

Marilyn R Marks

From: Wheeler Opera House [wheeleroperahouse@wheeleroperahouse.pmailus.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2009 8:02 PM
To: marilynmarks
Subject: THE WHEELER NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!

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ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, THE WHEELER WILL ASK CITY COUNCIL FOR CONCEPTUAL APPROVAL FOR A WHEELER EXPANSION.

CAN YOU HELP US BY SHOWING YOUR SUPPORT?

35 YEARS IN THE PLANNING. NOW, OR ... NEVER?

Since about this time 35 years ago - Autumn 1974 - a Wheeler expansion has been recognized as needed to make our wonderful venue a truly great home for all of Aspen's arts and artists. Now we're closer than we've ever been to answering those needs. **BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP.**

To so many of us, a Wheeler expansion makes perfect sense. Imagine a Wheeler in the not-too-distant future that could feature all of the following:

- **A street-level box office** with nearly **three times the size** of our present one, where people could gather comfortably in a climate-controlled environment year-round.
- **An expanded second-floor lobby**, with **more than twice as many** rest room facilities (ladies, take note!), more bar locations, and a balcony with the best view of Aspen Mountain.
- **A smaller theatre** with state-of-the-art equipment for all of our **great local arts groups** to use, year-round.
- **A flexible-use room**, for use as a classroom, rehearsal space, boutique cinema, break-out room, or additional lobby for receptions and parties.
- **A "green" building** that can greatly improve the carbon footprint of our 1889-vintage venue.

We've come a long ways in realizing this dream in the last four years. Now we're at a critical juncture, as City Council considers granting conceptual approval that allows us to really get down to the hard work of design, planning, and financing.

Unfortunately, there are members of the public that don't think a Wheeler expansion is a

good idea, and while we certainly respect their opinion, we don't think everyone agrees with them. That's why we need you to contact our Aspen City Council members, and let them know that you support our planning effort!

Saying yes to the next stage of planning for a Wheeler expansion does not obligate you to supporting the final design later.

We will do everything we can to earn your vote when the time comes, through very responsible planning and budgeting and - most important - listening to public input. But we can't get there if we can't move on to the next step.

Please consider calling or emailing our Aspen City Council representatives through City Communications Director Sally Spaulding - 970-920-5082 (sally.spaulding@ci.aspen.co.us) - or fax comments to (970) 920-5119, or send letters to Aspen City Council, 130 S. Galena, Aspen, CO 81611. It only takes a few minutes, and can mean so much.

Or best of all - **COME TO CITY COUNCIL'S MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, MEETING AND EXPRESS YOUR SUPPORT ON THE RECORD!** Meeting time is 5pm in the basement of City Hall.

Think your voice doesn't matter? Our City Council representatives depend on hearing what the public thinks! We know what those who are against the expansion will say - can we depend on you to show your support?

OUR ARTS GROUPS NEED THIS.

OUR ECONOMY WILL BENEFIT FROM THIS.

**PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING US MOVE FORWARD
THE WHEELER EXPANSION PLAN.**

AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION!

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