# City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development

# STAFF REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION REQUESTING DEVELOPER DESIGNATION JULY 9, 2024

#### I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION AND OVERVIEW

Project Name: **DOUBLE DOOR THEATER** 

Applicant Name: Double Door Liquors 2.5 LLC

Project Address: 1050 W Wilson Ave

Ward and Alderman: 46 - CLAY

Community Area: UPTOWN

Redevelopment Project Area: WILSON YARD

Requested Action: TIF Developer Designation

Proposed Project: Restoration of the historic Wilson Theater building into the

new home of the Double Door Theater which was an iconic

music venue in Wicker Park for almost 25 years.

Goal of Project: Reoccupation of a 115-year-old building in the Uptown

Historic District that has been vacant for more than a decade. The Project will provide entertainment, job opportunities

and a tuition-free after school music program.

TIF Assistance: \$5,000,000

#### **II. PROPERTY DESCRIPTION**

Address: 1050 W Wilson Ave

Location: The project area is generally bounded by WEST

LAWRENCE AVENUE AND WEST LELAND AVENUE on the north, NORTH CLARENDON

AVENUE on the east, WEST MONTROSE AVENUE on the south, and NORTH RACINE AVENUE AND NORTH MAGNOLIA AVENUE on the west.

Tax Parcel Numbers: 14-17-209-034-0000

Land Area: Approximately **0.15** acres

Current Use: Vacant three-story building that was deemed to be in fair

condition in 2012 but had since deteriorated greatly.

Current Zoning: PD 1329

Proposed Zoning: PD 1329

Environmental Condition: Currently under review by 2FM.

#### III. BACKGROUND

Double Door, known as the CBGB's of Chicago, was a live performance venue that began in 1994 in the Wicker Park neighborhood and hosted the best in local, regional, national, and international music for nearly 25 years. Double Door also featured prominently in numerous television shows and films, including the 2000 feature film High Fidelity. The development team intends to replicate this success at its new location in the restored Wilson Theater.

The Wilson Theater opened in 1909 as a 900-seat theater. In 1919 it was converted to a bank and functioned as such before closing in 2012. The building sits at the corner of Wilson and Broadway, a key intersection in the Uptown Historic District. The property was acquired by the developer in February 2021.

#### IV. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT TEAM

**Development Entity:** Double Door Liquors 2.5 LLC is the entity created by Sean Mulroney to carry out this project. Sean is a musician and the owner and founder of the original Double Door Theater in Wicker Park. Sean created Double Door to fill a niche between small venues with capacity of around 100 and larger venues with capacity above 1,000. Double Door was committed to having the best sound, lights, and production of any club its size in the country as well as dressing rooms for each performer. This approach will likewise be the foundation for Double Door's new location in Uptown.

#### **Consultants:**

Architect
Barker/Nestor
600 W Cermak Rd, Ste 3C
Chicago, IL 60616

General Contractor
Synergy Construction Group
2037 W Carroll Ave
Chicago, IL 60612

#### V. PROPOSED PROJECT

**Project Overview**: The Double Door, an iconic music venue in Wicker Park for almost 25 years, will reopen as anchor in landmark Uptown Square Landmark District. Restoration of the historic Wilson Theater will activate a long vacant building on a key commercial intersection in Uptown. The Double Door will also open a tuition free after school music program in partnerships with Uplift High School, The Peoples Music School, and Black Ensemble Theatre.

A site plan, floor plans and elevation are provided as exhibits to this report.

#### **Environmental Features:**

#### VI. FINANCIAL STRUCTURE

Project is being financed by a mix of Developer equity, a Small Business Administration loan, an Adopt-A-Landmark Grant and the TIF funds. The \$5,000,000 in TIF funds represents 48.3% of the \$10,352,175 budget.

The TIF funds will be provided at 30%/60%/90%/100% completion milestones. The Developer will be required to continuously operate the theater and after school program throughout a five year compliance period.

The following table identifies the sources and uses of funds.

#### **Sources and Uses of Funds**

SOURCES OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	% TOTAL
Equity	\$1,587,660	15.3%
Debt (bank)	\$3,639,515	35.2%
TIF	\$5,000,000	48.3%
Adopt-A-Landmark	\$125,000	1.2%
<b>Total Sources</b>	\$10,352,175	100%

USES OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	\$SF of BUILDING
Hard Costs	\$8,584,506	572.30
Soft Costs	\$1,767,669	117.85
Total Uses	\$10.352.175	

\*Gross Building Area 15,000 SF

#### VII. PUBLIC BENEFITS

The proposed project will provide the following public benefits.

**Property Taxes:** The project will expand the tax base because the investment in the property will result in an increase in its assessed value.

#### **Environmental Features:**

**Permanent Jobs:** The project is estimated to generate **60** permanent jobs. The department's workforce development specialists will work with the developer on job training and placement.

Construction Jobs: The project will produce 40 temporary construction jobs.

Affirmative Action: The developer will comply with the requirements of Chicago's affirmative action ordinance, which requires contract participation of 26% by minority-owned business enterprises (MBEs) and 6% by woman-owned business enterprises (WBEs). The developer has provided notification of the proposed project, by certified mail, to several associations of minority and women contractors. A sample version of the letter and copies of the post office receipts for the certified letters are presented as exhibits to this report.

**City Residency:** The developer will comply with the requirements of Chicago's city residency ordinance, which requires that at least half of all construction-worker hours be filled by Chicago residents. The developer will also comply with the requirement that all construction jobs are paid the prevailing wage.

#### VIII. COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Alderperson CLAY endorses the project and has provided a letter of support (see exhibits for copy). The following community institutions and organizations have endorsed the project: UPLIFT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL, BLACK ENSEMBLE THEATER, THE PEOPLE'S MUSIC SCHOOL, AND UPTOWN UNITED. (See exhibits for copies of support letters).

