

Subject: Proposed theater
From: White, Mary T. (mary.t.white@wright.edu)
To: greensborovtzing@yahoo.com;
Date: Monday, November 16, 2015 11:08 AM

Hello,

I have been following the theater debate at a distance, dismayed at the contentiousness, unsure of the validity of the claims as I can't yet imagine the impact, positive or negative, of this facility in the future of Greensboro.

But I do think that if this building is to have a successful future, it needs to be proportionate to the town. What does that mean in a rural village occupied, I am old, by four billionaires? My concern is the economic disparities represented in and around Greensboro. These are, in my view, an increasing source of social tension in the village, as they are worldwide. Greensboro has worked hard to overcome summer and year-round population divides: white collar vs blue collar, local vs flatlander, disparities of education, resources, opportunities, lifestyle, and more, but these tensions remain, as evidenced in the debate surrounding this project. How will this building, its purposes, and its opportunity costs contribute to social cohesion, or further existing divides, in the wider Greensboro community?

I do not have a strong opinion about what this building should look like, but I do feel the process governing the whole project has been less than inclusive, less than comprehensive in its impact assessment, and the fact that it is funded by one major donor is problematic. From what little I know, this funder has done so in good faith, trying to provide something that will benefit the village. But he has done so without buy-in from villagers. The village is currently replete with demands for creative expression by artists, musicians, and theater in the summer months. For one well-funded initiative to attempt to dominate this arena is likely to foster tension among existing presenters, if not ruin them. I am already aware of negative sentiments toward the Mirror Theater leadership; to insist on a building plan without respecting the interests and concerns of local residents and cultural presenters is hazardous in the long term.

I don't want to see this project fail for lack of attention to the concerns of those on whom it will depend for its support. While such inclusion is long overdue, I would like to see a small group of local citizens, representing concerns of village residents, business, immediate neighbors, artists, musicians, and the Circus, be selected to work with the architect to devise the final building plans. Is that possible?

Many thanks,

Mary White

1152 Gebbie Rd.

.....
Mary T. White, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Community Health

Director, Division of Medical Humanities

Boonshoft School of Medicine

Wright State University

P.O. Box 927

Dayton, OH 45401-0927

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Subject: Mirror Theater hearing Nov 30, 2015
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Dear Members of the Development Review Board,

We are so glad the Development Review Board is offering us a chance to e application of the Greensboro Arts Alliance for their vastly expanded Mirro building is far larger than originally proposed. Considering that GAAR has than one hundred people, we feel that providing seating for three times th justify. We are concerned as well about the impacts of lighting the parkin environment. Finally, we worry about the divisions created by a plan that community.

Gail & Huyett Sangree
 Gail and Huyett Sangree
 summer residents at 185 Spahr Road in Greensboro

Nov. 30. 2015

Dear members of the Greensboro DRB,

I'm writing in support of the Mirror Theater project and the proposal for the roof and shed.

I'm a third generation resident of Greensboro and with my husband have raised to children here. I've been self employed, an employee, an employer as well as a volunteer during my life here, always involved with music.

Since my grandparent's time many changes have come to our community. This theater will be a positive change, bringing us together in new ways that I hope will entice our talented young people from Greensboro and surrounding communities to participate, work, have fun and perhaps even stay in this area. Change can be positive, development can be beneficial!

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Alice Ferron

Subject: re theatre
From: Heidi Lyman (hilyman@together.net)
To: greensborovt zoning@yahoo.com;
Date: Monday, November 16, 2015 10:50 AM

As suggested I am offering my view of the new theater proposed. Greensboro has always been attractive to artists, writers, intellectuals and other likeminded souls. My father often calling it Gods country.

My observation is that the town is growing along those lines, with circus smircus, the Inn next door, new fire house, and now a theater. I'm happy to see our area be attractive to such pursuits when I think of many unattractive alternatives and wish this enterprise success.

Sincerely, Heidi Lyman



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To Whom it May Concern:

I remember auditioning for a spot on a TV show when I was in elementary school. I lined up at the local college behind hundreds of other excited kids. Only one child from that huge group ended up in front of the camera. I'm sure no one is surprised to find out it was not me.

Thanks to the Greensboro Arts Alliance and Residency, kids in our area don't have to dream of being on stage. Nor do adults. They act, dance, and sing with professional actors, choreographers and directors in top notch performances close to home.

