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CITY MANAGERS OFFICE
LAWRENCE, KS

29 August, 2011

Mayor Aron Cromwell
P.O. Box 708
Lawrence, KS 66044

Dear Mayor Cromwell,

Board Members

Dean Bevan

Robert Bowline

Terry Campbell

Fred DeVactor

Kurt Goesser

Peter Hansen

Jane Henry

Jon Hobbie

Cindy Johnson

Bob Newton

Andrea Norris

Bobby Patton

Ron Reng

Robert Schwartz

Robert C. Sturgeon

Melissa Wick

Ex Officio

Janis Bunker

Dani Mooberry Slough

Charles Whitman

Executive Director

Mary Dovelon

1501 New Hampshire

P.O. Box 3205

Lawrence, KS 66046

Theatre Lawrence is in the final stages of a \$6.2 million capital campaign to create a new theatre and education facility in the Bauer Farms development on the west side of the city.

We ask the City of Lawrence to consider providing a campaign commitment of \$20,000 per year for five years for a total of \$100,000. *This amount will help us secure \$1.5 million in out-of-state challenge grants that will be lost if we do not reach our campaign goal by the end of September.* In order to help us obtain these funds a definite commitment must be received from the City before the end of September.

We have spoken with all of the commissioners to enlist their support for this effort. The cultural and economic benefits will be immense and will create a new cultural 'destination' within our community.

The new facility will include a 300-seat theatre that will be in use over 200 nights per year. Classroom and educational program space will be tripled. It will be a great asset to Lawrence and to the 400+ volunteers who annually participate in our programs.

Our current facility is bursting at the seams with volunteers, patrons, children and seniors. Outside organizations requesting rental space for meetings and programs are routinely turned away. Existing programs vie for rehearsal space, and adult classes are often impossible to schedule.

We presently collaborate with the Lawrence School District, the Girl Scouts, The Boys & Girls Club, GaDuGi SafeCenter, the Lawrence Housing Authority and others to provide meaningful opportunities for young people. Our after school and youth education programs are routinely filled to capacity because we simply do not have enough space in our current facility. In addition, our senior acting troupe, the 'Vintage Players', provides performances at senior living facilities throughout the city and also partners with the School District.

Theatre Lawrence has been part of our community since 1976. A new facility will provide more space to conduct all of these programs and allow them to grow. A successful campaign will allow Theatre Lawrence to move from its current home – a 65 year old church – and build on its 35 years of service to Lawrence and Douglas County. We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely yours,


Mary Dovelon, Executive Director

CC: Bob Schwartz, and Dean Bevan, Capital Campaign Committee
David Corliss, City Manager