#### IX. CONFORMANCE WITH REDEVELOPMENT AREA PLAN

The proposed project is in the **WILSON YARD** Tax Increment Financing Redevelopment Project Area. The proposed project will satisfy the following goals of the area's redevelopment plan:

• Encourage the preservation and rehabilitation of retail and commercial businesses, institutional uses, and architecturally and/or historically significant buildings and districts

The implementation strategy for achieving the plan's goals envisions the need to provide TIF financial assistance for the restoration of THE HISTORIC WILSON THEATER INTO THE NEW HOME OF THE DOUBLE DOOR THEATER. The proposed project also conforms to the plan's land use map, which calls for COMMERCIAL development at the subject site.

#### X. CONDITIONS OF ASSISTANCE

If the proposed resolution is approved by the CDC, DPD will negotiate a redevelopment agreement with the developer. The redevelopment agreement will incorporate the parameters of the proposed project as described in this staff report.

It is DPD policy that no business will be conducted with a development entity whose any principal has outstanding municipal debts (such as unpaid parking tickets, unpaid water bills, unpaid business licenses, and others), is in arrears of child support payments, or who is a debtor in bankruptcy, a defendant in a legal action for deficient performance, a respondent in an administrative action for deficient performance, or a defendant in any criminal action.

Closing will not occur before the City Council has approved the redevelopment, the developer has obtained all necessary City approvals including zoning and building permits, and the developer has presented proof of financing. The documents will include a development timetable.

#### XI. RECOMMENDATION

The Department of Planning and Development has thoroughly reviewed the proposed project, the qualifications of the development team, the financial structure of the project, its need for public assistance, its public benefits, and the project's conformance with the redevelopment area plan, and DPD recommends that the CDC recommend to the City Council the designation of Double Door Liquors 2.5 LLC as Developer for the restoration of THE HISTORIC WILSON THEATER INTO THE NEW HOME OF THE DOUBLE DOOR THEATER at 1050 W Wilson Ave.

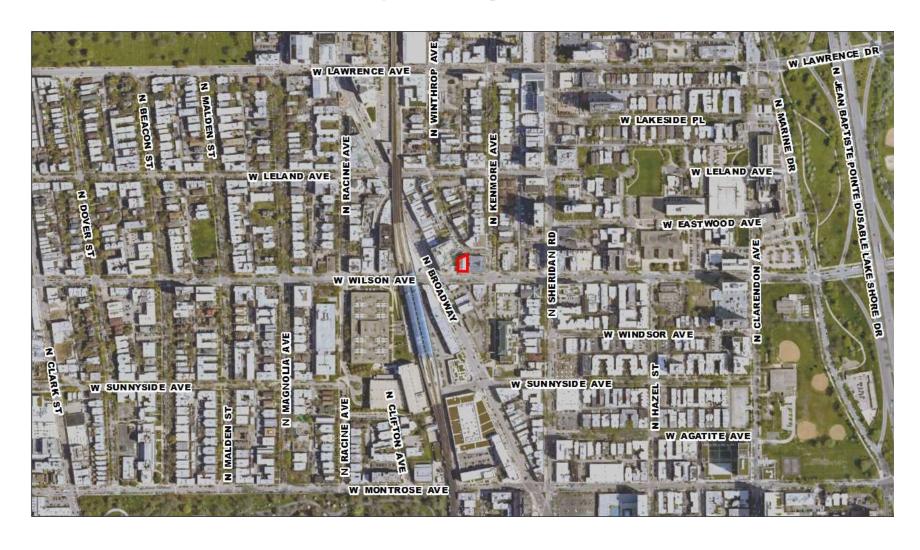
### **EXHIBITS**

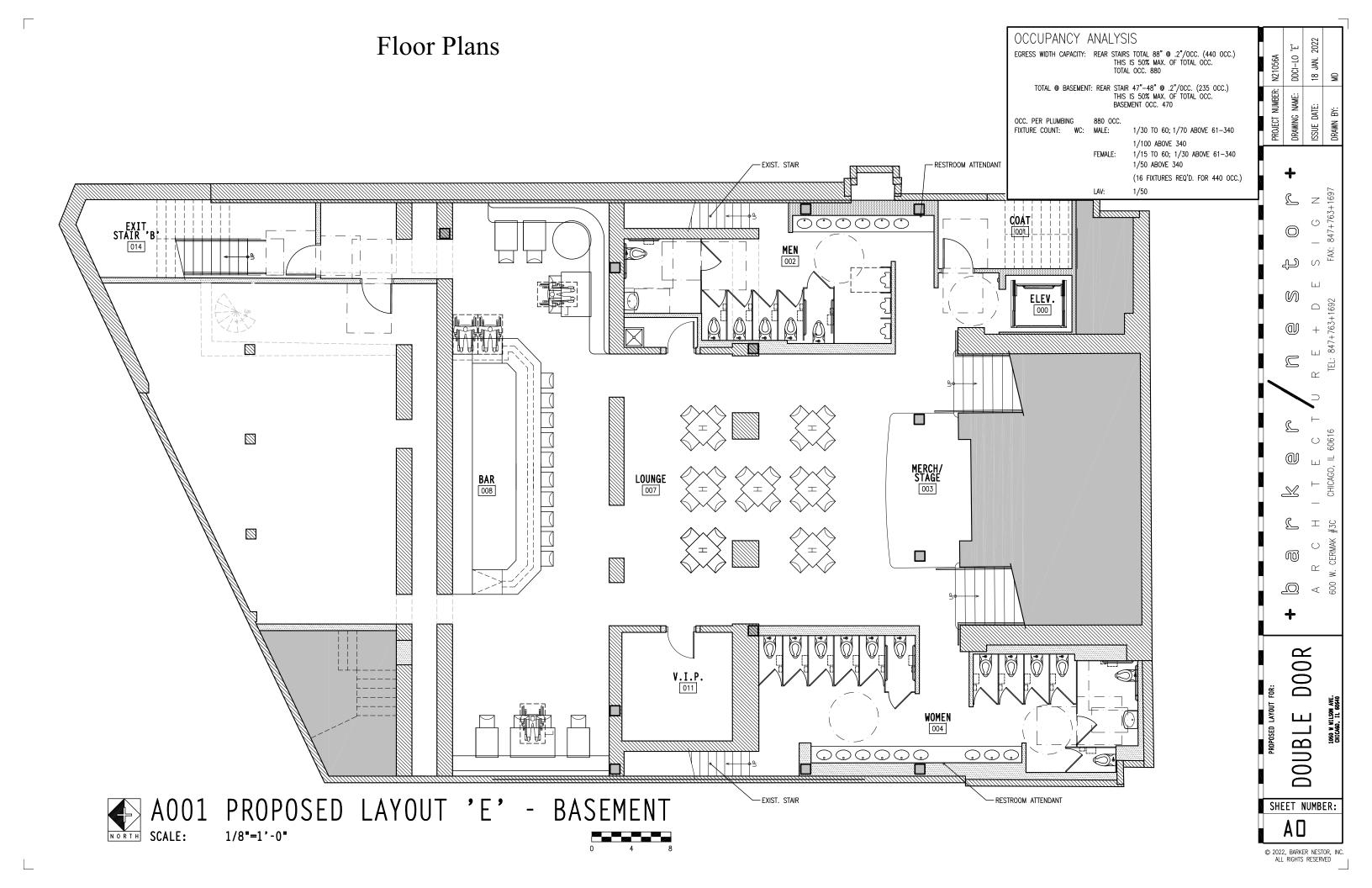
Redevelopment Area Map
Neighborhood Map or Aerial
Floor Plans
Rendering
Sample M/WBE Letter
Copies of M/WBE Certified Letter Receipts
Letters of Support