GAAR's philosophy of incorporating local talent in its productions fosters community while providing first class opportunities. As much as the acting experience, we treasure the friends we have made both within the local community and from across the country. In our lives, GAAR has built bridges and opened doors.

The prospect of a professional world class theater in Greensboro thrills me. A venue for local and international theater, music, and dance opens a world of moving and thought-provoking experiences to audiences and performers alike and enriches our community. I look forward to all the positive contributions to our community it will bring. I encourage folks to visit mirrorarts.org to learn more.

Alana Considine
Hardwick

To Whom it May Concern;

For a number of years I have been writing reviews for the Hardwick Gazette about all the arts in this area, and I have come to the conclusion that we are really living in a Golden Age of the arts in Vermont. There are so many creative people here who have a deep commitment to excellence that comes from loving what you are doing, whether in painting, photography, sculpture, music, theater, literature, circus, the crafts and food. We should be grateful to those whose generosity of spirit daily enriches our lives.

The Greensboro Arts Alliance and Residency is part of this wonderful, positive energy, for eight years bringing us great performances involving impressive local actors and actresses (including many children) that do a lot to build lasting community ties. The prospect of a new year-round theater that could serve many diverse groups besides GAAR is a gift of unprecedented magnitude and ought to be welcomed by all who care about our local arts. Greensboro has long been the birthplace and a magnet for dynamic, fascinating people, and more recently it has even gained national attention for Circus Smirkus, Jasper Hill Cheese and the Hill Farmstand Brewery.

Let us give our full support to this theater project, which will have many measurable benefits for everyone in Greensboro and the surrounding communities.

David K. Rodgers
East Craftsbury

Subject: Another Letter of Support
From: Charles McAteer (charlie@mirrorarts.org)
To: greensborovtzing@yahoo.com;
Cc: RHalpert@zclpc.com; sabra@mirrorarts.org;
Date: Sunday, November 29, 2015 9:32 PM

Hi Kristen,

We're forwarding this letter from Elizabeth St. Louis. We'll still have more tomorrow.

All best,

Charlie

On Nov 29, 2015, at 9:10 PM, elizabeth st. louis <nctc2951@hotmail.com> wrote:

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter to express my absolute support for the new theater coming to the wonderful town of Greensboro. I have lived in this area for my entire life...literally. I was born in Hardwick, went to school at both the elementary and high school there and have raised a family just a few miles from this quaint little town. My husband Tracy St.Louis has worked primarily around the Caspian lake for the entirety of his career. He attended the elementary school in Greensboro and high school at Hazen Union in Hardwick.

As we were raising our girls we were faced with many choices regarding what we could do for them and how important it was to make sure they had exposure to many different experiences. As a result of wanting this for the girls we had to decide that distance wasn't going to be a deterrent. This being said, I drove many hundreds of miles a year to get them to a plethora of lessons, games, jobs and, last but not least the many, many theatrical performances they were involved in. What we would have given to have had something like this beautiful theater right in our back yard!! The contributions a facility like this will bring to the local community will be immeasurable! Not to mention the fun that will be had by both the local and the summer residents as they get to be involved with and watch the performances!

I have watched over the years as our educational system has taken from our young people the creative outlets that children and teenagers need for a well rounded foundation to begin the daunting task of finding there way through an evermore complicated world. It is harder and harder for communities like Greensboro and Hardwick to afford the simple arts in their schools. This theater can bring exposure to many job opportunities such as, Acting, stage management, lighting technology, sound technology, set design and construction, costume design, videography, computer technology, entertainment and hospitality, planning and many other areas that could start a young person on their career path. Alcohol and drugs are very powerful draws today and we should be absolutely grateful that someone wants to bring such a valuable resource to this starving remote area.

I understand that change can be hard but, there is a country song by Tracy Lawrence that says it all!

"The South moves North, The North moves South,
A star is born, a star burns out.
The only thing that stays the same Is everything changes, everything changes."

We need to embrace the positive change, or we will be forced to accept the negative!

Sincerely,
Elizabeth St. Louis

28 November 2015

Support for the new theater for GAAR -

The new theater currently under construction for GAAR is an exciting opportunity to have a year-round theater arts program in the Northeast Kingdom. We are encouraged to see talented young adults such as Charlie and Lily McAteer choose to live and work here. A vital community needs to have a healthy diversity of age distribution, revitalizing not only the present but also providing a path to a healthy future. The theater supports their work and provides the space and opportunity to collaborate with other local talent throughout the year. The quality of GAAR productions continues to attract wider attention beyond the Greensboro area. It draws from surrounding elementary and high school students to perform in musical and dramatic productions.

