

January 23, 2024

City of London
300 Dufferin Ave.,
London ON N6B 1Z2

Attention: Elizabeth Pelozo, Chair, City of London Budget Committee

Reference: In Support of the Grand Theatre's Business Case (P39, Page 571)

Dear Elizabeth,

You may recall that we met several years ago at Rogers, on the set of 'What's Up London'. I am grateful to know that your journey as a Councillor for the City of London continues. Thank you for all you do.

I am writing today to advocate for the Business Case presented by the Grand Theatre as part of the City's multi-year budget process.

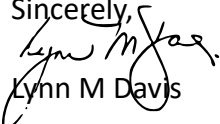
As the parent of two HSP Alumni, I know first-hand the far-reaching impact of the Grand Theatre's High School Project, the only of its kind, and one that has just celebrated its 25th Anniversary. The varied skills, professional work ethic, teambuilding opportunities, and friendships that are developed throughout the Project are long-lasting and in many cases life-altering.

As a former Director of Development at the Grand, I strongly believe that this theatre serves as a cultural anchor in the City's downtown, drawing close to 100,000 people annually, and thus providing a notable economic boon. The Grand takes pride in nurturing both professional and community arts sectors and reflects a strong commitment to World Curious, London Proud.

As a long-time donor, and life-long Londoner, I believe strongly that the Grand brings cultural vibrancy, accessibility, and inclusion to our City through the diverse stories it brings to its stages, and the diverse artists who bring those stories to life.

We are all aware of the impact COVID 19 has had on our community. The myriad priorities are real, making funding decisions difficult. I am also aware of how people turned to the arts in order to navigate the pandemic. I truly believe that the Grand is a vital arts institution, one that plays an integral role in making our community stronger as we move forward.

Thank you for your time and your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lynn M Davis