

To the City Council:

We are sending you this letter on the behalf of Acadiana Center for the Arts, Downtown Lafayette Unlimited, Basin Arts, the Lafayette branch of the NAACP, Black Folks Talking, Pride Opportunity Developers, LLC., and Performing Arts Serving Acadiana.

Our organizations and stakeholders, like many others, are excited about the momentum that is building for the investment in a new performing arts center and the potential cultural, economic development, and quality of life impact of this catalytic investment. This is potentially *one of the largest single public investments* in the history of Lafayette. As such, it brings the possibility of creating a major economic development impact in both Lafayette and the Acadiana region. What a game-changing opportunity to enhance our quality of life!

As the council, you are the final decision makers on behalf of LCG. You decide what land will be secured, what city money will be spent, if any new tax revenue will be needed, and who can enter into agreements related to operations.

While we support maximizing options related to the new performing arts center, as UL is set to do later this week, please do not allow this necessary but preliminary step for that site lead us to not consider additional site options using a process that we recommend below.

We respectfully request that the City Council, through its authority, ensure several things occur prior to final site selection:

- A round of broad public input about the facility needs and uses to ensure this project can provide the most benefit possible
- A robust site selection process that includes a public call for site locations with specific parameters needed for a successful project
- A site-by-site economic impact assessment that details the likely private sector impact and impacts to the property and sales tax bases that will result from the project

We believe that completing these steps, which has yet to occur, will result in a more impactful investment and build needed support from a broad group of Lafayette citizens and leaders. Moreso, it will also bolster state level support and confidence for significant capital investment in this project.

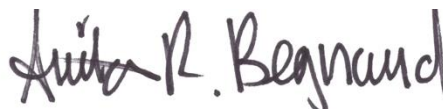
Our organizations stand ready to assist in helping you and others coordinate a public process that will engage a broad range of taxpayers, businesses, and stakeholders. If you know of organizations that would like to engage with us in this discussion, please encourage them to reach out to the Acadiana Center for the Arts, our regional Arts Council for Acadiana at the following email, [pac@acadianacenterforthearts.org](mailto:pac@acadianacenterforthearts.org). Engaging the public gives this project the best chance of success by vetting all the factors that should be considered.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your careful consideration.

Regards,



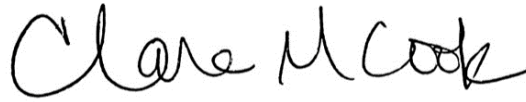
Samuel Oliver, Executive Director  
Acadiana Center for the Arts



Anita Begnaud, CEO  
Downtown Lafayette Unlimited



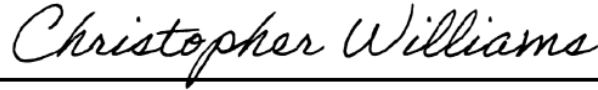
Jackie Lyle, Executive Director, Performing Arts  
Serving Acadiana



Clare Cook, Director of Basin Arts



Ravis Martinez, President,  
NAACP Lafayette Branch



Chris Williams, Black Folks Talking



Ravis Martinez, The POD Group

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Concerned stakeholders related to this project can contact the community leaders above for additional information in how to become involved in our outreach. Their emails are listed below.

**Acadiana Center for the Arts**, a community-supported nonprofit organization which serves as the Arts Council for the Acadiana region. Contact: [sam@acadianacenterforthearts.org](mailto:sam@acadianacenterforthearts.org)

**Downtown Lafayette Unlimited**, the 501c6 that represents business owners, residents, investors, and other stakeholders of Lafayette who understand the importance of the revitalization of Downtown Lafayette. Contact: [anita@downtownlafayette.org](mailto:anita@downtownlafayette.org)

**Performing Arts Serving Acadiana** is a performing arts presenter in Lafayette, LA, led by a gang of doers who want local access to great performing arts that appeal to people who appreciate diversity, ingenuity, excellence, and inclusiveness. Contact: [Jackie@pasaonline.org](mailto:Jackie@pasaonline.org)

**Basin Arts** is a container for creativity supporting artists and collaboration in our community of Lafayette, La. Contact: [clare@basinartslafayette.com](mailto:clare@basinartslafayette.com)

**NAACP Lafayette Branch** works to achieve equity, political rights, and social inclusion by advancing policies and practices that expand human and civil rights, eliminate discrimination, and accelerate the well-being, education, and economic security of Black people and all persons of color. Contact: [sivarco@gmail.com](mailto:sivarco@gmail.com)

**Pride Opportunity Developers, LLC.** (The POD Group) is a Louisiana based development company that strives to help communities create distinctive residential neighborhoods and mixed-use properties. Contact: [sivarco@gmail.com](mailto:sivarco@gmail.com)

**Black Folks Talking**, a local think tank of Community Leaders who met weekly over coffee and breakfast. Contact: [cjwilliamsphd@gmail.com](mailto:cjwilliamsphd@gmail.com)