We fully support the efforts of GAAR and the Mirror Theater Company. They are a collaborative group that deserves the community's support as well.

Sincerely,

Susan and Mike Coffey

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing in enthusiastic support of the Greensboro Arts Alliance and Residency's application to the Development Review Board for modifications to the Mirror Theater's design. Through the site planning process, GAAR has created an inspiring vision for a performing arts center that promises to bring economic, cultural, and educational benefits to Greensboro and surrounding communities.

Andrew Brown's incredibly generous gift to build and maintain the new theater has already begun to catalyze the local economy. One has to look no further than the face lift happening at Willey's to see how the business community is responding. The new theater has a tremendous multiplying effect by creating jobs, attracting visitors, and cultivating new markets for local producers.

Wonder & Wisdom is eager to partner with GAAR to engage the children and seniors we serve. For local kids in our after school enrichment program, the Mirror Theater opens up a year round performing space, staffed with resident artists eager to help children learn how to express their unique selves. For our Seniors Program, the Mirror Theater creates an opportunity for affordable matinees close to home, and for seniors to participate in inter-generational programming with school children.

Positive change takes place in small and large steps. Thank you GAAR and all who are helping to make Greensboro and our area a better place to live, work, learn, and play!

Jim Flint, Executive Director
Wonder & Wisdom

Hello, My name is Holly Bee. My daughter Daisy participated in the Greensboro Arts Alliance and Residency's Musical Theater Day Camp this past summer.

I have to say that GAAR was a life changer for my daughter. The staff were astonishing with my daughter and treated her with the utmost respect which helped her to shine in this particular role. As a VT resident, I can only say that bringing theater to a rural community only enriches a community and the residents who reside there. Supporting and building a community theater is a wise and sound decision. It will only support the stay local VT philosophy and boost the local economy:)

Dear Development Review Board,

I am writing in support of GAAR's request to add a cupola to the roof of their new theatre and to praise GAAR for investing in the Northeast Kingdom in such a tangible manner. Building a state-of-the-art theatre that is in concert with its environs shows GAAR's deep respect and commitment to the Greensboro community. Adding the cupola to their plans allows the theatre to mirror the neighboring Firehouse and historic architecture of the area while adhering to zoning codes, creating a more beautiful building.

As many have said throughout this process, GAAR's year-round venue will enrich the lives of children, adults, year-round residents, summer residents, and visitors from Vermont and beyond. By bringing together so many people from different parts of the community to create theatre and educational programs, GAAR strengthens the relationships between individuals and between organizations while simultaneously contributing to the creative economy of Greensboro.

I hope you will vote to support this aesthetic modification to the building plans.

Sincerely,

Eve Passeltiner

To Whom it May Concern:

I want to add my voice to those who have written eloquently in support of the Mirror Theater. I am a 70-plus-year summer resident of Greensboro. When I was a child there were many sports activities available, but aside from Miss Jean Simpson's productions in the very early years, there was no opportunity to engage in any artistic endeavor, either as a child or as an adult.

I believe the Greensboro Arts Alliance's activities over the past ten years have enriched the summer experience in Greensboro for both participants and audience members, summer people and year rounders. Now Greensboro is being presented with an extraordinary gift and I am one who welcomes it whole heartedly. I would like to express thanks for our wonderfully generous donor. Any town should count itself fortunate to be in our position.

Thank you.

Emilie Stuart

Dear Design Review Board,

First I want to thank you for all the hard work you do on behalf of the community. I personally have worked on a Design Review Board before and I know it can be important yet often thankless work. On behalf of all the staff at Circus Smirkus, thank you for all you do.

I am writing to ask that you approve GAAR's request to "raise the roof." I openly admit that my request is self-serving. However, it seems it will coincidentally benefit a lot of our friends and neighbors.

My request is self-serving because the additional roof height will benefit Smirkus. I have been told that the increased height of the roof is in part a response to Circus Smirkus' requirements regarding circus acts. During the design phase GAAR sought us out- unsolicited, to ask what our needs were and how they could they ensure that circus could best use the facility. They have been very generous in accommodating us. Their new facility will allow us to extend our programming more into the fall and offer new circus skills that we cannot accommodate in the tents. We also hope to be able to use the facility more in the off season to allow some of our budding professionals to develop their own shows. I get very excited by the concept of Greensboro becoming a small but influential incubator of the circus arts.

