



PRESERVATION
MARYLAND

March 19, 2010

The Honorable Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
City of Baltimore
City Hall, Room 250
100 N. Holiday Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

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Dear Mayor Rawlings-Blake:

Thank you for the City's efforts to acquire and preserve the historic Senator Theatre. An important Baltimore City landmark, it is the most complete and best example of an Art Deco movie theatre in the city. It further serves as an anchor of the Belvedere Square business community.

Preservation Maryland understands the Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC), with the assistance of its' RFP Advisory Panel, is poised to make a recommendation between two proposals, which would have the theatre continue as a full-time movie house or become a performing arts center. We believe either of these ideas are viable projects that could be successfully implemented to ensure the continued use of the historic theatre.

It is our hope that that a qualified historic theatre preservation consultant is retained for the selection process. Preservation Maryland believes it important that an objective, historic theatre preservation professional be included in the decision making process. The exterior of the Senator has been landmarked by the city and designation of the interior is pending. Along with the likely use of historic tax credits by either proposal, it is imperative that the redevelopment of the theatre preserve its unique historic features.

Thanks again for your support of the preservation of the Senator Theatre. We look forward to working with your administration on future historic preservation projects.

Sincerely,

Tyler Gearhart
Preservation Maryland