

**SUPPORT  
APPEAL**

**PORTLAND PLAYHOUSE  
APPEAL OF KING NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOC.**

602 NE PRESCOTT STREET LU 11-187799 CU

IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, **PRINT** YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

NAME (print)

ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE

Email

✓ LUKE GROSER	6405 NE 7TH AVE., 97211	THEGROSEERS@YAHOO.COM
✓ Barbara Conable	3713 NE 15th Ave 97212	barbconable@heavenet.com
✓ Kris Haines	12219 SW Lesser Rd 97219	Kris.haines@yahoo.com
<del>Michael Haines</del>	<del>12219 SW Lesser Rd 97219</del>	<del>mahaines75@yahoo.com</del>
✓ Karol Collymore	1411 NE 16th AVE 97232	
✓ Gretchen Corbett	6932 North Vincent Ave 97217	gretchen.gretchen@me.com
✓ Kevin Jones		
✓ Vanessa Palma-AisPuro	4925 NE 9th 97211	
✓ Anandi Thompson	" "	
✓ Cristi Miles	721 NE Stafford 97211	

**SUPPORT  
APPEAL**

PORTLAND PLAYHOUSE

APPEAL OF KING NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOC.

602 NE PRESCOTT STREET LU 11-187799 CU

IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, **PRINT** YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

NAME (**print**)

ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE

Email

	NAME ( <b>print</b> )	ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE	Email
No	Victor Mack		
✓	Bill Crane	1736 NE, 24 <sup>th</sup> Ave. 97212 503.284.5489	billcrane0252@ msn.com
✓	Gabrielle Foulkes		
✓	Phillip MARCOLIN	2275 SW Summit Dr. ve, PORT. 97201	
No	Roger Griffith		
✓	Isabel Sheridan	2533 NW Marshall St. #105 PDX 97210	iasheridan44@gmail.com
✓	Madeleine Denko	4221 SW Cornus St 97219	
✓	KB Mercer	912 NE 71 <sup>st</sup> Ave PDX 97213	kb@travelingkater.com
No	Brian Jones		
No	Katie Nolen	6106 N Borthwick 97217	katie.nolea@gmail

**SUPPORT  
APPEAL**

**PORTLAND PLAYHOUSE  
APPEAL OF KING NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOC.  
602 NE PRESCOTT STREET LU 11-187799 CU**

IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, **PRINT** YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

NAME (print)

ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE

Email

✓	Katy Kanfer	3738 NE Grand Ave	Kkanfer@gmail.com
✓	CHARLES BOARDMAN	4226 NE GRAND	charlesboardman@gmail.com
✓	CARLA DANLEY	7412 N WILBUR AVE PDX 97217	danleycd@yahoo.com <del>wardcheese@comcast.net</del>
No	WARD STORTROGIE	7412 N WILBUR AVE PDX 97217	wardcheese@comcast.net
✓	Lin Rainier	950 SW 21 Ave #618 Portland OR 97205	
	Jennifer Kagan	4324 SW	
✓	Beth Thompson	2238 NE 13th Ave Apt. 3 Portland, OR 97212	
No	Bill Donaha	517 NE Skidmore PDX OR 97211	
No	Mary Wile	3738 SE Lincoln Portland 97214	marywile@gmail.com
✓	Nannette D. Carter-Jaffr	5933 N. Haight Ave Portland OR 97217	GA31706@YAHOO.COM

**SUPPORT  
APPEAL**

PORTLAND PLAYHOUSE

APPEAL OF KING NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOC.

602 NE PRESCOTT STREET LU 11-187799 CU

IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, **PRINT** YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

NAME (print)

ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE

Email

NO	Kirke Wolf	3223 NE 14th Portland, OR 97212	kirke@pdx.edu
NO	Josh Weinstein	5133 NE Killingsworth	—
NO	KEVIN JONES	6344 N. Curtis Ave 97217	
NO	Amanda Starr	4337 NE Simpson Ct 97218	—

March 1, 2012

Mr. Mayor, members of the Council:

My name is Barbara Conable and I represent the Sabin Community Association. The SCA supports Portland Playhouse in its conditional use application for Community Service Use at 602 NE Prescott Street. We consider Portland Playhouse to be an important asset in our community, providing uplifting cultural opportunities for residents and educational options for our children.