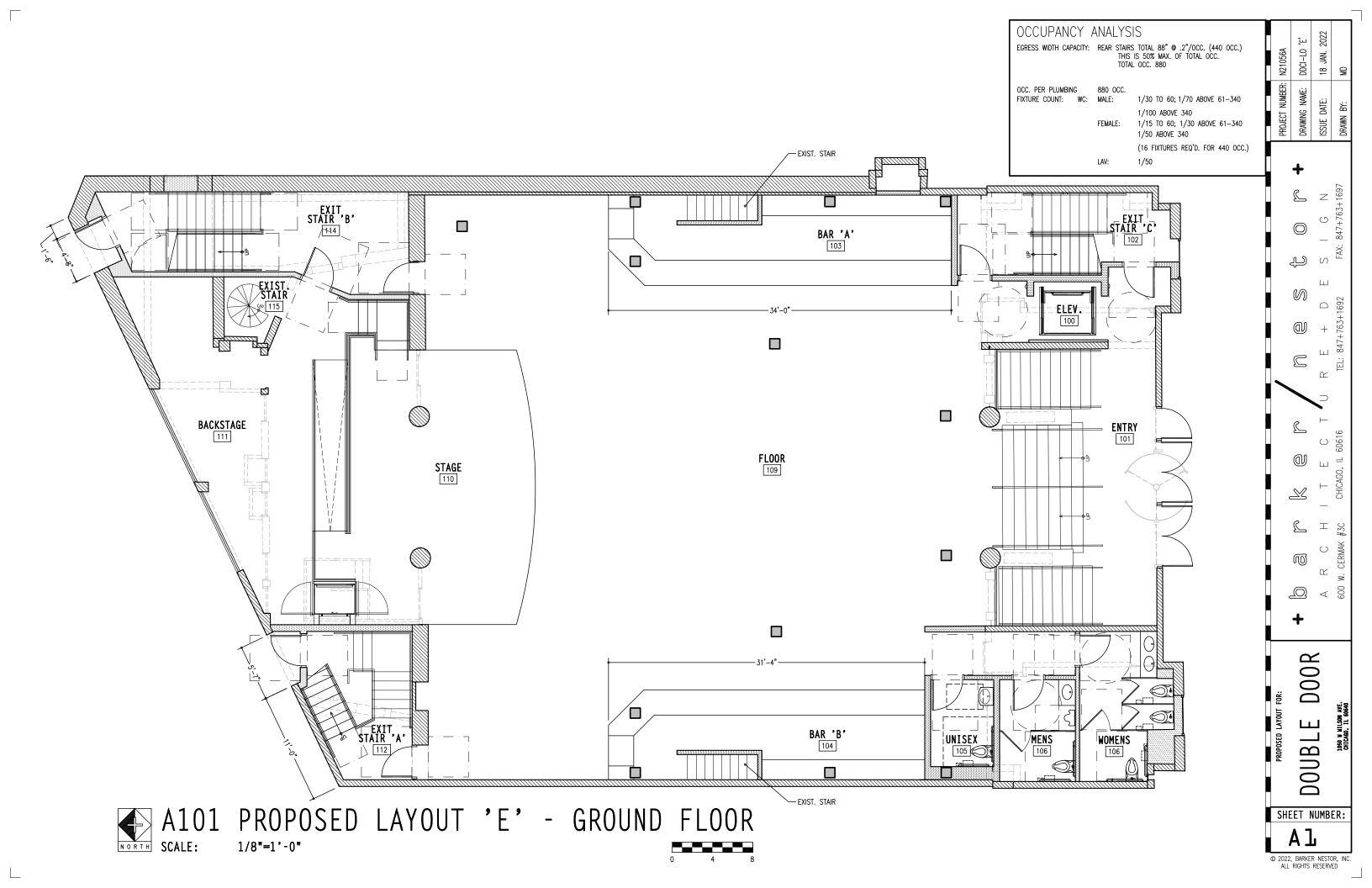
## Redevelopment Area Map

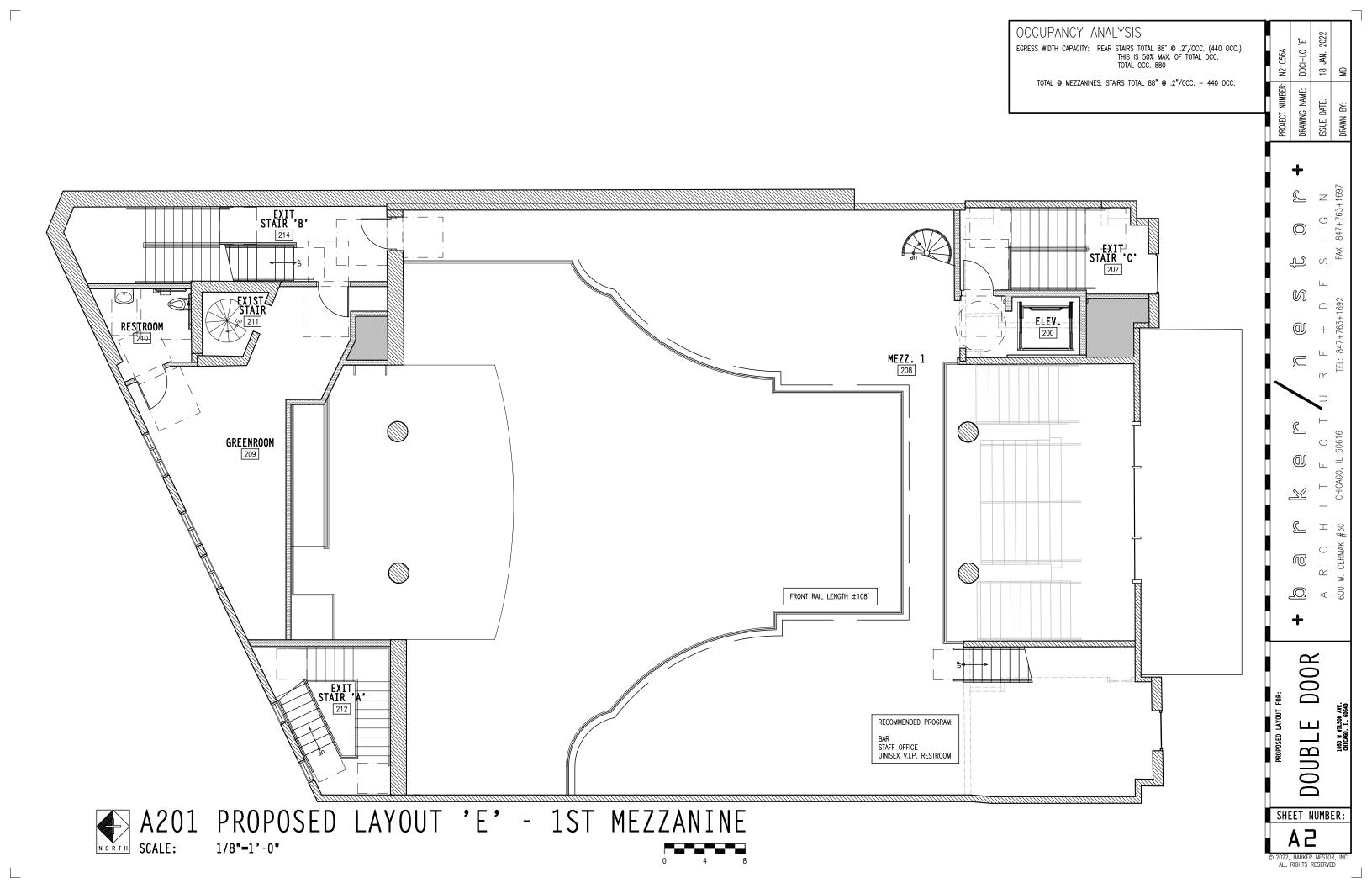


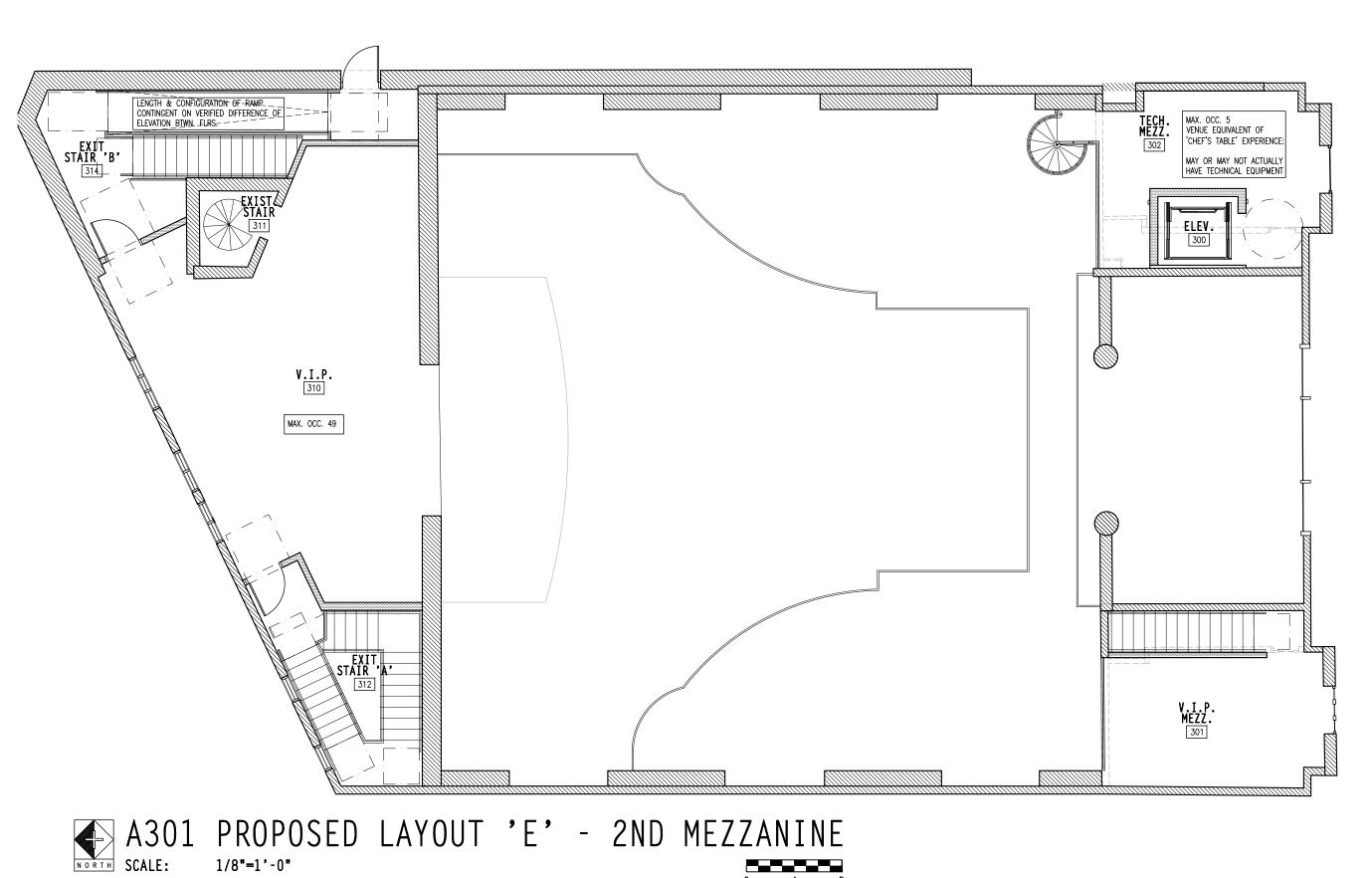
## Neighborhood Map or Aerial







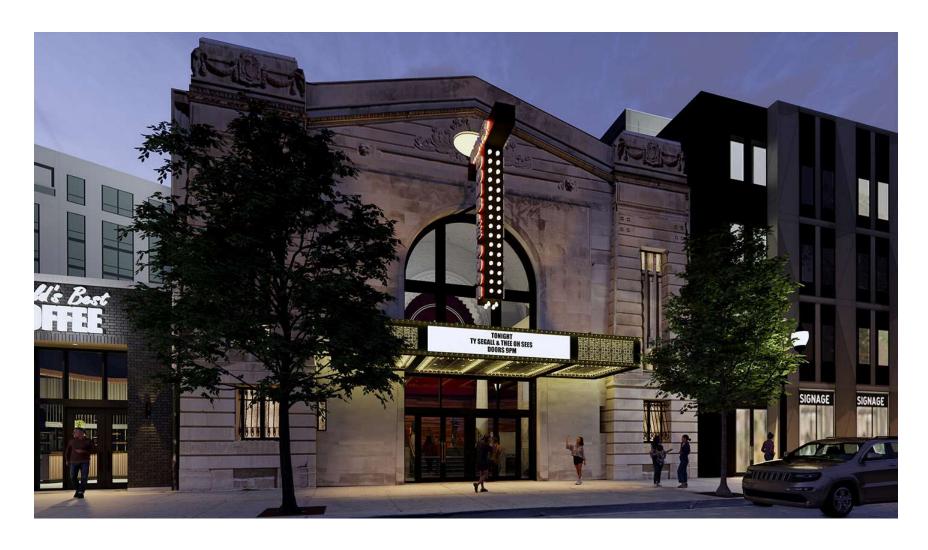




DDCI-LO 'E' 18 JAN. 2022 N21056A D 1692 C 60616 #3C  $\bigcirc$ A 600 DOOR DOUBLE SHEET NUMBER: EА

1/8"=1'-0"

## Rendering



#### Sample M/WBE Letter



2037 West Carroll Street | Chicago, IL | 60612 Office: 312 243 3700 | Fax: 312 243 3701 | www.syn-grp.com

July 3, 2024

#### To whom it may concern:

Synergy Construction Group ("SCG") is pleased to announce the redevelopment of the property located at 1050 W Wilson Ave, Chicago, Illinois (the "Project"). The property of a standalone building originally built as a theater in 1909. This will be the new home for the Double Door Theater. The Project is required by the City of Chicago to meet or exceed minority business enterprise (MBE) participation of 26 percent and women business enterprise (WBE) participation of six percent on construction.

SCG has been chosen as the general contractor. Once SCG has finalized the scope of the renovation, a project budget and project schedule will be provided. The Project will require participation of trades such as masonry, carpentry, electrical, mechanical, plumbing, roofing, and others.

If you know of a company or companies interested in bidding on the project, please provide the contact person, organization name, and contact information, MBE or WBE certification, and trade to me so I can reach out to meet with representatives of interested companies to present the project budget, construction schedule, and share project bid documents.

