

RIVERSIDE THEATRE

17 November 2009

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of Zeidler Partnership, Inc. regarding the Riverside Theatre project and the USITT Architecture Awards Program. Nearly ten years ago, the Board of Trustees and Theatre Management began discussions to renovate and expand the existing plant of Riverside Theatre. This renovation and expansion soon grew to include 1) Handicap accessibility improvements for our aging audience 2) a re-design of our Mainstage audience chamber to include better acoustics and seating 3) an expanded lobby to hold receptions and dinners 4) an additional flexible theatre space to house the second stage season, cabarets, and benefits. More importantly, the building was designed in a way to meet our number one need—not to shut down operations in order to get to the finished project. Thus, the building was designed and engineered to be built in a three phase process—no easy task I must say. But Zeidler was up for the task. These were simply the major issues that the theatre struggled with. Many other improvements were made along the way in efforts to make our theatre building a truly spectacular experience.

Prior to the renovation, our handicap situation was tolerated at best. The improvements have been wonderful. The new foot-print of the now multi-theatre complex meets the needs of all ADA requirements and has had great reviews from the patrons. The audience chamber, once a continental arrangement, now has two isles with proper light locks, great acoustics, and a warm intimate feeling. It seats nearly 700 but maintains the smaller theatre feeling. Our need to hold large dinner parties was met successfully by creating a Lobby and Studio Theatre space that could be combined to form one large room. This has given us the ability to adjust events by both size and location. Having used these spaces several times now, I can report that it has been very useful and productive. And finally, the new flexible theatre space has allowed us to grow in programming and offers a variety of physical forms that can be set up to meet the needs of the production.

Zeidler Partnership, Inc. truly met our needs successfully. They were professional and a delight to work with. They demonstrated their practice to engage themselves passionately in their projects in order to meet the needs of the client.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jon R. Moses
Managing Director