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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, PLEASE

Over 300 members of the Bloomington arts community pen letter to Bloomington city officials in support of the John Waldron Arts Center

The letter calls for the City “to secure the future of the historic building at 122 S Walnut Street and its current function as an arts center, particularly a performance venue available for public use.”

June 26, 2020 –Arts Forward Bloomington delivered a letter, **signed by over 300 members** of Bloomington arts community to city officials **in support of the John Waldron Arts Center**, which was recently closed by Ivy Tech Bloomington. Ownership of the historic building at 122 S Walnut will revert to the City of Bloomington over the next several months.

The letter is reprinted in its entirety below.

Arts Forward Bloomington, a collective of artists, arts organizations, and arts supporters that addresses pertinent topics of critical interest to the economy of the arts community, hosts quarterly community arts forums and discusses specific topics of interest related to public arts policy and organizes and promotes appropriate actions when necessary.

Those interested in participating should contact Ken Buzzard at bsokenneth@gmail.com or visit facebook.com/groups/ArtsForwardBloomington. Arts Forward Bloomington is represented by **Danielle McClelland**, Former Director of the **Buskirk-Chumley Theater**; **Gabe Gloden**, Managing Director of **Cardinal Stage**; **Ken Buzzard**, President of the **Bloomington Symphony Orchestra**; **Susan Swaney**, Artistic Director of **Voces Novae** and Founder of **Sing for Joy!** Senior Choir; and **Kay Olges**, Board President for **Windfall Dancers**.

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June 26, 2020

To: Mayor John Hamilton;
Bloomington Common Council Members: Steve Volan, Jim Sims, Isabel Piedmont-Smith, Kate Rosenberger, Matt Flaherty, Sue Sgambelluri, Dave Rollo, Susan Sandberg, Ron Smith
City Clerk Nicole Bolden
Director of Economic and Sustainable Development Alex Crowley
Assistant Director for the Arts Sean Starowitz
Assistant Director of Small Business Development Jane Kupersmith

Re: The Future of the John Waldron Arts Center

Dear All,

We, the undersigned, write to you today as a united voice of the arts community, urging the City of Bloomington to secure the future of the historic building at 122 S Walnut Street and its current function as an arts center, particularly a performance venue available for public use.

The John Waldron Arts Center has been a key component in the development of all of our work. We have created and shown and sold visual art there. We have produced theatre and dance and music in its spaces and sold thousands of tickets. Because of the John Waldron Arts Center, we have created innumerable moments in which people were able to see Bloomington as a place with meaning; a place worth investing in. Its downtown location and the historic character of the building have centered the arts in Bloomington and created a highly desirable environment for locals and visitors alike. This space has been a key catalyst for the development of hundreds of small and micro arts businesses over the years, and a recent study performed by the O'Neill School of Public & Environmental Affairs found that the Waldron and other downtown arts organizations contributed \$4.6 million in economic impact to the local economy, including \$2.3 million in audience spending. If this resource disappears, many key components of our creative sector and downtown retail and service economies are at extreme risk.

We understand that substantial thought and collaborative process will need to take place in order to determine exactly how the Waldron can continue to serve the community. We are ready and willing to work together to find a creative solution that rebuilds the John Waldron Arts Center as a financially sustainable facility.

Please pledge your support to working with us to ensure a vibrant and sustainable future for this critical Bloomington arts and culture resource.

