



204 North George Street Charles Town, WV 25414
www.oldoperahouse.org (304) 725-4420
Home of the Old Opera House Arts Centre
(Acting, Dance & Voice Studios) and the
Jean Heiler Art Gallery

Building Excitement for the Arts!

Jennifer Myers
Jefferson County Parks & Recreation
235 Sam Michael's Lane
Shenandoah Junction, WV 25442

Dear Jennifer,

August 1, 2017

I just spoke with Neal Nilsen and he told me that you were applying for a grant with the State of West Virginia to construct a new outdoor stage at Sam Michael's Park. I wanted to express our enthusiastic support for this endeavor.

An outdoor stage will have immediate and significant impact on our community as a performance space for live music. Outside of the local schools, there are a limited number of performance venues in Jefferson County. It is not difficult to imagine bluegrass, jazz, country, rock, and classical music concerts filling the air from this stage on a summer's night. The opportunity for members of the community to gather for one of these performances will enrich the lives of everyone. The possibility that dance companies and theatre groups may utilize this stage at some point is also exciting. Although the Old Opera House has no existing plans to expand into outdoor drama, having this facility opens that possibility.

We wish you great success with this endeavor and we look forward to attending concerts and events on the new stage at Sam Michael's Park.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Brewer".

Steven Brewer
Managing/Artistic Director
Old Opera House Theatre Company & Arts Centre
ooH@oldoperahouse.org

Old Opera House's mission – Excite and involve the community in all aspects of the performing and visual arts

*The Old Opera House is the oldest operating live theatre in West Virginia and is on the national Register of Historic Places.
The Old Opera House Theatre Company is classified as a non-profit 501(c3) corporation by the Internal Revenue Service
and is a registered charity with the State of West Virginia.*



JCDA

Jefferson County Development Authority

March 1, 2017

West Virginia Commission on the Arts
The Culture Center
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, WV 25305-0300

Dear Commission Members,

On behalf of the Jefferson County Development Authority (JCDA), I am writing to support the Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Commission's grant application for funding for the Sam Michael's Park amphitheater project.

The JCDA recognizes tourism as a vital part of our local economy. With our strategic mid-Atlantic location just 60 miles from the Washington, D.C., and Baltimore metropolitan areas, Jefferson County is the perfect site for such a venue. The addition of an amphitheater and innovative programs will enhance our tourism economy, attracting new visitors and supporting the interlocking industries that provide creative services like our arts, film, design, marketing, and entertainment businesses.

In addition, this creative project will make Jefferson County even more desirable to companies and their employees looking to locate in our community as well as provide additional cultural opportunities for current residents.

We thank the Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Commission for its many contributions to our community and support your efforts to increase our economic and community vitality with your amphitheater project.

Sincerely,



John Reisenweber
Executive Director

West Virginia Commission on the Arts
The Culture Center
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, WV 25305-0300

March 22, 2017

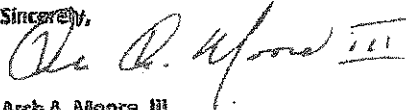
Dear Commissioners,

It is our pleasure to reach out to you in support of the Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Commission's proposal for a grant to fund Phase I of the Sam Michaels Amphitheater. The Moore family has a long history of supporting the arts in West Virginia. This project is of special interest to us as our late mother and former first lady of West Virginia, Shelley Riley Moore, was a champion of the project in the 1970's.

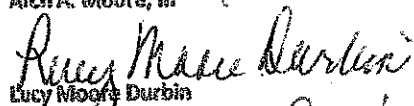
Our mother believed that the addition of an amphitheater would not only have positive effect on the arts community of the Eastern Panhandle but it would also act as a catalyst for economic growth and cultural enrichment. The grant funding would be the foundation for the amphitheater to become a reality. It will honor the cultural and historical aspects of the property while seeding a more prosperous future for Jefferson County. It is an opportunity to let the arts take center stage as an economic engine in the historic Eastern Panhandle.

We fully support Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Commission in their efforts to secure funding for this project and increase access to the arts in our community.

Sincerely,



Arch A. Moore, III



Lucy Moore Durbin



Shelley Moore Capito

201 East Washington St
Charles Town, WV 25414



Phone: 304.725.2055
Fax: 855.420.7009

March 13, 2017

State Historic Preservation Officer
WV Division of Culture and History
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, WV 25305

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, I write this letter in support of the Jefferson County Parks and Recreation 's application for a grant for their amphitheater project to be built at Sam Michael's Park in Jefferson County. The Jefferson County Chamber has held its Mountain Heritage Arts and Crafts Festival at that location for many years. Our festival has over 200 artists from many different states that demonstrate and sell their product for three days in September. The festival also has Bluegrass bands that perform on Saturday and Sunday.

Jefferson County is unique from the rest of the state due to our close location to Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, DC. Our county is known as a tourism destination which brings in more tourists than the rest of the state. By adding an amphitheater to our county, our local community such as The Old Opera House, Contemporary American Theater, Friends of Music and the Arts Council can use the amphitheater. This will bring in more arts to the county.

The amphitheater would be a huge benefit to our festival and our community. I urge the approval of the grant to the Jefferson County Parks and Recreation for this project.

Sincerely,

Heather M. McIntyre

Heather Morgan McIntyre
Executive Director

The Chamber is a For-Purpose organization that promotes profitable and vital growth for its business members through dedicated collaboration, networking, marketing, membership events, and education.



**HOUSE OF DELEGATES
WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

BUILDING 1, ROOM 434-M
1900 KANAWHA BLVD., EAST
CHARLESTON, WV 25305-0470
PHONE (304) 340-3265
EMAIL: PAUL.ESPINOSA@WVHOUSE.GOV

PAUL ESPINOSA
CHAIR, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
107 HANCOCK COURT
CHARLES TOWN, WV 25414
(304) 728-8139 (H)
(304) 728-8139 (B)

Committees:
Rules
Finance
Roads and Transportation
Small Business,
Entrepreneurship and
Economic Development

Monday, April 03, 2017

Randall Reid-Smith, Commissioner
WV Division of Culture and History
The Culture Center
Capitol Complex
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston WV 25305-0300

Dear Commissioner,

I am writing to express my support for the Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Amphitheater Project. This project, which is to be located at Sam Michaels Park, is part of Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Commission's 10-year parks master plan. The plan serves as a roadmap for future development and decisions within the county parks system. It was presented to, and accepted by, the Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Commission and the Jefferson County Commission. The completion of the amphitheater project will help in fulfilling the master plan.

As a former President of Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Commission I enjoy seeing positive projects that will enhance our county parks and serve as a source of entertainment and revenue for our state. I believe that the type of events held at the amphitheater will draw people from neighboring states such as Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania. The Amphitheater Project is being developed in seven phases and phase one will consist of building the stage and a temporary roof system. While it will obviously not produce the large audiences of the finished project, I feel certain it will be able to be utilized for the local community and should be an enhancement to the Mountain Heritage Arts and Crafts Festival held annually at the park.

Again, I pledge my full support to this program and hope that you will give the project careful consideration.

Sincerely,

Paul Espinosa, Chairman
Committee on Education
WV House of Delegates

CC: Ms. Jennifer Myers