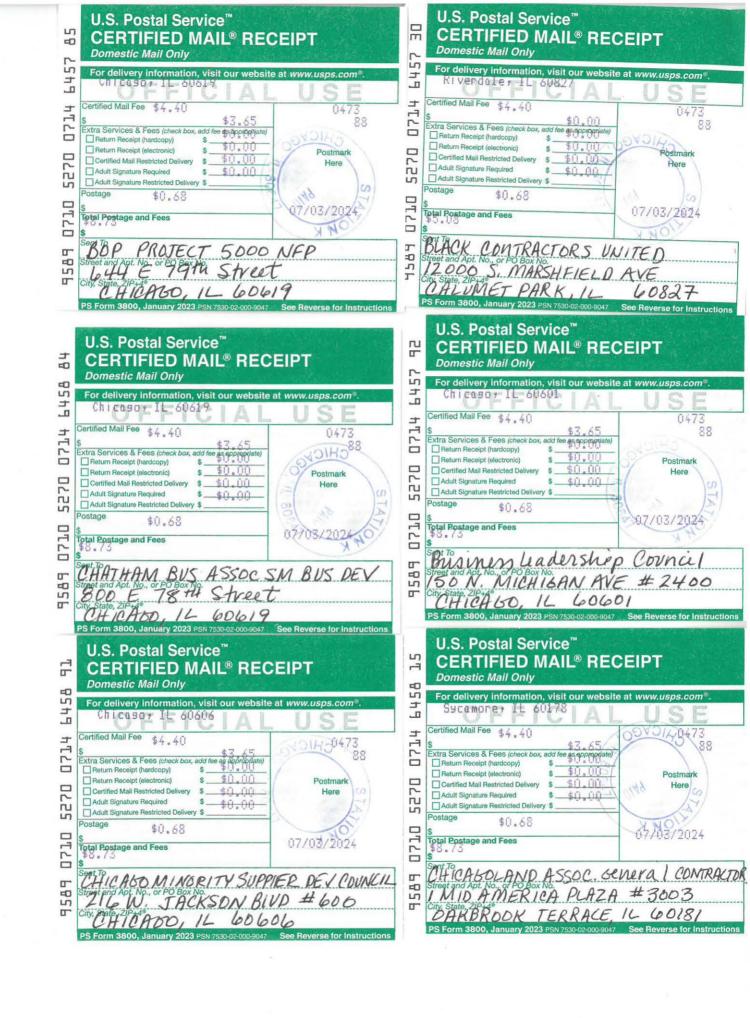
SCG is requesting that you make your member companies aware of this exciting project so that they may submit bids for appropriate subcontracting opportunities.

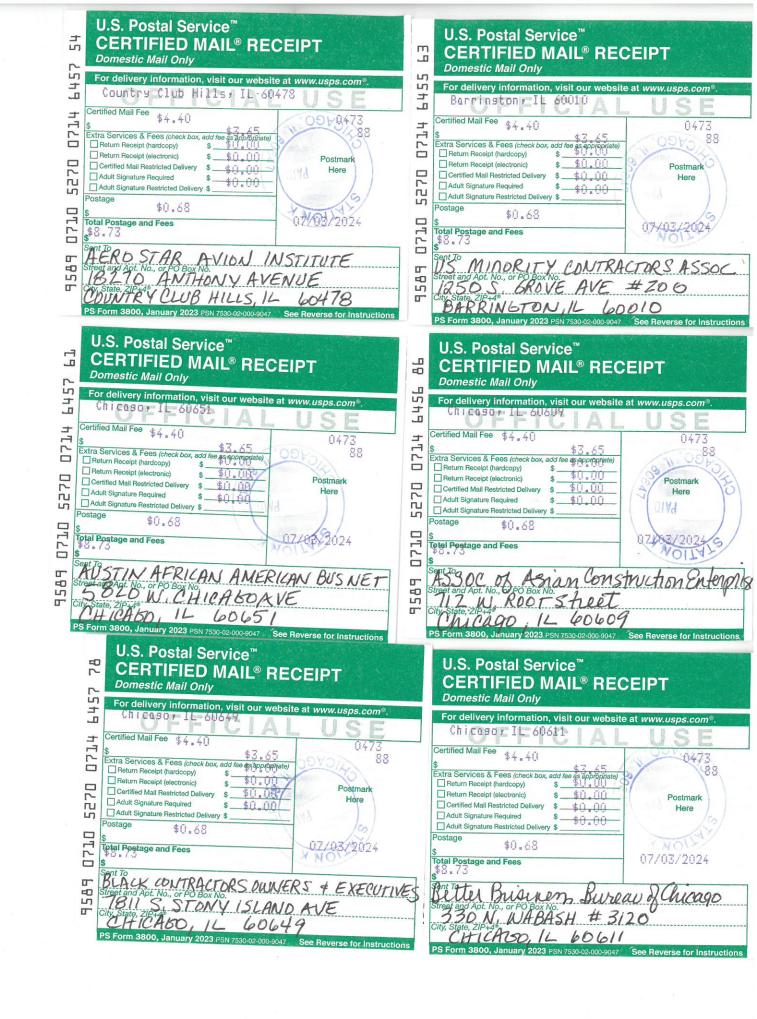
Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