Moreover, Portland Playhouse has made its theatrical offerings especially relevant to our diverse community, in particular through productions of three August Wilson plays, and through its outreach to members of our community who are often underserved by Portland theaters. I see seventy or eighty plays a year in Portland and I can tell you that there is nothing else like this happening here. The stunning quality of these productions has put Portland Playhouse very quickly among at the top few theaters in our state.

The fact that these productions are offered at a site within the community is a crucial part of their unique effect on the community. The work of Portland Playhouse regularly confronts issues of racism, gentrification, and community, creating a space where our economically and racially diverse neighbors can interact in a productive dialogue. To force these performances out of our neighborhood would water down their influence, rendering the experience infinitely less meaningful and useful to our community.

We feel strongly that a conditional use for community service is the most appropriate way to allow this important asset to continue. If the Zoning Code says that what Portland Playhouse is doing is a "Commercial, Retail Sales" operation, then the Code is wrong, and ought to be changed. Nor do we want to see this property rezoned to allow retail sales—a move that could ultimately result in a Seven-Eleven or similar operation on the site. We understand that the Code, as written, did not anticipate this unique combination of performance, education, and dialogue. We urge you to be creative and community-minded, in the spirit of Portland Playhouse, and approve this conditional use.

Thank you.

Most sincerely,

Barbara Conable

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** David Milholland [encanto@ochcom.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2012 5:18 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** Letter of support for Portland Playhouse NE Portland facility status

Hello Karla.

Please pass this brief statement on to Mayor Adams and council members. This relates to City Council Case # (LU 11-187799 CU).

As a long time member of Portland's creative community [I'm currently head of Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission, among other things], I've been thrilled to be a regular member of audiences at the Portland Playhouse theatre space at 602 NE Prescott.

The company's productions have engaged me from the first time I passed through its portals. The slight-bit-funky physical space became an integral element of every play I experienced there. Given its neighborhood eastside location, the experience feels very homegrown. The Playhouse stagecraft took me back to theater evenings in the long-ago closed Slabtown Stop Theatre on NW Savier & 26th, several other Portland stages that adapted church basements [New Rose Theater], decaying commercial buildings [all but the last incarnation of Storefront Theatre], and far too many others to recount. Such venues are a significant piece or what makes our city distinctive.

With parking issues addressed and local resistance absent, it's a good time for the 602 NE Prescott building to become a Neighborhood Art Center. For surely what the Playhouse provides is a community service.

Please consider this a building block in the culturally diverse, creative community this city aspires to be

I had intended to attend the hearing, but things came up. Thanks for your consideration.  
Sincerely,

David Milholland 2000 NE 42nd #1 Portland, OR 97213 [encanto@ochcom.org](mailto:encanto@ochcom.org)

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** Linda Finocchiaro [linda.wrather@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2012 11:39 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** re: Portland Playhouse

Dear Council Members

It is my humble opinion that Portland Playhouse ( case # : LU 11-187799 CU ) provides a valuable service to the community of the King neighborhood and other surrounding neighborhoods . The theatre celebrates and gives voice to the African American community as well as other cultures. I believe it is with great sincerity that the theatre embraces its responsibility to promote social and cultural understanding through artistic expression. The Portland Playhouse is definitely a community service in nature.

Sincerely

Linda Wrather  
3234 SE Henry Street  
Portland, Oregon 97202

## Moore-Love, Karla

---

**From:** Nora Diver [noradiver@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2012 2:37 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Subject:** letter regarding LU Case # 11-187799; HO Case # 411034

**Attachments:** KNA appeal for Portland Playhouse 3.1.2012.doc



KNA appeal for  
Portland Playho...

