

July 29, 2017

New York State Council on the Arts
Arts & Cultural Facilities Improvement Program
300 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10010

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the St. George Theatre's request for a \$1.5 million restoration grant that will help preserve the historic elements of the 89 year-old theatre while repairing and upgrading these elements for a new, 21st century audience.

The St. George Theatre is a cultural hub for Staten Island's nearly 500,000 residents and for visitors from the other four Boroughs, as well as tourists nationally and internationally. The theatre has featured performances by entertainment superstars, as well as shows for students and local community audiences. They also hold a free summer outreach program that teaches music, dance and literacy to children.

Given the importance of the theatre to the continued renaissance in St. George, and in recognition of its educational and cultural impact on thousands of children and families, I believe this grant will help maintain the architectural integrity, the exquisitely detailed finishes and murals that make this "movie palace" an enchanting place for young and old alike. These elements of the theatre's interior are seriously eroded and in need of restoration.

If I can be of any further assistance, please contact Ed Burke at my office at 718-816-2231, or EBurke@statenilandusa.com. Once again, thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


James S. Oddo