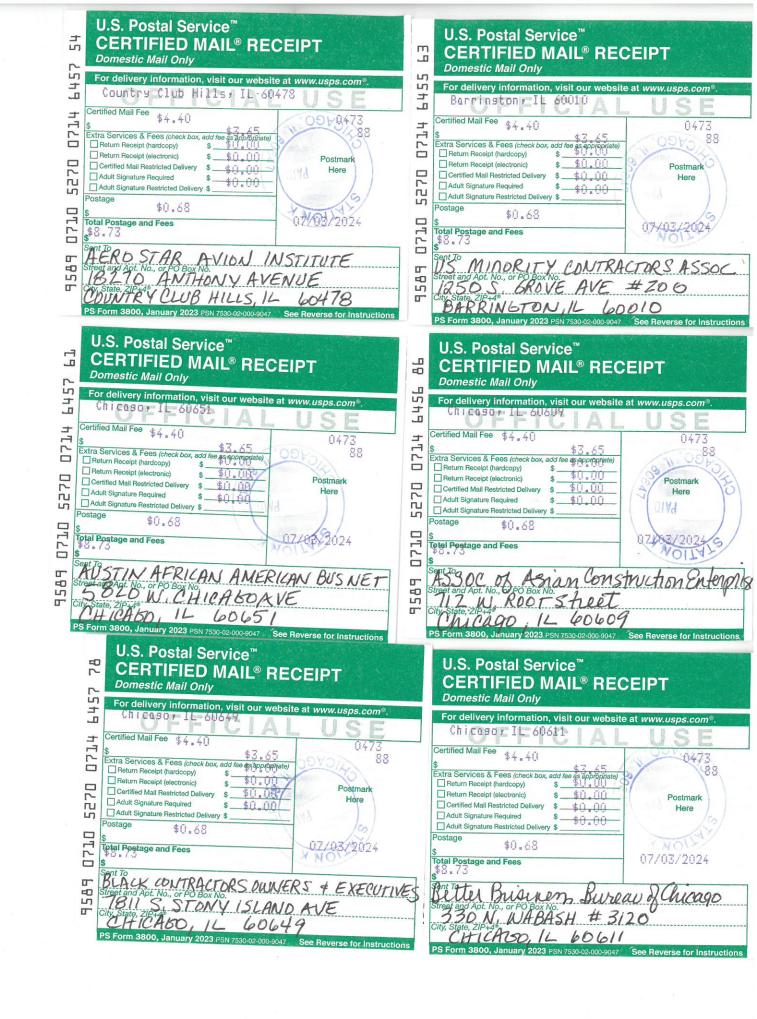
Sincerely,

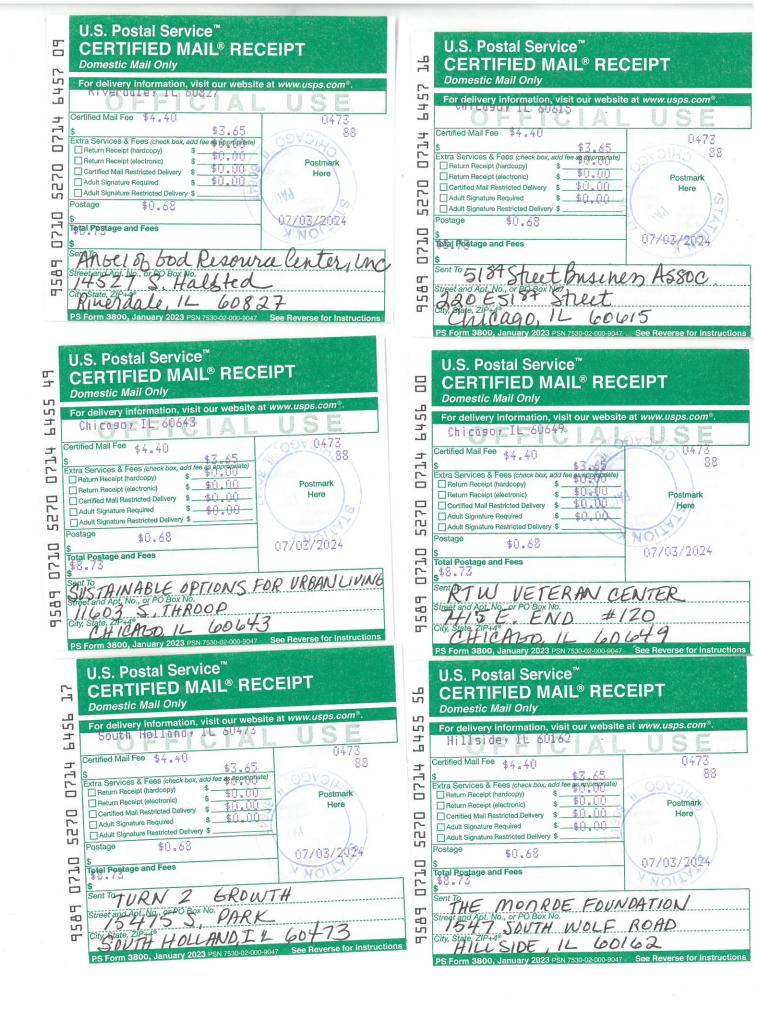
Jason Nicks Senior Estimator jnicks@syn-grp.com Synergy Construction Group

# Copies of M/WBE Certified Letter Receipts





















## Letters of Support



#### UPTOWN'S EARLY COLLEGE STEAM HIGH SCHOOL

February 13, 2024

Commissioner Ciere Boatright Department of Planning and Development 121 N LaSalle Street Room 1000 Chicago, IL 60602

Re: Double Door Theater, 1050 W Wilson

Dear Commissioner,

As Principal of Uplift Community High School, I am writing this letter in support of the Double Door Theater's submission to the Chicago Recovery Plan Grant for the proposed redevelopment of the historic Wilson Theater. I have met Sean Mulroney, and he has discussed his project in detail with my staff and I.

Sean is working on reopening the old Wilson Theater as the Double Door Theater. As part of this project, Double Door is opening a tuition free after-school program for kids in our neighborhood. UCHS is just a block away from the Double Door and this close proximity has led us to begin a prospective collaboration. The after-school program we hope to be part of will have a campus style curriculum, teaching our students musical performance, sound and lighting production as well as recording and remix production. Students will be able to utilize both our school and the Double Door as well as collaborating with the People's Music School and the Black Ensemble Theater. This incredible collection of arts-based institutions will give the students a wide array of possibilities to pursue and a way to find their passion.

For all of these reasons, I encourage the Department of Planning and Development to look closely at this project and all that it will bring to Uptown and the 46<sup>th</sup> Ward. Please reach out to me if you have any questions or I can provide more clarity on our proposed partnership.

Sincerely,

Tyrese L. Graham, EdD

Tyuse & Graham



900 West Wilson Avenue, Chicago, IL Main Office (773) 534-2875 Fax (773) 534-2876



BLACK ENSEMBLE THEATER 4450 N Clark St Chicago IL 60640

www.blackensemble.org

August 16, 2023

FOUNDER & CEO
JACKIE TAYLOR
Black Ensemble Theater

CHAIRMAN
TYRONNE STOUDEMIRE
Hyatt Hotels Corporation

VICE CHAIRMAN
ALAN M. BELL
Charity & Associates PC

TREASURER

JASON STAPLETON

Bank of America

SECRETARY
HELEN SHILLER
Chicago Alderman, Retired

RON REDD

BMO Capital Markets

ANDREA ZOPP
Cleveland Avenue Foundation

JAMES BRYAN Old World Industries Vice-Chairman, Retired

CHARLES C, CALLOWAY, JR. Chapman and Cutler LLP

CHANELLE BELL Teach for America Greater Chicago-Northwest Indiana

PATRAICK HENDRICKS West Side United Commissioner
Department of Planning and Development
121 N LaSalle Street
Room 1000
Chicago, IL 60602

Re: Double Door Theater, 1050 W Wilson

Dear Commissioner,

I have had the pleasure of meeting with Sean Mulroney on several occasions regarding the Double Door Theater Project. Double Door is located in the Uptown Historical District and is very near the Black Ensemble Theater. Sean's plans for the property will be an outstanding contribution to the Uptown community especially with its dedication to serving disenfranchised children helping them to strengthen and transform through the outstanding benefits of music and performance.