Sincerely,

Ashlynn Abbott
Nicolas Aguirre
Heather Ahmann - Aeriology
Ruth Albright - National Society of
Arts and Letters, Bloomington
Chapter
Rebecca Alexander
Andrea Alumbaugh
Leraldo Anzaldua - IU Dept. of
Theatre, Drama, & Contemporary
Dance
Patty Ardery
John Armstrong - Bloomington
Academy of Film & Theatre, Pigasus
Pictures
Rick Armstrong
David Arthur - Bloomington
Cleaners
Alain Barker - Bloomington Early
Music Festival, IU Jacobs School of
Music
Catherine Barker
Jillian Barnes
Andrea Basile
Mary Clare Bauman
Catherine Baum-Newlin
Sierra Bazler
Michael Bechtel
Emily Bedwell - Monroe County
Civic Theater
Michael Bell - Midas Lampwork
Glass
Joseph Benefiel
Stephanie Benham - MCCSC
William Bennett
Lauren Bernofsky - Musical Arts
Youth Organization
Tamara Bingham - Accidental
Actors of Owen County
Michael Bird
Jody Black
Steven Black
Kyle Blevins
David Blumberg
Teresa Boruff-Young
Jocelyn Bowie - Sycamore Ridge
Ceramics Studio
Hannah Bowman
Drew Bratton
Gail Bray
Tony Brewer - Writers Guild at
Bloomington, Inc.
Michael Brewington
Darrian Brimberry
Sara Buckallew
Frank Buczolic - Monroe County
Civic Theater
Jennifer Buehler - Chem-Dry of
Bloomington
Leslie Burke

Amy Burrell - SpiralBodies
Dana Burton - Stages Bloomington
Tabitha Burton
Sheila Butler - Monroe County Civic
Theatre, Bloomington Playwrights
Project, Cardinal Stage
Ken Buzzard - Bloomington
Symphony Orchestra
Cathleen Cameron
Paul Campbell
Brynn Canary
Sally Carter
Karen Cassidy
Liam Castellan
Martina Celerin
Paula Chambers - FlowMotion
Events LLC, Dance Network
Alliance, The Hudsucker Posse
Christi Champ Baine
Allison Charles
Michael Chitwood
Philip Christiansen
Todd Clark
Ryan Cobine
Katlynn Cochran
Kymberly Compton
Zach Conrad
Jessica Courtney - MCCSC, Ivy Tech
Mary Alice Cox
Jeffrey Craft
Matthew Creek
Jonah Crismore - Buskirk-Chumley
Theater
Tess Cunningham
Janelle Curry
Aaliyah Darling
Dianne Daunt
Kaila Day
Vinnie Desmond
Krista Detor - The Hundredth Hill
Dr. Gladys DeVane - Indiana
University
Catherine Diersing - The Project
School
Larry Diersing - Meadowood
Retirement Community
Brenna Dillard
Sheryl Doades
Kevin Dolan
Roberta Dunderdale
Jillian East
Linda Ebright
Carol Edge
Dena El Saffar - Salaam Band
Bethan Evans - FlowMotion Events
Julie Evans
Gavin Everett - Commission on
Hispanic & Latino Affairs, Lotus
Education and Arts Foundation,
BBBAF

Arthur Feinsod - Jewish Theatre of
Bloomington
Jordan Ferguson
Jason Fickel
Edward Fiedor
Michael Fields
Payton Frawley
Sandra Freund - SING FOR JOY!
Community Choir
Brittany Friesner - Indiana
University Cinema
Tom Frohman
Kate Galvin - Cardinal Stage
Lori Garraghty
Sally Gaskill - Voces Novae, Cardinal
Stage, Bloomington Early Music,
Bloomington Rotary Club
Joshua Gilstein - Bloomington
Symphony Orchestra
Rachel Glago - MidWay Music
Speaks
Gabe Gloden - Cardinal Stage
Kathryn Goldstein
Bryony Gomez-Palacio -
UnderConsideration
Emily Goodson
Paula Gordon
Alexandra Goveia
Linda Greenwell
Jan Gudaitis
Alejandro Guillen - Bloomington
Symphony Orchestra
Elizabeth Gwynn & Lee Mysliwiec
Amy Hackenberg
Kim Hahn
Anne Haines
Cassie Hakken - Cardinal Stage
Jo Ham
Jessika Hane
Nola Hartman - Stages Bloomington
Trish Hausmann - IU Dept. of
Theatre, Drama, & Contemporary
Dance
Ray Hedin - Bloomington
Playwrights Project, Jewish Theatre
of Bloomington
Stephanie Heidemann
Steve & Janet Heise - Monroe
County Civic Theater
Audrey Heller - Jewish Theatre of
Bloomington
Kelly Helms
Jay Hemphill
Rene Henry - Southern Indiana
Wind Ensemble
Sarah Herdrich
Kenny Hertling
Anne Higley
Victoria Hilkevitch - Bloomington
Symphony Orchestra