Hi Karla,

I am the vice-chair of the King Neighborhood Association and I am attaching a letter regarding LU Case # 11-187799; HO Case # 411034 that will be heard at city council at 3:30 on March 1, 2012. I will also be delivering the letter by hand at the hearing.

Thank you very much for facilitating the receipt of our letter.

Sincerely,

Nora Diver  
Vice Chair  
King Neighborhood Association

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** Ward Shortridge [wardcheese@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2012 1:52 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** Testimony regarding case # LU 11-187799 CU

To the Commissioners:

Regarding the Portland Playhouse and its role in the community

Thank you for providing the opportunity for testimony regarding the Portland Playhouse's role in the Community.

I am not in a position to testify on the technical issues regarding the financial structure of the Portland Playhouse, and I do not know how one structure or another might be consistent with the rules regarding its existence within this community. However, that discussion of rules does not adequately represent this small theater's role and value in the community, and an accurate picture must include statements from the community itself about how we *experience* the theater.

The Portland Playhouse is not a commercial experience. I am not greeted by flashing lights. They have maintained the church exterior so that it still blends seamlessly with the surrounding community. The seating is simple, even rustic, and the room is small enough that even without any amplification I can hear the breath of the performers. There are no grand and exaggerated gestures, as the faces of the performers are just a few feet away. The productions themselves are small and have the intimacy of a family gathering. The directors and staff of the theater welcome us like friends and guests. We frequently visit for a little while after a play, and they are always anxious to hear of our experience of their productions. The message conveyed by the whole experience is that *it is our theater, with audience and players in equally vital roles in the process.*

Please hear the voices of the community when you make the decision of whether the theater belongs in the community. It is so clear from my experience with this theater that the goal of the theater is not to rake in the sales but rather to present and support creative expression, emotional connection, and spiritual growth as a contributing member of the community. Let that be your litmus test.

Thank you!

Ward Shortridge  
7412 North Wilbur Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97217

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** Karen Johnson [karen.kj.johnson@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2012 1:45 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** Portland Playhouse case # LU 11-187799 CU

Dear City Commissioners,

I am writing you today on behalf of Portland Playhouse case # LU 11-187799 CU. The neighborhood and numerous organizations support Portland Playhouse, and to not allow them to continue performing in the church would be detrimental to the community.

To say that theater is a commercial or retail venture is frankly laughable. Even the most successful of arts organizations depend on donations for up to a third of their budget, just to stay opened. Theater brings together community, it makes people's lives richer and exposes them to culture. If this is not serving the community, I don't know what is.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Karen Johnson  
2943 SE Taylor St  
Portland 97214

Support

Portland

Playhouse

If you believe Portland Playhouse should be allowed to continue as a Neighborhood Art Center in King Neighborhood, please hold this sign up when asked to show your support.

**Endorsed by:**

King Neighborhood Association  
Sabin Neighborhood Association  
Humboldt Neighborhood Association  
Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods  
Regional Arts and Culture Council  
Oregon Cultural Trust  
The Urban League of Portland  
Creative Arts Network  
and many, many people just like you...

**King Neighborhood Association**

Nora Diver, Vice-Chair  
nora.diver@kingneighborhood.org  
4815 NE 7th Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97211

March 1, 2012

Delivery by email and hand

Portland City Council  
City of Portland  
1900 S.W. Fourth Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97201

**Subject: Portland Playhouse Survival in King Neighborhood  
(LU Case # 11-187799; HO Case # 4110034)**

Dear Commissioners:

602 NE Prescott is more than just a dot on the zoning map, more than just a structure on the corner. It is a gathering place with deep roots - part of the history of many members of our community. For over a century at this address, neighbors have shared appeals to god, heartfelt interactions, and a commitment to compassion and interracial justice. Meaning has been created at this place. The Portland Playhouse has upheld this tradition through community programming and its performance themes exploring racial experience and social justice. The Playhouse cannot exist without the plays. For this reason, the King Neighborhood Association asks you to allow the Playhouse to continue in our neighborhood by approving all components of their Conditional Use Permit application.