These are things that I pride myself in providing through the Black Ensemble Theater and will continue to provide through our expansion project. Sean and I have begun to discuss ways in which we can collaborate in our efforts to impact the community.

For those reasons, I am writing in support of Double Door's submission to the Chicago Recovery Plan Grant for the proposed redevelopment of the historic Wilson Theater. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Jackie Taylor Founder/CEO

Black Ensemble Theater



August 15, 2023

To whom it may concern,

I write on behalf of The People's Music School in support of Sean Mulroney and the team at The Double Door in their pursuit of a Chicago Recovery Plan Community Development Grant. As a Chicago community music institution with decades of history in the Uptown neighborhood, we at The People's Music School are looking forward to counting The Double Door as one of our neighbors and partners in strengthening the arts and culture landscape of Uptown and in providing transformative opportunities to Chicago youth.

Sean and I have been in exciting discussions about opportunities for our organizations to partner in providing high-quality, tuition-free music education opportunities to underserved students in Uptown and beyond. Our organizations are complementary in network, resources, expertise, and genre. We are glad to have found a partner in Sean, and we are optimistic that The Double Door will be a positive addition to Uptown's cultural and educational opportunities.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions about our support.

All best.

Miriam Owens

President and Chief Executive Officer

The People's Music School

miriam.owens@peoplesmusicschool.org

312-973-0093

Commissioner
Department of Planning and Development
121 N LaSalle Street
Room 1000
Chicago, IL 60602

Re: Double Door Theater, 1050 W Wilson

Dear Commissioner,

I am writing this letter in support of Double Door's submission to the Chicago Recovery Plan Grant for the proposed redevelopment of the historic Wilson Theater. I have met Sean Mulroney and he has discussed his project in detail with my staff.

Sean is working on reopening the old Wilson Theater as the Double Door Theater. Double Door operated in Wicker Park for almost 25 years and was an anchor and economic driver in that neighborhood.

Uptown is a community that is growing, and Double Door will be a welcome partner in that growth. In addition to the people that Double Door will bring to Uptown, this project will employ over 60 people. Just as exciting is that in addition to the performance that will be held there, Double Door is planning to open a companion children's school with focus on musical instrument instruction, production classes, recording and electronic/remix instruction. This school will be available tuition free to children in our neighborhood.

I encourage the Department of Planning and Development to look closely at this project and all that it will bring to Uptown and the  $46^{th}$  Ward. Let me know if you have any questions.

Angela Clay

46th Ward Alderperson

August 15, 2023

Commissioner Maurice Cox Department of Planning and Development 121 N LaSalle Street Room 1000 Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Commissioner Cox.

I am writing to express my support for 1050 W Wilson Avenue Double Door's submission to the Chicago Recovery Plan Grant for the proposed redevelopment of the historic Wilson Avenue Theater for us as an entertainment and educational event space at Wilson Avenue and North Broadway.

Uptown United's mission is to build a strong, unified business environment; facilitate economic development; and strengthen community—all to nurture a diverse, vibrant, thriving, and strong Uptown. We achieve our mission through marketing, advocacy, and technical assistance, facilitating economic development through smart urban planning, arts development, and business attraction.

The proposed project will transform a key location within the Uptown Entertainment District. Located at the same intersection as the Wilson CTA Red/Purple Line Station, the historic Wilson Avenue Theater building has been vacant for over ten years, and its lack of tenancy contributes to the inactivity of this transit-served location. The construction of the new Wilson CTA station and addition of a Purple Line stop gives this location the ability to draw large crowds adding to the vibrancy of the aspiring Uptown Entertainment District.

The proposed redevelopment will not only add a key entertainment venue to the Uptown Entertainment District but will also provide educational space for those interested in performing arts. The site's location allows for a strong partnership and synergy with both Uplift High School and Truman College. A renovated Wilson Avenue Theater housing the Double Door at 1050 W Wilson Avenue will give nearby students the opportunity to be trained on performing arts equipment and technology daily.

We encourage the Department of Planning and Development to consider 1050 W Wilson Avenue Double Door redevelopment project for the Chicago Recovery Plan Grant. Please do not hesitate to contact me with additional questions.

Regards,

Executive Director Uptown United

arah Wilson



August 18, 2023

Sean Mulroney Owner-Manager Double Door Chicago 1050 West Wilson Avenue Chicago, IL 60640

Re: Letter of Support

Dear Mr. Mulroney:

On behalf of Voice of the People in Uptown, a grassroots and tenant-led affordable housing organization, we would like to welcome you and the Double Door team to the community. We are very excited for your move to your new locale on West Wilson Avenue, barely two blocks from our offices, and within a half-mile of each of our 14 Voice-sponsored rental properties.

Voice has for more than fifty years led the good fight against wholesale displacement in Uptown, and for preserving our racial and economic diversity through "Development Without Displacement". The renovation of your new home, a historic theater, represents just that. The Double Door's storied history, its community reputation, and its displacement from Wicker Park is meaningful to us. Moreover, we have been excited to hear of your current interests in supporting, and even leading, civic and non-profit efforts here in Uptown.

We look forward to visiting your first-rate entertainment venue and engaging with you as community partners. Let us know how we can help.

Sincerely,

Michael Rohrbeck Executive Director

Voice of the People in Uptown

Michael Christian

cc. Julie Darling, Business Manager/Consultant