I have been told by all the store owners that our new camp has had a very positive impact on the town economy. If the GAAR expansion can allow us to grow our offerings even further, it seems reasonable to assume that will continue to benefit the town. All this would be over and above the impact already expected by the GAAR construction.

I appreciate that it is the role of the Design Review Board to study all aspects of a project and consider the long term impact on the town. I would offer that artistic, cultural and economic benefits of this project all seem to be positive for the foreseeable future. I am sure you will make a good decision on our behalf.

See you down the road,

Ed LeClair,
Producer and Executive Director
Circus Smirkus

Hello, My name is Daisy Bee. I was Snoopy in the summer production of "You're a Good man Charlie Brown"

I support GAAR because they taught me so many things about acting and how to control my voice.

Also, theater is a good thing overall for anybody because its something that anyone could do , you can just get your feelngs out and just be loud and have fun ! I am all for a new building, hopefully people support GAAR and the process of making the Mirror Theater.

- Daisy Bee

I have been chairman of the board of GAAR since the beginning. It started with staged readings and moved on to performances in various town venues and then to a tent on the town green. A few professional actors have been added to the local talent. Greensboro is extremely lucky to have the talented Sabra Jones plus Charles and Lily McAteer to direct the shows and manage the business of GAAR. The success has been very satisfying. Now thanks to a very generous donor we are in a position to build a permanent theater on land that formerly housed David Allen's farm stand. The DRB has already approved the the basic building. Now we're applying to the DRB for a permit to make the building higher than the 35' limit with a decorative element. The goal is to make it more like the London Globe theater.

Jim Sowles

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of The Mirror Theater, the new home for the Greensboro Arts Alliance & Residency (GAAR). I am a long-time summer resident of Greensboro and have deep roots in the community because my three children and five grandchildren are year-round residents. All of our lives have been enriched by the opportunity to see and participate in high quality theatrical productions that Mirror has produced with great effort, energy and sacrifice over the past decade. The new theater now under construction has been carefully planned for minimal negative impact and I believe that the theater will benefit the community significantly.

Sincerely,

Thomas Kehler

November 12, 2015

To: DRB

From: Bridget Collier

I have been looking at the changes requested by GPACT for the new performing arts center with great interest. I think the new roof concept (cupola) is a great addition to the design and seems to meet criteria for height restrictions of such additions, as did the new Fire Department building.

The location of the accessory/storage structure fits it unobtrusively into the overall design.

The new driveway location seems to be a matter of better traffic flow and has been approved by the selectboard.

I know I'm telling you things you already know, but with all the confusion in some of the community, it seemed like it wouldn't hurt to weigh in with my two cents.

Thanks for your time and service.

Bridget A. Collier

From: Vicki Strong <VStrong@leg.state.vt.us>
To: "lily@mirrorarts.org" <lily@mirrorarts.org>
Subject: Letter to the Development Review Board
Date: November 5, 2015 at 12:33:55 PM EST

Dear Development Review Board Members,

I am writing to you in support of the endeavors of the organization, GAAR, in your community. Greensboro is a very unique community with a growing cultural and economic environment in the Northeast Kingdom, and as such it is adding a new vitality and some unique opportunities to our area. As a legislator, I have seen firsthand that our area needs economic growth and cultural opportunities, and GAAR is providing both, with the potential to enhance educational programs and jobs to our surrounding towns and schools. I have attended numerous events sponsored by GAAR and have enjoyed the community involvement that I see that includes all ages of participants with many different types of backgrounds.

Greensboro, as a community, is going through many changes with the new organizations and businesses that are making their homes there, but I believe that as we all work together to make these changes constructively, we can encourage these economic and educational opportunities in our area of the state. As we work together to plan for the future, we will ultimately help the coming generations of Vermonters. I am grateful for organizations like GAAR that bring a new energy and expertise to our area of Vermont, and as we embrace the future together, we can bring new cultural and economic opportunities to our unique area of our state and our country. Thank you for your consideration.

Most Respectfully,
Rep. Vicki Strong

Sent using OWA for iPad

Sterling College

Working Hands. Working Minds.

November 19, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of The Mirror Theater, the new home for the Greensboro Arts Alliance & Residency (GAAR). This project will be culturally and economically beneficial to Greensboro and to the Northeast Kingdom.

