

The Honorable Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Mayor, Baltimore City
City Hall, Room 250
100 North Holliday Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Mayor Rawlings-Blake:

I am writing to you as one who has loved and studied the theaters of Baltimore for over 40 years. I have authored several books on the history of theaters including two on Baltimore theaters. I have seen too many of our great theaters disappear. In my lifetime we have lost the Stanley, the Royal, the Grand, Ford's, the Century, and countless neighborhood theaters. Now, the Senator, one of the finest movie theaters in the country, is in danger. Not only was it designed by one of the great theater architects in the country, John J. Zink – a native son of Baltimore – but it has been honored by actors and directors as the perfect venue for film premieres. Tom Kiefaber has lovingly nurtured it through a stormy period leading up to the present critical time.

I am very anxious about the future of the Senator as it awaits a final decision by the Baltimore Development Corporation. As far as I know the BDC does not have any expertise in the preservation of historic theaters. Such expertise is absolutely crucial for the review of proposals concerning the Senator's future. I hope that you will give your support to adding someone with experience in historic theater preservation to the BDC board. This can only help to make the final decision a good one for the theater and for the City of Baltimore.

I have large files on the histories of most of the theaters in Baltimore, and if I can be of any assistance in the future, please feel free to call on me.

Wishing you a happy and successful administration, I remain

Sincerely,

Robert K. Headley, Ph.D.

cc: Ms. Kathleen Kotarba
Mr. Johns Hopkins
Ms Laura Perkins