



Councilmember
Joe Buscaino
Fifteenth District

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BY _____ DEPUTY

May 2, 2017

Honorable Members of the Budget & Finance Committee
200 N. Spring St., 3rd Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: WARNER GRAND THEATRE IMPROVEMENTS

Dear Members of the Budget & Finance Committee:

I write to you in support of the Warner Grand Theatre's inclusion into the MICLA program. The Warner Grand Theatre is a historic movie theater with nearly 1,500 seats built in 1931. It has been owned by the City of Los Angeles since the mid-1990's and is currently overseen by the Department of Cultural Affairs. The City was responsible for reopening the closed Theatre, and has made a basic set of improvements that have allowed it to be rented for a broad range of performing arts events, film showings, musical performances, and community-based events, including use by local educational institutions.

The Warner Grand Theatre also receives funding from a non-profit organization, the Grand Vision Foundation, which raises money for improvements to the facility. However, the facility continues to be resource-challenged, and my office has been working with DCA to look for private management options for the theater. Last fall, the General Services Department issued a Request for Proposals to solicit bids for a private management firm to handle the operations and maintenance. Unfortunately, there were no responses to the RFP especially given the large amount of capital costs needed to bring the theater to modern standards, including upgrading ADA, restrooms, sound, and other facility improvements.

The Mayor's 2017-18 Proposed Budget includes a line item to complete engineering and historic assessment studies, however, we anticipate the need for additional bond funding for capital improvements during the 2017-18 fiscal year. For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Warner Grand Theatre be included in the MICLA Program for the 2017-18 year.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

JOE BUSCAINO
Councilmember, 15th District