The Mirror Theater will be used as a performing arts center for the benefit of the public, making performing arts, live theater, concerts, dance programs, and other cultural activities available and accessible to all. It will enhance educational and cultural opportunities for the entire community, including Sterling College.

GAAR, the Mirror Theater's resident nonprofit theater and performing arts organization, is a cultural asset and also an economic one. GAAR employed over 60 Vermonters for the 2015 summer season, including: artists, administrators, technicians, carpenters, light crew, and more.

Our community looks forward to the performances that will be held at the Mirror Theater.

Best regards,



Matthew Derr
President
Sterling College



Lakeview Union School
Greensboro & Stannard, VT

189 Lauredon Avenue
Greensboro, VT 05841
Principal: Eric J. Erwin

Telephone: (802) 533-7066
Fax: (802) 533-2962
E-mail: lakeviewunionschool43@hotmail.com
Website: <http://lakeview.ossu.org>

November 3, 2015

To the Development Review Board of Greensboro:

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts about addition of a new theater for our community. I hope this letter provides the information and feedback you are interested in.

I accepted the position of principal of Lakeview School in July, 2013. I continue to be impressed with the strong community spirit demonstrated by Greensboro residents. The support of our school, and the students who attend, continues to be a wonderful feature of this community. As you may know, students attending Lakeview Elementary come from a wide variety of backgrounds, and vary in their exposure to theater and the arts. Our school addresses this disparity by providing art and music classes to all students, a choral program for grades 5-6, and a universal instrumental program for all students in fifth and sixth grade. We have many students who demonstrate a strong talent and interest in the performing arts, but limited opportunities to explore them. Community programs such as GAAR have stepped in to fill this gap, and provide students from Lakeview and their families new and exciting ways of participating in the performing arts and expanding their skills.

Despite these wonderful efforts, GAAR and other groups have primarily been able to provide opportunities in the summer months, and this makes it difficult for classroom teachers to explore ways of integrating the performing arts into the yearly curriculum. Research consistently shows that theater and music performance opportunities enhance student engagement, increase student learning in writing and reading, and decrease drop-out rates among at-risk populations of students.

The addition of a permanent structure dedicated to theater, funded in large part by the generosity of Andrew C. Brown, would allow Lakeview Union School to develop on-going partnerships with GAAR, participate in theater productions all year long, and increase the students' exposure to theater productions in a more cost effective manner. Currently, we have to hire buses at significant expense to attend theater productions in Burlington.

I can envision many additional opportunities in this partnership- e.g., having 6th graders write a play for general performance, incorporating formal acting lessons into our physical education curriculum, using theater to help younger students increase their understanding of literature pieces, etc. I strongly support this project.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions, or would like more information.

Sincerely,

Eric J. Erwin, Ph.D.

Principal, Lakeview Union School

JOHN H. HASEN
2 SPRING HILL LANE
HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SC 29928

November 11, 2015

Development Review Board
Town of Greensboro, Vermont

To the DRB:

I write in support of the application of the Greensboro Arts Alliance and Residency to add a cupola to the theatre structure which has been approved in the Rural Lands District.

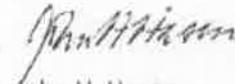
According to the Greensboro Zoning Bylaws, the height limitation for structures within the Rural Lands District is 35 feet. Bylaw Section 2.5 However, the Bylaws provide an exception to this restriction; "the height limitations of these Regulations shall not apply to ... cupolas ... or other appurtenances not used for human occupancy up to a maximum of 50 feet." Bylaw Section 3.12

It is my understanding that the structure that has been approved stands at a height of 35 feet and that the cupola (which will not be used for human occupancy) will add 7 '2" to the building, thereby bringing the total height of the structure to less than 43 feet, a height within the 50 feet maximum allowed by Section 3.12.

It is also my understanding that the purpose of the cupola is wholly aesthetic in nature, and has been proposed to mitigate the aesthetic impact of the flat roof in the present design and to bring the overall aesthetics of the theatre closer to other structures in Greensboro, in particular the new fire station, which shares a crossroads with the proposed theatre. This being the case, it would appear that the cupola represents a positive addition to the theatre building.

Others, I am certain, will write of the positive cultural and economic aspects that the theatre will bring to Greensboro. These are, to me, a given. However, considering this proposal strictly within the language of the Zoning Bylaws, there can be no question that the cupola is permitted by the Regulations, and, indeed, a rejection of the present application would run counter to the plain language of Section 3.12.

Thank you for your consideration.


John H. Hasen
126 Aspenhurst

Reflections on keeping Greensboro "as it used to be" — or not.