Many current and former neighbors have testified to the integral role the Portland Playhouse plays in our community. The Playhouse has opened their hearts wide enough to create performances that resonate deeply with the people who live here and opened their space to other uses that fill community needs. I have seen former residents returning to the neighborhood to see plays that have touched and inspired them. I have witnessed the neighborhood kids hold impromptu band performances there, and have seen how thrilled they were to be playing up there on the stage. I am sure you will hear many more stories about how the Playhouse serves a vital niche by providing a community driven cultural experience. This is the kind of art that stems from and connects with the people who live here, and that is why it is so important the Portland Playhouse be allowed to continue operating where it has been.

Both the King Neighborhood Plan (from 1993) and the proposed Portland Plan (2012) call for the development of neighborhood based arts and culture programs and facilities. The emphasis in both plans is on supporting artists, promoting cultural programs, creating centers for art, and involving and educating youth. In addition, the Portland Plan calls for "improv(ed) access and outreach to under-represented communities." (Appendix A.) The Portland Playhouse fulfills all of these community goals that were produced by lengthy public input processes. To deny the neighborhood this Playhouse would be to disregard all of the time, energy, and good intentions that Portland's citizens have put into creating these plans.

The King Neighborhood Association has had robust discussions about the Playhouse and how it can meet the sometimes conflicting needs of the local residents. The Playhouse has been responsive to questions posed by Neighborhood Association members, and together we have worked out a plan to ensure that parking issues are reasonably addressed. At our last meeting when faced with the question of appealing the decision from the hearings officer, the vote in favor was unanimous 20-0. Everyone agreed that the Playhouse is a very positive organization working for the benefit of our neighborhood.

If zoning laws are intended to preserve the character of a community, then surely issuing a conditional use permit for the Portland Playhouse would be the best way to align the rules with this intention. This site has a history of community activity. Residents in nearby neighborhoods feel that programming at the Playhouse fills an important cultural niche. For decades, community organization have called for the development of this type of facility in our neighborhood. The King Neighborhood Association is confident in our ability to work with the Playhouse to iron out any wrinkles that may arise from the community uses at this site. The City has approved a number of community centers through Conditional Use Permits. (Appendix B) The King Neighborhood Association urges you to do the same for the Portland Playhouse. It is an important part of our neighborhood and we want to see it continue to bring thoughtful and engaging arts to our community.

Sincerely and Respectfully,

Nora Diver  
Vice Chairperson  
King Neighborhood Association

# Appendix A

## King Neighborhood Plan Excerpt (1993)

### Policy V: Art and Culture

*Enhance the cultural and ethnic diversity of inner-Northeast Portland by creating opportunities to promote multicultural art and entertainment*

#### Objectives:

1. Establish art and multicultural center in the King Neighborhood.
2. Promote the display and purchase of public art.
3. Create opportunities for artists and entertainers to live and work in the King Neighborhood.
4. Establish a marketing program for the area's artist and entertainment facilities.

#### Action Chart: Art and Culture

#	Actions	Time				Implementors /Advocates
		Adopted With Plan	On- Going	Next 5 Yrs	6 to 20 Yrs	
<b>PROJECTS</b>						
KA 1	Investigate the opportunity to develop recreational center or leisure activity attractive to youth and to the community.			X		PVT/PDC
KA 2	Encourage artists to live and work in the King Neighborhood by creating opportunities for them to receive low interest commercial/housing loans and home occupation permits.			X		BOP/PDC
KA 3	Create an educational program, within the King Neighborhood, focusing on arts and crafts. The program should include certification at a level that prepares students for work as photographers, performers, calligraphers, painters, illustrators, commercial artists, sculptors, etc.			X		PVT/MAC/ PARKS/PPS/ Oregon Art Museum School
KA 4	Develop a marketing strategy that informs the community about art and cultural activities in the King Neighborhood.			X		KING/MAC/ POVA
<b>PROGRAMS</b>						
KA 5	Establish a cultural district along NE Alberta Street.			X		NEC/PVT/ MAC/KING/ BOP/PARKS/ OAME

