

JOE MANCHIN III
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COMMITTEES
APPROPRIATIONS
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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VETERANS' AFFAIRS

August 25, 2017

Mr. Randall Reid-Smith
Commissioner
West Virginia Division of Culture and History
The Culture Center, Capitol Complex
1900 Kanawha Boulevard E
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-1209

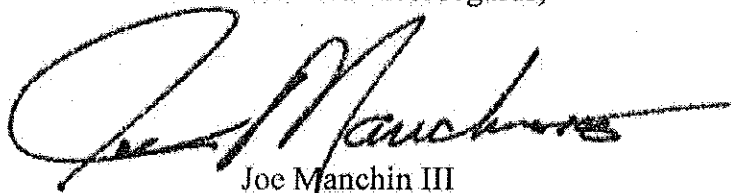
Dear Commissioner Reid-Smith,

I have been alerted that the Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Commission (JCPRC) has submitted a grant proposal to the West Virginia Commission on the Arts for the purpose of implementing Phase 1 of the Sam Michael's Park Amphitheater project.

I am writing to express my support for the JCPRC and this application. The addition of an amphitheater to JCPRC's comprehensive package of programs will undoubtedly enhance economic growth and cultural enrichment in Jefferson County. It will honor the culture and history of the property while seeding a more prosperous future for the County and its residents. This is a fantastic opportunity to let the arts take center stage as an economic engine in the Eastern Panhandle.

I greatly appreciate your noting my interest in this application and providing it a full and fair review. I am proud to lend my support for this initiative and others like it that seek to promote economic opportunities in West Virginia. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

With warmest regards,



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator

JM/km



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



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 that reads "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.*



**HOUSE OF DELEGATES
WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

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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

prefers interim mail at home address