Apparently there is considerable controversy in Greensboro about the new theater planned for the site opposite the new firehouse. This is not surprising. In all societies, there is always a group interested in, and enthusiastic about, trying new things, and a group interested in keeping things "the way they used to be", and our democratic processes are organized to accommodate and regulate this tension. That being said, there seems to me no need for extreme invective in the discussion.

For myself, I think the design of the theater is very attractive, as it makes a pleasing reference to the classic round barns of New England fame, while at the same time making modern reference to a classic and ages-old theatrical design (it is, however, a fraction of the size of the original Globe, and at least is not an open-air theater, as was the original!). Any of our homes and buildings could also be faulted for not fitting into the surrounding countryside. Does colonial architecture really fit into the landscape, or are we just so used to seeing it that we do not notice the discordance between the architecture and the natural setting?

For those who want to keep Greensboro "as it used to be", I would ask, "What Greensboro are you referring to?" The history of Greensboro (see the Greensboro Historical Society's 1990 book "History of Greensboro, the Last Two Hundred Years" by Watson, Hill and Metraux) has been one of continuous change, including the progressive loss of farm land to the construction of vacation homes (including ours), the progressive loss of local jobs on farms, and in lumber mills, granite quarries, and the wool industry, and the addition of new endeavors such as the cheese making at Jasper Hill Farm and the beer making at the Hill Farmstead Brewery. The influx of 'summer people' has also supported various forms of entertainment, including the Mountain View Country Club, with its tennis courts, continually enhanced golf course (it used to be the fairways were in cow pastures, the greens were fenced off from the cows, and Campbell Soup cans served for the cups, and if your drive hit a cow, it counted as a do-over!), and social activities at the continually upgraded clubhouse, the Lake Concerts; Summer Music from Greensboro, and the Craftsbury Chamber Players, to mention a few. So my question is: At what point in this continual change and renewal should the change be stopped in order to "keep Greensboro as it used to be"? Which Greensboro should be freeze-framed in time? Would it be the one in existence when you acquired your home? Or would you choose the time in living memory when one had to go to the telephone exchange in a building in town in order to make a phone call? Or would you stop it only after Fairpoint started offering internet connection? Would you stop change before or after the various hotels, B&B's, restaurants, and cafés began or ceased operation in the town? Or would you go back to the time recorded in Lewis Hill's wonderful memoir of growing up in Greensboro in the 1930's ("Fetched-Up Yankee", 1990, The Globe Pequot Press)? The vision of "Greensboro as it used to be" is, I think, a very individual, evolving, and ill-defined ideal!

It seems to me that life is change, although admittedly at some times change happens more rapidly than at others. We happen to be living in a time of very rapid change in society and population, which many of us find disorienting. But it is a process that is inherent in our current society, and one can look for the good in change or see it all as bad. We used to hear dire warnings about the consequences of letting Circus Smirkus build their camp at the corner of Breezy Avenue and Club House Road, but has anyone noticed any of these consequences? Are there kids running all over the town? Has the traffic generated by the camp impacted anyone any more than the crush of summer people at Willey's Store? I think the answer to these questions is most likely, "No!" For me, the camp is a wonderful addition to the town and to the children it serves.

So in the same vein, it seems to me that the Greensboro Arts Alliance and Residency (also known as GAAR) has brought, and will continue to bring to Greensboro, a wonderful addition to what Greensboro has to offer. Its shows have been of outstanding quality and have involved both local residents and summer people, including numerous children, in an exciting collaboration with professional actors, to put on an outstanding series of entertaining and thought-provoking theatrical productions. Moreover, the theater will be a fantastic resource for the entire area, being available for various activities including music programs, school events, and extracurricular programs. The inclusion of a café attached to the theater will return to the town a venue for social gathering and convivial meetings; the town has now lost all its pre-existing cafés (and restaurants). So what's not to like? To me, this theater is a wonderful gift to the town and the surrounding area, and GAAR has proven its creativity and popular success with its wide range of theatrical productions.

Put me in the camp of welcoming exciting and creative change that brings new opportunities to both year-round and summer residents.