Note: Action Charts were approved by Portland City Council by resolution. They are a starting place. Actions with an identified implementor were adopted with the understanding that some will need to be adjusted and others replaced with more feasible proposals. Identification of an implementor for an action is an expression of interest and support with the understanding that circumstances will affect the implementation leader's ability to take action. Actions with a listed advocate rather than an implementor are included in recognition of the importance of continued discussion of these issues. Such actions will become part of this plan only when an implementor has agreed to support them.

## **Appendix A (continued)**

Excerpts from the Portland Plan

### **PART OF THE 5 YEAR ACTION PLAN – INTEGRATED STRATEGIES**

#### **Thriving Educated Youth**

Arts programming: Invest in continuous, integrated arts learning programs for every K–12 student in Portland (e.g., Any Given Child, The Right Brain Initiative), using school, nonprofit and community resources. (pg. 31)

#### **Economic Prosperity and Affordability**

Arts support: Expand public and private support for Portland’s arts and creative industries through a dedicated funding mechanism, and improve access, outreach, and services for youth and under-represented communities. (pg. 41)

#### **Healthy Connected City**

Gathering places: Explore ways to support arts and cultural facilities and incubators in underserved areas, through tools such as public-private partnerships and incentives. (pg. 69)

## Appendix B

The City has approved the following community centers through community service CUPs:

- Northwest District Neighborhood: Northwest Children's Theater/Northwest Community Service Center, Inc. This approval is identical to the Playhouse's application. In it, the City approves "actual theater/stage performances" in an old church building containing a 1,200 person auditorium as part of a community center CUP in a residential zone. A copy of the decision is attached. King Neighborhood just asks for the same treatment that the City gave the Northwest District Neighborhood.
- Multnomah Neighborhood: Multnomah Arts Center, which contains an auditorium that looks a lot more like a theater than the Playhouse's use of the old church. As was discussed before the hearings officer, plays are regularly performed at the Multnomah Arts Center. This is good for Multnomah, but why can't the King Neighborhood have the Playhouse as a community arts center? There is no good reason to deny us this cultural outlet in the King Neighborhood.
- Southeast/Reed Neighborhood: Community Music Center is partially run as a private 501(c)(3), like the Playhouse. The Community Music Center performance calendar in the record shows that there were 18 performances in December in its 140 person recital hall, many of which charged admission fees. It does not make sense that the City commenced an enforcement action against the Playhouse, alleging that they are a "Commercial Retail Sales and Services Use" when other neighborhoods community arts centers regularly charge such fees.



March 1, 2012

Mr. Mayor, members of the Council:

My name is Barbara Conable and I represent the Sabin Community Association. The SCA supports Portland Playhouse in its conditional use application for Community Service Use at 602 NE Prescott Street. We consider Portland Playhouse to be an important asset in our community, providing uplifting cultural opportunities for residents and educational options for our children.

Moreover, Portland Playhouse has made its theatrical offerings especially relevant to our diverse community, in particular through productions of three August Wilson plays, and through it's outreach to members of our community who are often underserved by Portland theaters. I see seventy or eighty plays a year in Portland and I can tell you that there is nothing else like this happening here. The stunning quality of these productions has put Portland Playhouse very quickly among at the top few theaters in our state.

The fact that these productions are offered at a site within the community is a crucial part of their unique effect the community. The work of Portland Playhouse regularly confronts issues of racism, gentrification, and community, creating a space where our economically and racially diverse neighbors can interact in a productive dialogue. To force these performances out of our neighborhood would water down their influence, rendering the experience infinitely less meaningful and useful to our community.

