

January 24, 2024

Attn: Elizabeth Peloza, Chair
City of London Budget Committee
City Hall
300 Dufferin Ave
London, ON
N6B 1Z2

Re: In Support of the Grand Theatre's Business Case

Dear Elizabeth,

Please accept this letter in support of the Grand Theatre's request for an increase in their annual operating funding.

I am a new board member of the Grand Theatre though have attended the theatre for over 30 years. I live in the Bishop Hellmuth neighbourhood and walk by the Grand every day on my way to work at the Michael Gibson Gallery on Carling Street. As someone who has spent 20 years working in the downtown core in the arts, I know firsthand how important cultural institutions are to the health of a community, both economically and intellectually.

I am particularly impressed by the Grand Theatre's commitment to "World Curious, London Proud", a statement that incapsulates their pivotal position in our city. The Grand continues to tell inclusive stories that foster important conversations, nurture professional opportunities for the artistic community, established and emerging, and ultimately provide inspiring entertainment. The Grand does all of this live in London, for London.

By increasing your support of the Grand Theatre, the City of London ensures that our city remains culturally vibrant and relevant. The theatre is an anchor in the downtown impacting not only the people of London, but also the image of London as an engaging place to live. It remains a vital component to the development and sustenance of our community and our cultural well-being.

Many thanks for your time and consideration,

Jennie Kraehling
Associate Director, Michael Gibson Gallery