Cindy Hmelo-Silver
Corey Hollinger - Cardinal Stage
Kendra Hollinger
Marilyn Horlander
Mary Hosey - The Dance Center
Cindy Houston
Charlotte Howard
Willow Hughes - FlowMotion
Events
Mandy Hussey
Nancy Hutchens
Rhonda Huxford
Kristin Iovino - MotionArts Dance
Academy
Lee Istheman
Emily Jackson - WFHB
Amy Jackson - The Project School
Martha Jacobs - Indiana University
Janiece Jaffe
Jim Johnson - Quarryland Men's
Chorus
Sonja Johnson - Bloomington
Playwrights Project
Karen Johnson
Jill Jolliff
Joyce Jolliff
David Jolliff
Stephanie Jones - FlowMotion
Events, The Hudsucker Posse,
Dance Network Alliance
Jasper Jones - FlowMotion Events,
The Hudsucker Posse
Ron Kadish
Linda Kaplan
Brianna Karazsia - Shawnee Theatre
Julia Karr
Judy Karty
Samantha Kaufman
Lydia Kern
Iris Fabius Kiesling - Jewish Theatre
of Bloomington
Jillian Kinzie - Indiana University
Susan Klein
Macy Kloville
Flora Knable
Karen Knight
Jim Koch
Cathy Korinek
Marie Kosakowski - Indiana
University
Anne Kostyo - HALT Creative
Megan Kudla
Abigail Kutlas-Prickett - The Project
School
Donna Lafferty - Bloomington
Symphony Orchestra
Karol Lagodzki - Cook Medical
Meg Lagodzki
Marcelle LaMaster - A-1 Window
Cleaning
Marisa Ledbetter - Arzillo
Performing Arts
Abigail Leonard Al Omari

Harlan Lewis
Carly Liegel - University Players
Nora Liell
Katlin Liell-kok
Carolyn Lipson-Walker - Borns
Jewish Studies Program, Jewish
Theatre of Bloomington
Tamara Loewenthal - Lotus
Education & Arts Foundation
Jason Lopez - Monroe County Civic
Theater
Ivey Lowe - Bloomington
Playwrights Project
Sara Loy
Mary Lee Luskin
Joel Magill - Cardinal Stage
Chloe Maginity - Meitus Gelbert
Rose LLP
Jolie Manning
Jane Martin - Village Ventures
Kyle Mason - University Players
Nancy Mathews
Vanessa McClary - Kiwanis Club of
South Central Indiana
Danielle McClelland
Dale McFadden - IU Dept. of
Theatre, Drama, & Contemporary
Dance
Emily McGee
Murray McGibbon - Indiana
University, Presto Theatre
Danielle McKnight
Carmen Medina - Indiana University
Lisa Meuser
Linda Meyer-Wright
Pamela Milam
Michael Milam
Jill Minor
Sherry Mitchell-Bruker
Cheryl Moeller
Lorna Moir - Indiana University
Martha Moore - Pictura Gallery,
FAR Center for Contemporary Arts
Regina Moore
Scott Moore
Joe Morris
James Morrison
Margo Morton
Sarah Mosier
Glenda Murray
Ben Myers - The Artifex Guild
Jerry Myerson
Ginny Myerson
Mary Beth Novy - Bloomington
Symphony Orchestra
Shannon O'Connor Starks
Kay Olges - Windfall Dancers, Inc.
Christina Ondrik
Shailey Ostlund
Judy Owens
Dara Parker
Gregory Parman
Katherine Pastel