We feel strongly that a conditional use for community service is the most appropriate way to allow this important asset to continue. If the Zoning Code says that what Portland Playhouse is doing is a "Commercial, Retail Sales" operation, then the Code is wrong, and ought to be changed. Nor do we want to see this property rezoned to allow retail sales—a move that could ultimately result in a Seven-Eleven or similar operation on the site. We understand that the Code, as written, did not anticipate this unique combination of performance, education, and dialogue. We urge you to be creative and community-minded, in the spirit of Portland Playhouse, and approve this conditional use.

Thank you.

Most sincerely,

Barbara Conable

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** Kate Evans [kateevans97@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2012 12:27 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** Case # LU 11-187799CU Zoning Portland Playhouse

Council Members:

Re: Case # LU 11-187799CU Zoning Portland Playhouse

Please reconsider your decision to deny Portland Playhouse's zoning request for the building at 6th and Prescott. I have attended numerous productions there and currently have a Portland Playhouse subscription.

I am baffled by your decision that a nonprofit theatre is not suitable for this location in the King Neighborhood. How can you say that a theatre can not be defined as a community service? Clearly the King, Sabin, and Humboldt Neighborhood Associations think it is. As do the Urban League of Portland, RACC, and the Creative Advocacy Network.

Please reconsider and zone for this wonderful neighborhood theatre!

Sincerely yours,

Kate Evans

503.635.6540

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** Jan Woita [rjwoita@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2012 12:12 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** cary.clark@portlandoregon.gov  
**Subject:** Portland Play House #LU11-187799 CU

Greetings:

I am writing in support of the zoning change that would allow the Portland Play House to operate in the old church building in the King Neighborhood. To me, it does offer many community service opportunities; possible after school theater experiences for kids, a place to house other types of arts....music, visual, etc. We're trying to create jobs for Oregonians, and this theater does just this. All the personnel needed to put on a play and keep a center such as this up and running, creates jobs. It seems to me that this is a golden opportunity to turn an aging eyesore into a vibrant community center. The opportunities that this would offer are endless. Change the zoning and change the community in a very positive way.

While I do not live in Portland, I do support the Portland Play House by attending its theater productions. My sister, who does live in Portland, and I have had season tickets for several years.

Thank You,  
Janice Woita  
100 SW 195th Ave Unit 206  
Beaverton, OR

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

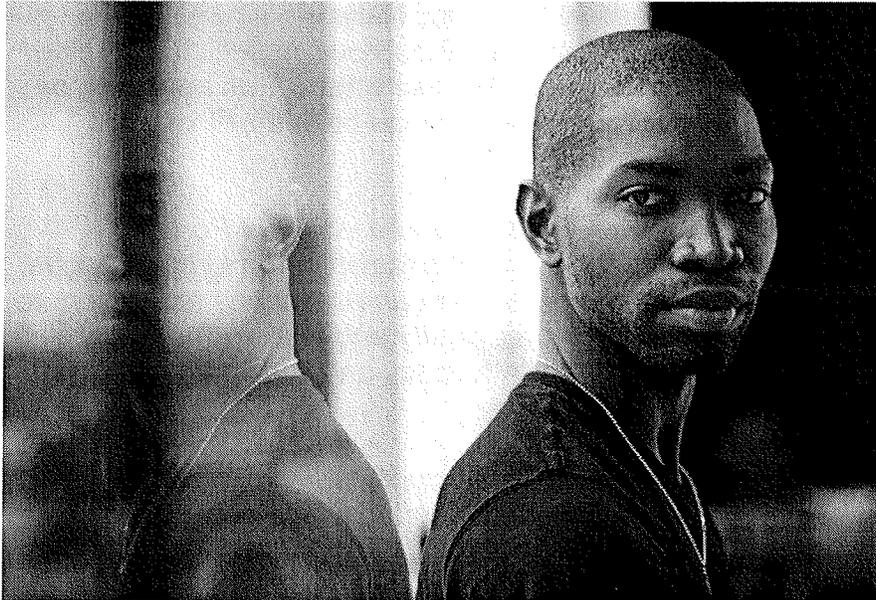
**From:** Katie Abbott [kpabbott@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2012 11:24 AM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** Case # LU 11-187799 CU - Portland Playhouse

