

April 2012

To Whom It May Concern,

Regarding the Stageworks Northwest Request for Support From You

Thirty years ago downtown Longview was the center for regional shopping and the busiest hub of activity. But large shopping centers changed that. Now the planned City of Longview, situated in rural southwest Washington, is working diligently to reverse that situation and to revitalize it's historic downtown. The purpose of this letter is to underscore the centrality of Stageworks Northwest to this community and the importance of their commitment to convert the old Longview Theatre into a venue for live performance. We ask you to support their efforts to restore an old art deco movie house for live theatre.

Stageworks Northwest is creating a buzz in the downtown; and it is adding to a growing perception that the quality of place here in Longview is special. Their commitment to children's programming is huge. They have been serving the community for 20 years with live theatre. They are a significant complement to the recently renovated Columbia Theatre. Together these two theaters along with the emerging Longview Outdoor Gallery in the downtown are powerful contributors to the quality of life here. We are finding that the amenity value our community is turning heads, causing businesses to seriously considering relocating or starting up in our port town. Forbes magazine recently recognized Longview as one of the five prettiest towns in America.

The City of Longview's commitment toward this project can be underscored by our recent award of nearly \$158,000 to Stageworks Northwest for the restoration of their facility at 1433 Commerce.

Thank you for considering and supporting their request. Any door you can open for them matters to us because it will add to the vitality of our region.

Sincerely,

Members of the Longview City Council