



December 13, 2019

Dear Members of the DeKalb City Council,

This letter is written in total support of the Egyptian Theater's request for TIF funds for the purchase and installation of air conditioning in this DeKalb Historic Icon. The economic and cultural impact of this wonderful venue goes without being said. By the city council supporting this project it shows its commitment to the support of cultural events in our community.

When the DeKalb Municipal Band decided to celebrate it's 160th season a few years ago by offering a Holiday concert we could think of no other place than the Egyptian Theater to hold such an event. A historic band in a historic venue. Just perfect and our large audience thought so as well. The program was well attended, showing both support of the band, as well as the theater. Since the DeKalb Municipal band is a summer institution a holiday concert was a first for us. Alex and his staff made the concert run smoothly and the money raised from the event went into the Palmer Family Music Education Scholarship Fund. Because the success of our holiday concert we will be looking to use this wonderful concert space for future events. There is a possibility in the future for having the Egyptian Theater as our concert site when the weather is inclement on our Tuesday evening concerts in the summertime when we cannot perform at the Dee Palmer Band Shell at Hopkins Park. But if the band is to perform at the Egyptian in the summertime, it needs air conditioning not just for the musicians but for the audience as well. Adding air conditioning would make the theater a year-round venue that is desperately needed in our community and then a perfect spot to hold our summer concerts when the weather isn't cooperating outdoors.

Personally, I have had the luxury of performing as musician at the theater often in many different types of events. Jazz Groups, Rock bands, Orchestras and concert bands. I have performed on stage in musicals, watched many a film and seen many shows. All work well at the Egyptian and it's the only venue in this area that can support such a wide variety of cultural activities. It needs to be maintained, enhanced and improved. The addition of air conditioning is just another positive step in making the Egyptian Theater an even more inviting creative space in our community.

Sincerely,

Kirk Lundbeck, Director
The DeKalb Municipal Band