Ms. Moore,

I am writing in regards to Case # LU 11-187799 CU. I live approximately a mile from the Playhouse's location in Northeast Portland and have attended plays there. The Playhouse presents unique and culturally educational plays, which greatly add to the community. I truly believe the work the Playhouse does is a great service to the community and I strongly urge you to allow them to continue to serve the neighborhood and the wider community from their location at NE Prescott and 6th Ave.

Respectfully,  
Kathleen Abbott

3850 N. Mississippi, Apt. A227  
Portland, OR 97227



## The Brother/Sister Plays

by Tarell Alvin McCraney

Influenced by Yoruban mythology, modern dance, and autobiography, and populated with stories of sacrifice, heartache, and laughter, this award-winning trilogy has been hailed as:

"the **greatest** piece of writing by an American playwright under 30"  
- The Chicago Tribune

Hear Tarell on NPR

**Forward this email**

 SafeUnsubscribe

Trusted Email from  
**Constant Contact**  
Try it FREE today

This email was sent to runrhinorun@yahoo.com by [info@portlandplayhouse.org](mailto:info@portlandplayhouse.org) |  
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

| 4307 N Commercial Ave. | Portland | Oregon | 97217

Urban League, Creative Advocacy Network; as well as the King, Sabin, and Humboldt Neighborhood Associations. **Your voice makes a difference! Please attend this meeting, or write City Council and advocate on behalf of Portland Playhouse.**

*We believe that the programming and vision of Portland Playhouse falls into line with the mission of the Urban League, whose mission is to empower African Americans and others to achieve social and economic equity and justice.*

-Midge Purcell, Director of Advocacy and Public Policy, Urban League of Portland

*Portland Playhouse contributes significantly to the cultural and social experience of King residents. It would be a striking loss to our community if it was denied the opportunity to continue operating out of the old church building.*

-Alan Silver, Chair of the King Neighborhood Association

*It is their place in the neighborhood as much as the quality of their work that impressed the panel reviewers who recommended this theater company for a grant. Because they saw that the two were intertwined, the work needing to be done in the neighborhood and presented there, with the neighborhood giving rise to the work.*

-Kimberly Howard, Trust Manager, Oregon Cultural Trust

**City Hall (1221 SW 4th Avenue, Portland, OR 97204)**, and voice your support for Portland Playhouse to continue as a vital and necessary resource for arts in the King Neighborhood.



Our nine-month application process culminated last month when the Bureau of Development Services (BDS) denied Portland Playhouse's request to perform plays in the historic church building on NE Prescott and 6th. The Bureau stated "theater" can only be defined as a "Commercial, Retail Sales" operation, not as "Community Service," and is therefore forbidden in a residential-zoned building. The King Neighborhood Association has appealed BDS's decision on behalf of Portland Playhouse to City Council.

#### **WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

**Attend the City Council Hearing TOMORROW (March 1st)**

**E-mail the City Commissioners**

Please direct letters and emails to Council members through the Council Clerk, Karla Moore at [karla.moore-love@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:karla.moore-love@portlandoregon.gov). Please include case # (LU 11-187799 CU) and your street address, and cc Portland's Art and Culture Director: Cary Clark at [cary.clarke@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:cary.clarke@portlandoregon.gov)

**PARKING ISSUES** have been addressed, and **no negative feedback or testimony** was presented at the BDS Hearing.

The only remaining issue involves the classification of Portland Playhouse's activities and application to formally designate 602 NE Prescott St. as a **Neighborhood Art Center**. The City Council will be voting whether this Neighborhood Art Center can be classified as "Community Service" and therefore an allowed use, or whether it is a "Commercial, Retail Sales" activity and not allowed by Portland Zoning Code.

