

> From: Anita Shah  
> Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2024 11:28 AM  
> To: Budget Committee <[BudgetCommittee@london.ca](mailto:BudgetCommittee@london.ca)>  
> Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attention Elizabeth Pelosa

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> Dear Elizabeth — I trust this message finds you keeping well.

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> My name is Anita Shah and I am the past chair at the Grand Theatre London. I am writing in support of an application the Grand has made for an increase in the funding it receives from the city. While we currently receive city funding, which we are immensely grateful for, we have not seen an increase to the funding amount for 23 years. I would ask that you kindly consider the Grand's application at your next budget committee meeting.

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> I was honoured to attend Mayor Morgan's address this morning. I admire his agenda in tackling our city's most critical challenges — homelessness, addiction and crime, to name a few. While I appreciate these issues must be priorities in the city budget, I would ask that you please consider the Grand's request for support as a priority, too.

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> I have been a long time patron of the Grand and have been involved at the Board level for the past nine years. I took on the Chair position at the beginning of 2020, just prior to Covid-19 shuttering our doors and the world at large. Since then, the Grand has remained an arts beacon in our city, contributing to the economic health of our Downtown, despite the dramatic losses we faced during the pandemic. We continue and strive to be a welcoming and inclusive space for our community, which, as Mayor Morgan mentioned, is the fastest growing city in the Province.

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> London is being noticed for the incredible work being done to address our health and welfare challenges. Wouldn't it be wonderful to be noticed for lifting up the organizations that support and value our shared humanity through the arts, as well? It is the answer in the affirmative to this question that has compelled me to write to you, today.

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> Many thanks for your time in reading through my email.

>  
> Sincerely  
> Anita Shah