

June 21, 2018

DeKalb City Council
DeKalb Municipal Building
200 S. 4th Street
DeKalb, Illinois 60115

Dear Mayor Smith and Council Members,

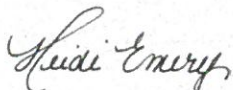
Ornate movie palaces have an important place in the architectural and cultural history of the United States. These historic buildings not only contribute to the character of a neighborhood, they preserve culture and history in a tangible way that is vital to maintaining a sense of place. Conrad Schmitt Studios (CSS) has experienced first-hand how an operating theatre can infuse and sustain new economic growth into communities, as our 129-year-old company was a pioneer of the theatre restoration movement in the 1960s.

CSS recently learned that the Egyptian Theatre is seeking financial support for the air conditioning of their space. We are proud to have participated in the Theatre's renovations during the 1990s—and most recently five years ago, and are familiar with its beautiful ornamental plaster that features a number of decorative techniques. From CSS's vast experience renovating historic theatres across the country, we know extreme humidity and temperature fluctuations can cause substantial damage to painted surfaces, artwork and metal leaf applications. Post-renovation, we encourage clients to pay attention to these environmental fluctuations to help sustain their decorative painting surfaces, providing *Care and Maintenance Instructions* when each project is completed. We stress to them that routine maintenance is vital to preserving their treasured building.

Our beloved historic theatres are truly jewels in their communities—and their care and maintenance should be nurtured to ensure their splendor and longevity, as well as the vitality of the communities they help support. CSS strongly urges the City of DeKalb to grant the funding needed for the installation of air conditioning in the Egyptian Theatre, surely a gem in your City and a prominent arts and entertainment center for the region.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if more information is needed.

Kind regards,



Heidi A. Emery
Vice President