Robert J. Twiss
Greensboro summer person

DAVID F. KELLEY
ATTORNEY AT LAW

1501 SHADOW LAKE ROAD CRAFTSBURY COMMON, VT 05827

October 27, 2015

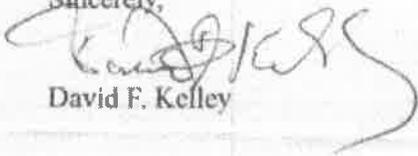
To Whom It May Concern,

I just wanted to send a short note to express my gratitude to all of those people who have worked so hard to bring a rich arts and cultural dimension to life here in Greensboro and to Vermont's Northeast Kingdom. I am, of course, especially grateful for the generosity of Andrew Brown and look forward to the day when the Arts Alliance theater programs will be able to end their days of "camping out" and finally be able to hold concerts and theater productions in a venue designed by an architect who is renowned for his work in every state in the country.

Coming from a family of four generations of Vermonters and having lived in the Northeast Kingdom for much of my adult life I have an abiding appreciation for our working landscape. I fully appreciate how much thought and attention has gone in to the design of this theater. I also read in the paper last week that one of our neighbors went to the Select Board because he apparently wanted more input in designing the theater. I tremble to think that he or some other group would somehow now, after the project has already been through the Act 250 process, be given the power to rework the design of some of the most respected architects in the world.

We are blessed to live in such a wonderful community and we are especially blessed to have a neighbor who loves our community enough to make this generous gift to all of us and to generations yet to come. We hope he understands how grateful we all are, and we furthermore fervently hope nothing happens to harm this splendid design and theater.

Sincerely,



David F. Kelley

To: lily@mirrorarts.org
From: Clive Gray <clivegrayvt@gmail.com>
Subject: Letter of support
Date: November 2, 2015 at 3:47:33 PM EST

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of The Mirror Theater, the new home for the Greensboro Arts Alliance & Residency (GAAR). This project will be of both cultural and economic benefit to Greensboro and Vermont at large.

The Mirror Theater will be used as a performing arts center for the benefit of the public, making performing arts, live theater, concerts, dance programs and other cultural activities more available and more accessible to all. It will provide a venue for educational organizations to offer performing arts programs and for enhancing educational and cultural opportunities for the entire community as well as visitors on a not-for-profit basis. The facility will be made available year-round to local arts organizations and it is anticipated that various area schools and non-profits will utilize the facility.

GAAR, the Mirror Theater's resident, not-for-profit, theater and performing arts organization, is an asset to our community both culturally and economically. Called "a theater to be reckoned with" by Jim Lowe of The Times Argus, GAAR also employed over sixty Vermonters in the 2015 Summer Season in a variety of capacities, from full-time artists, administrators, and technicians, to part-time box office staffers, carpenters, stage and light crew, and many other jobs. This money is furthermore recycled through the local economy.

We are lucky to have such a gift in our community.

**Sincerely,
Clive Gray**

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11/13/2015

To Whom It may Concern,

I am writing today in support of The Mirror Theater, the new home for the Greensboro Arts Alliance & Residency (GAAR). **This project will be of both cultural and economic benefit to Greensboro and Vermont at large.**

I am a native Vermonter and a proud Northeast Kingdom resident. I grew up in Lyndonville, where I was blessed to have a Grandmother that **believed in exposing us to art.** She went to Georgetown University and received her Visual Arts degree back in 1938 or thereabouts.

My Grandmother gifted me with piano lessons when I was 5. I moved to Glover to a farm about 12 miles from Greensboro when I was 10 but I continued on with my music. By that time I was playing two instruments. Public school music programs in the 80's were not underfunded and pushed aside as they are now.

Our parents paid for our instruments and we were required to practice. I was playing 3 instruments, accompanying my high school choirs and singing in the select choir by the time I left Lake Region High School in Orleans. We used the old Orleans Municipal Building for our Musical Theater productions and the gymnasium at Lake Region for our concerts. They still do not have a formal auditorium. I received my Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from Johnson State College, majoring in voice.

Over the last 25 years I have been privileged to experience music with Northsong, Northeast Kingdom Chorus, QNEK Productions, Barretones Inc, GAAR and local church choirs from Greensboro, East Craftsbury, Craftsbury, Hardwick, and Montpelier. Cantatas, musical theater, church services, and holiday performances abound all year round in this corner of Vermont.

Most of these performances are still being held in church sanctuaries. Musicians and artists from farther away have opportunities to practice their craft in established venues. QNEK Productions in Derby Line has the Haskell Opera house, a 400 seat theater. The Barretones Inc. hold their annual show at the Barre Opera House where there are 500 seats or more.