Katherine Pastel
Kari Patrick
Travis Paulin - Cardinal Stage
Gerard Pauwels
Allen Pease
Chelsea Pell - Cardinal Stage
Laura Pence - Aerialogy
Dan Peterson
Jeanne Peterson
Joel Pierson
Greg Platt - The Hudsucker Posse
Stephen Pock
Lisa Podulka - IU Dept. of Theatre,
Drama, & Contemporary Dance
Ladislav Pugel
Sierra Purdue
Kyle Quass
Chad Rabinovitz - Bloomington
Playwrights Project
Charles Railsback
Callie Rekas
Eunyoung Rey
Mary Ann Rickert
Shelby Rihm
Crystal Ritter
Liz Roberts
Quinn Robinson
Judith Rose - Jewish Theatre of
Bloomington
Sarah Ruggles
Allen Safianow - Indiana University
Susan Sandberg
Sara Sato
Brad Schiesser - Bloomington
Playwrights Project
Lynn Schoch
Kate Schramm
Barbara K Schut
Lynn Schwartzberg
Steve Scott - Monroe County
Martial Arts
Toni Scroggins - Alterations by Toni
Ane
Melinda Seader - World Wide
Automotive Service
David Seastrom
Marian Shaaban
Robert Shakespeare - Shakespeare
Lighting Design LLC
Joanne Shank - Arts Alliance of
Greater Bloomington
Dotty Sharp - Sharp Designs, Inc.
David Sheehan
Eric Shelley - Bloomington Academy
of Film & Theatre
Roberta Sherman
Chelsea Sherman
Amberly Simmons
Janice Skinner
Gary Skow
Patricia Slabach - Bloomington
Chamber Singers
Sarah Slover

Ronald Smith
Marty Spechler - Bloomington
Township Board
Denisee Stamps
Becky Stapf
Janet Stavropoulos
Anne Steigerwald - Jewish Theatre
of Bloomington
Darrell Stone - Jewish Theatre of
Bloomington
Diane Street
Paula Sunderman - Jewish Theatre
of Bloomington
Susan Swaney - Voces Novae
David Szonyi
Paige Talbert - Buskirk-Chumley
Theater
Pauly Tarricone - Pauly Flows, The
Hudsucker Posse, FlowMotion
Events
Milton Taylor
Alex Teschmacher - College Arts +
Humanities Institute, Indiana
University
Garrett Thompson
Thomas Tiggelman - Bloomington
Playwrights Project
Jeffery Todd
Clarissa Tokash
Loesje Troglia
Becky Underwood - Cardinal Stage
David Underwood
Gwen Upchurch - Bloomington High
School South
Ansley Valentine - IU Dept. of
Theatre, Drama, & Contemporary
Dance, Stages Bloomington
Mackenzie Van Tassel
Dana Vanderburgh - Echo Dance
Company
Tyler Wachsmann
David Wade - DavidWadedesigns
Jason Wadsworth
Allison Wadsworth
Judy Walcoff
Maria Walker
Lori Walsh - Spencer Owen Schools
Dave Walter - Community Access
Television Services
Stan Wasserman
Michelle Watson - FlowMotion
Events, The Hudsucker Posse
Mary Webb
Molly Weiler - Windfall Dancers,
Inc.
Jennifer Weiss
Von Welch - Bloomington
Playwrights Project, Stages
Bloomington
Benjamin Wendell, M.D.
Elisabeth Westphal - Ivy Tech
Community College-Bloomington

John Whikehart - Ivy Tech
Community College-Bloomington
Jennifer Whitaker - Monroe County
Civic Theater
Victoria Wiley - University Players
Rory Willats
Chelsey Willhoite
Mick Williams
Cole Winston
Leslie Worth-Wilson
Theodor Wu
Alyce Zollman - Baird Private
Wealth Management, Cardinal
Stage