

Pachota – 08/29/2024 – Council Action/Discussion – Add to 09/10/2024 Council Agenda

Topic: Venice Theatre Sponsorship

1. To discuss a request received from the Venice Theatre to sponsor their 75th anniversary, for \$5,075
2. Request for council to approve expense of \$5,000 which is the cap by policy, with the remaining \$75 to be contributed to the city by the Pachota Family to cover the full cost.
3. Possibly authorize the mayor to provide letters of support and represent the city in promotional videos for fundraising purposes at his discretion.

Venice theatre

Making a dramatic impact on all stages of life

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August 29, 2024

Dear Mayor Pachota:

Thank you for your call and reaffirming the city's interest in supporting Venice Theatre, the largest community theatre in Florida celebrating its 75th Diamond Anniversary Season. We are grateful to you for helping us to expand Venice Theatre's mission to make a dramatic impact on all stages of life throughout *all* of Southwest Florida, in the heart of the arts of Sarasota County.

Request:

Venice Theatre, the largest community theatre in Florida, respectfully requests the City of Venice sponsor *The Torch Bearers* by George Kelly, Venice "Little" Theatre's very first production in 1950. Venice Theatre's 75th Diamond Season is the perfect time for the City of Venice to become a Show Sponsor at \$5,075.

The City of Venice's \$5,075 grant would not only support licensing rights and lights, sets and sounds, costumes and creative work done by thousands of volunteers, guest artists, and staff, but also local businesses and families who depend upon Venice Theatre for their own well-being. First staged at the Venice Airport, *The Torch Bearers* holds a special place in the historic timeline of the City of Venice, its economic development, attraction to visitors and homeowners, and quality of life.

Venice Theatre would be delighted to hold seats for city council members and officials, staff, and volunteers for September 20 through October 13's performances of *The Torch Bearers*, a three-act, character-driven comedy of manners about polite society in 1922 mounting a play and launching a Little Theatre Movement in its community. Quite literally Venice Theatre's origin story. Venice Theatre also supports its valued guests and patrons with a pre-show gathering/celebration venue and tour of its historic three-building campus.

In addition, Venice Theatre has built a \$2.5M "Safety First" Naming Opportunity into its construction plans for the Jervey Theatre restoration, its mainstage devastated by Hurricane Ian in 2022. This Next Act Capital package provides for a sprinkler system with booster pump, alarm system, rolling fire doors, extinguishers, signage, roof anchors, HVAC, and some additional lighting for our patrons, students, actors, instructors, and artists for greater security over the next 75 seasons. Venice Theatre will share more information as its partnership with the City of Venice continues to flourish.

Thank you for considering "playing your part" in the lives of our artists, students, actors, volunteers, staff, and patrons and cultivate a lasting bond with the second-largest community theatre in the nation as it turns 75 years old. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,

Camille Cline
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