



# Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

<b>Date:</b>	January 13, 2014
<b>Agenda Item No.</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Roll Call No.</b>	<b><u>14-0063</u></b>
<b>Communication No.</b>	<b><u>14-002</u></b>
<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>Matthew A. Anderson, Assistant City Manager</b>

## AGENDA HEADING:

Approving resolution of support for Des Moines Community Playhouse's State of Iowa Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) grant application.

## SYNOPSIS:

Des Moines Community Playhouse (831 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, Des Moines, IA 50312) has nearly completed Phase 1 of their current capital project which involved addressing their most critical capital needs. As the Playhouse embarks on Phase 2, they are seeking financial support from a Vision Iowa/CAT grant. As a requirement of the CAT grant, they must obtain official resolutions of support from the governing boards of local governments.

Details about the Playhouse's \$10 million renovation project are presented below.

## FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

For nearly a century, the Playhouse has provided entertainment and education activities to central Iowans. Over just the last three (3) years, the Playhouse has produced 54 major plays and musicals in 673 performances seen by 169,654 people. The impact that the Playhouse has on the social and economic vibrancy of this community is significant.

A plan has been designed for the Playhouse that includes a revitalized main stage theatre, increased parking, new classrooms, and an updated sound and light system. The plan is designed to best meet the current, as well as future needs, of guests, students, and volunteers.

The generosity of donors and broad support has allowed them to nearly complete Phase 1 of the project. Phase 2 calls for:

- A new main stage theatre that will feature 400 new seats designed with excellent sightlines;
- The new main stage theatre will also feature state-of-the-art, energy-efficient lighting, sound, and stage rigging systems;
- Production spaces will be designed with high-quality, safe volunteer experiences in mind;
- Shop space will facilitate more efficient production turnaround, allowing for increased building usage and opportunities for increased operating income;
- Adequate administrative space will increase efficiency and staff's ability to serve its audiences; and
- The building will meet or exceed guidelines for accessibility and audience comfort.

A revitalized Playhouse will assist our community by increasing our ability to provide high quality arts, culture and cultural education. Revitalization of the Playhouse will also assist the neighborhood in becoming an increasingly viable attractor of young professionals, residents, tourists, and businesses seeking a more vital urban environment, entertainment destination, and dynamic arts community.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE**

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE**

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE**

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