

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

02-525

AGENDA:

OCTOBER 7, 2002

SUBJECT:

HOYT SHERMAN
PLACE THEATER
RESTORATION
AND RENOVATION
PROJECT

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

SUBMITTED BY:

RICHARD CLARK
DEPUTY CITY
MANAGER

ITEM 65

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

SYNOPSIS —

The Hoyt Sherman Place Foundation is seeking public and private funding to restore and renovate the historic Hoyt Sherman Place Theater into a community performing arts theater. The Foundation's goal is to raise \$6.3 million for the project. According to the Hoyt Sherman Executive Director, \$3,125,000 has been raised to date including \$200,000 from Polk County for the project. A \$1.4 million Vision Iowa grant is being sought. A commitment from the City of Des Moines is critical to receiving Vision Iowa funding. It is proposed that the City provide \$50,000 to the project to be paid in five annual installments of \$10,000.

FISCAL IMPACT —

The Economic Development Enterprise account will be used to fund the City's five annual payments.

RECOMMENDATION —

It is recommended that Council approve a grant to Hoyt Sherman Place Foundation in the amount of \$50,000 to be paid in five annual installments of \$10,000 subject to the following terms and conditions:

- 1. Hoyt Sherman Place Foundation demonstrates that it has adequate funding in place for completion of the Hoyt Sherman Place Theater restoration and renovation project; and**
- 2. Hoyt Sherman Place Foundation submits acceptable plans for the Hoyt Sherman Place Theater restoration and renovation project; and**
- 3. The initial installment of the grant shall be paid upon issuance of a building permit and commencement of construction of the Hoyt Sherman Place Theater restoration and renovation project.**

BACKGROUND —

No major changes or improvements have been made to the Theater since it was built in 1923. The proposed physical infrastructure improvements are essential to address the basic requirements needed to attract a broader range of performers as well as provide for the safety and comfort of the performers and the audience. The plans call for installing an air conditioning system to allow for year-round performances; expanding backstage and wings to provide

full use of the proscenium; updating the dressing rooms; new rehearsal space; updating the entry, exit, and life-safety components; expanding the restroom facilities; refurbishing and renovation of original historic theater seats; updating sound and lighting elements; and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance.

The Hoyt Sherman Place Theater is the only mid-sized performing arts theater in the greater Des Moines area. The Civic Center is 2,735 seats and other venues have less than 800 seats. The 1,400 seat Hoyt Sherman Place Theater is affordable and appropriately sized for local performing arts organizations and smaller national and regional touring groups.