 100th birthday in 2024. Working with professionals, they developed a new logo, rebranded their business and explored new avenues of programming including a capital campaign for building restoration.

The community started to take note as the building's exterior was plastered and painted. Accessibility for everyone was the intention, so a restroom addition was built on the lobby level, decommissioning the old ones on the mezzanine. This new area includes both a gender neutral/individual restroom and infant changing room. The

Coquille Indian Tribe
3050 Tremont
North Bend, OR 97459

April 20, 2021

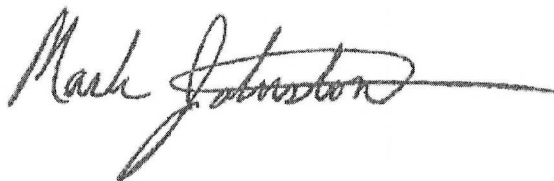
Jason Moore
Director of Operations
Little Theatre on the Bay

Jason,

The Coquille Indian Tribe is pleased to be asked to provide a letter of support for the Liberty Theatre Expansion/Enhancement Program in cooperation with the Cultural Advocacy Coalition.

The mission and values of the Little Theatre on the Bay and it's work to expand opportunities in our community are congruent in many ways with the Tribe and it's Potlatch traditions. We congratulate you on your work and encourage the delegation to strongly consider funding for Phase 6 of the project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Johnston". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Johnston
Executive Director
Coquille Indian Tribe

To Whom it may concern,

I am the chef and owner of Ciccarelli's Restaurant in downtown North Bend. Ciccarelli's has been open for the past 13 years. In those years I have seen many businesses come and go, but I have also seen other businesses and establishments stay the course and continue on. I believe that for a business to grow, it needs to keep providing a good product or service, and it needs to make improvements, particularly in these older buildings in the downtown region. It is a breath of fresh air to see the improvements that have already been done on the Liberty Theatre.

With the façade project that the Theatre underwent, I could only suppose that they have seen more numbers and had more successful events than times past. Since the upgrades done at the Theatre, Ciccarelli's knows when it is 'theatre night,' not just because of the big white reader board displaying the events that are taking place. Our restaurant's reservation list is booked solid. The norm is reservation only, no walk-ins, just a few people lucky enough to find a spot at the bar to enjoy a meal and a glass of wine. The revitalization of Liberty Theatre has not only impacted my business but offers the community an opportunity to get together and embrace the natural talents of groups and individuals that make up our community.

Downtown North Bend would not be the same without Liberty Theatre. Like stated earlier, a business or organization's ability to succeed and thrive depends on their ability to make necessary improvements. With these improvements comes a sense of pride of ownership and a community's pride of support.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Ciccarelli', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Ian Ciccarelli

Chef/owner



**CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF
COOS, LOWER UMPQUA AND SIUSLAW INDIANS
TRIBAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES**

1245 Fulton Ave. • Coos Bay, OR 97420 • (541) 888-9577 • 1-888-280-0726
General Office Fax: (541) 888-2853 • Administration Fax: (541) 888-0302

August 18, 2020

Cultural Advocacy Coalition

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, we are truly honored to write a letter of support for the Little Theatre on the Bay acting group.

This local community theatre, located in the historic Liberty Theatre building in North Bend, Oregon, started productions in 1947. They have continued to grow and thrive over the last seven decades. The success of this theatre not only comes from the talented and dedicated actors and actresses, but also from the vast amount of devoted volunteers. Last year alone, over 700 volunteers helped to provide services at the Liberty Theatre.

The Little Theatre on the Bay not only provides adult and children's productions throughout the year, but they are continuously giving back to the surrounding community in many ways. The theatre has offered their facility to local schools for their own productions, supported other local theaters by lending out costumes and sets, provided volunteer opportunities for juvenile boys from a local home for at-risk boys and offering their stage to an independent dance studio for a spring show.

The Confederated Tribes' Three Rivers Casino and Resort recently made a donation to the Little Theatre on the Bay to sponsor the theatre's new production of "Nunsensations". Our donation was used to help with Phase V of the Liberty Theatre's ongoing restoration projects.

The Arts and Humanities is a great opportunity to provide our young children, as well as the whole community, with a wide range of cultural education. We are happy to help the theatre with their restoration project phases and be a part of the community.

Any help you can offer for their Phase VI to build a second story on the Liberty Theatre which will provide a space for children's programming, cast rehearsals, costume room and dressing rooms with additional restrooms would be greatly appreciated. This theatre is an important resource to the community and can enrich us culturally. The Liberty Theatre is the second longest continuously operating theatrical arts group in Oregon.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Debbie Bossley - Chair

Tribal Council

Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians
1245 Fulton Avenue
Coos Bay, OR

ARNIE ROBLAN
STATE SENATOR
District 5



OREGON STATE SENATE
900 COURT ST. NE, S-417
SALEM, OR 97301

To whom it may concern:

Please accept this strong letter of support for the Little Theater On the Bay's (LTOB) application for the Cultural Advocacy Coalition Fund to support one of our regions iconic capital construction projects while adding to the economic vitality of our community.

Little Theater On The Bay Background:

The Liberty Theatre in North Bend was built in 1924 as a "movie palace." The roots of the LTOB were formed in 1947 when a group of actors joined together and incorporated as a business to produce live radio plays in the greater North Bend/Coos Bay area. Over the last 71 years, the LTOB has evolved to meet the changing needs of the Coos Bay Area community. Many of LTOB programming components are community mainstays today are remnants of those early commencement years. For example, although the programming has expanded to meet the growing needs of our community, LTOB operational cost is supported by an all-volunteer organization that is guided by passion and reflective of their long commitment to our local community. As such, LTOB and its volunteer members are not insular and cut off from the community, but rather, a major part of local cultural arts.

The Project Description:

The Phase VI project is to build a second story on the Liberty Theatre's new restroom addition. This will provide space for children's programming, cast rehearsals, costume room and dressing rooms with restrooms. Additionally, the LTOB has increased their collaborative engagement with a wide range of community partners including area schools and children's theatre groups to ensure youth of the area have access and opportunity to working on and appearing in a wide range of programming on the stage of North Bend's historic Liberty Theatre. A grant from the Cultural Advocacy Commission will greatly support one of our regions iconic construction projects while adding to the economic vitality of the of our region. There is a lift included in the plans which accommodates accessibility to this second story. Cost of Phase VI: \$800,000.

The Benefits

LTOB volunteers collaborate with the Coos History Museum which provides an educational program for the 4th and 5th grade school children in the local school districts. LTOB also supports other local community development such as: The Dolphin Playhouse, On Broadway Thespians, Marshfield High School, Millicoma Middle School, (all in Coos Bay), North Bend High School, Pacific School of Dance and the Ellensburg Theater in Gold Beach. Most critically, is the support they provide to the Belloni Boys Ranch (BBR), a local juvenile home for at-risk youth. Approximately 4-5 volunteer every week to teach them life beyond the ranch. The learn to dress up in white shirts, ties and black pants to show a patron to their seat or hand out a program. Above all else, the LTOB is a community theater organization and in-such has demonstrated their long-term commitment to all the elements that comprise this title. Their contribution to providing high quality theater experience is clearly demonstrated through decades of sold out shows, the talents of thousands of volunteers, and an organizational longevity. The LTOB project will expand access to cultural resources for future generations; preserve, restore and exhibit culturally significant historic treasures; support expansion of innovative partnerships among the communities they serve.

Thanks in advance for your time and kind consideration of this support letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Senator Arnie Roblan, Oregon Senate District 5