These venues hold everything from comedy acts, to musical theater, a capella barbershoppers and Vermont Symphony performances. The people who come to see these performances find a place to go for dinner, or visit with friends nearby when they are out for an evening's entertainment. Community is being built and economics are being addressed by having arts in these communities.

Lyndonville is an hour from the Greensboro area. Burlington is 2 hours by car. St Johnsbury and Catamount arts are 1 hour from here. Derby Line and the Haskell Opera House are 1 hour from here. Hardwick Town house is too small to hold the audiences that will bring revenue. **We need this theater, for ourselves but also for our children.**

Why should our local high schools have only the Hardwick Town House as an option for performance, or worse yet the Hazen "auditorium". Our elementary students must use the multi purpose rooms, which is simply a newer name for a gymnasium with no acoustics, no lights, no way of even being seen, as the audience is sitting on their level and they are short of stature.

How can we expect our parents and grandparents to support the arts when there is not a good place for that art to be experienced? The music is echoing in the gym, and the moving of the metal folding chairs against the floor are drowning it out. The children's artwork is posted on the far wall, and the glare of the work lights on the ceiling make it seem washed out and pale instead of inspired and powerfully bright.

2/2

When do we put the mathematical, spatial, kinesthetic and social experiences of our children first? Yes they have sports programs which reach a great number of young people. How do these activities translate for those children who don't enjoy competing against others? **Arts are inclusive of everyone. At their most basic level they teach discipline, care and pride. Anyone can learn to sing a song. Anyone can clap their hands in praise for another. Why shouldn't we teach our children that they belong to a community that values them?**

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GAAR, the Mirror Theater's resident, not-for-profit, theater and performing arts organization, is an asset to our community both culturally and economically. This is such a gift for us and for our children. I am so proud to be in a community where Art is valued and held to high standards. We are so very lucky and blessed.

Thank you for your time.

Cara Hill
Greensboro Resident



THE MIRROR THEATER

Mirror Repertory Company
Mirror Productions LLC
New York, NY 10021 (478)
(646) 588-4365
mirrorrep.org

Greensboro Arts Alliance & Residency
Greensboro Writers' Forum
Greensboro, VT 05841-0304
(802) 533-7487
gaar.info

PLEASE SCAN AND EMAIL TO LILY@MIRRORARTS.ORG OR PHYSICALLY MAIL TO GAAR, PO BOX 304, GREENSBORO, VT 05841. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of The Mirror Theater, the new home for the Greensboro Arts Alliance & Residency (GAAR). This project will be of both cultural and economic benefit to Greensboro and Vermont at large.

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GAAR, the Mirror Theater's resident, not-for-profit, theater and performing arts organization, is an asset to our community both culturally and economically. Called "a theater to be reckoned with" by Jim Lowe of The Times Argus, GAAR also employed over sixty Vermonters in the 2015 Summer Season in a variety of capacities, from full time artists, administrators, and technicians, to part-time box office staffers, carpenters, stage and light crew, and many other jobs. This money is furthermore recycled through the local economy.

We are lucky to have such a gift in our community.

Sincerely,

Your Name

November 25, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

We moved to Greensboro as permanent residents in the fall of 2014, after spending a great deal of time here throughout the years and seasons since the 1980s. One of the things that appealed to us about Greensboro is the rugged, natural beauty combined with an artistic, cultural flair.

I grew up in a small mill town in Massachusetts and my husband Tom grew up in Montpelier. We have lived in cities of constant change as well as beautifully preserved historic towns. Greensboro seems to be experiencing change in the midst of a desire to preserve. We believe there is room for both.

I am writing in support of The Mirror Theater, the new home for the Greensboro Arts Alliance & Residency (GAAR). This project should be of both cultural and economic benefit to Greensboro and Vermont at large.

As long as The Mirror Theater will be used for the benefit of the public, making performing arts, live theater, concerts, dance programs and other cultural activities more available and more accessible to all - we support it. We trust that it will provide a venue for educational organizations to offer performing arts programs and for enhancing educational and cultural opportunities for the entire community as well as visitors on a not-for-profit basis.

Having a year-round theatre facility will be a refreshing addition to the already vital community of artists and musicians. We like the idea of having various schools and performing groups utilize the facility.

Like many members of the town, we cherish the wide open spaces and natural charm of Greensboro. We also want to support dreams for the future, knowing that change is inevitable. This change seems to be one that is positive, lively, and fun-giving. We look forward to it!

Sincerely,

Eleanor Guare
251 Gebble Road