Portland Playhouse has been strongly endorsed by many organizations, including RACC, Oregon Cultural Trust, The

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** ralph baird [runrhinorun@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2012 10:38 AM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** Fw: CASE # LU 11-187799 CU Fw: TOMORROW Save the Playhouse at City Council

THE BAIRD'S STRONGLY SUPPORT THE CONTINUED USE OF "THE OLD CHURCH" FOR VITAL PLAYS THAT REPRESENT THE INTEREST OF THE COMMUNITY AND PRESENTED BY PORTLAND PLAYHOUSE AND IS AN EXCELLENT USE OF THE EXISTING FACILITY.

THE BAIRD'S  
501 NE BRIDGETON RD  
PORTLAND, OR 97211

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Portland Playhouse <info@portlandplayhouse.org>  
**To:** runrhinorun@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 29, 2012 2:01 PM  
**Subject:** TOMORROW Save the Playhouse at City Council

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



---

Ultimate Fate of the "church" will  
be decided TOMORROW

Dear Ralph,

We urgently ask community supporters and arts enthusiasts to attend the City Council meeting **TOMORROW, March 1st at 3:30pm at**

that it can continue to be a complete neighborhood arts center and continue its good works in Northeast/North Portland and beyond.

Thank you!

Aija G. Kanbergs  
2811 N. Russet St., Portland OR 97217

**Moore-Love, Karla**

**From:** Aija Gundega [aijagundega@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2012 10:48 AM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Subject:** [Approved Sender] Case # LU11-187799 CU Portland Playhouse RESENDING

Hi, sorry, I didn't have the case number the first time. Thanks. - Aija Kanbergs, 2811 N. Russet St., Portland 97217, 503-777-1108

---

From: aijagundega@hotmail.com  
 To: karla.moore-love@portlandoregon.gov  
 CC: cary.clarke@portlandoregon.gov  
 Subject: Portland Playhouse zoning petition, Council meeting agenda March 1st, 2012  
 Date: Wed, 22 Feb 2012 21:03:48 -0800

Dear City Council members - I strongly urge you to approve the petition of Portland Playhouse, being brought before the Council on March 1st by the King Neighborhood Association, to allow Portland Playhouse to operate in its home at 602 NE Prescott St. as a neighborhood arts center, including being able to present theater performances at that location.

There seems to be no negative feedback to the proposal, which was turned down, it would appear, on a technicality which defines theater as a "commercial, sales" enterprise and not as a community service. Issues of impact on the surrounding neighborhood, such as parking, have been addressed to everyone's satisfaction.

I am a retired librarian who moved here from the rich cultural center of the San Francisco Bay Area in 2009. Portland Playhouse is not only the best theater in town, it's an amazing community resource. It's an organization that really walks its talk. Not only is it a non-profit with subsidized, really affordable theater admission, it has consistently reached out to a diverse and often underserved community. The annual high school Shakespeare project, which culminates in student performances in a "real" downtown theater, is breathtakingly wonderful, and it includes schools from many areas and socio-economic strata of Portland, not just the so-called "good" schools.

I first became aware of Portland Playhouse when I noticed that someone was actually putting on a production of an August Wilson play here ("Radio Golf")! August Wilson is one of the greatest American playwrights of the 20th century, and here were two white guys and their theater group, working with African American actors and directors to stage a play about gentrification of African American neighborhoods. I was impressed, and immediately subscribed to the upcoming season. Since then, Portland Playhouse has collaborated in producing two more of Wilson's plays, and will shortly be presenting the Brother/Sister Plays by the exciting young African-American playwright Tarell Alvin McCraney.

If you've ever attended a Portland Playhouse performance, then you know that it's like going to a gathering of friends. There is a wonderfully informal and totally unpretentious atmosphere - we are not here just to be entertained, we are here to learn and think and experience together. The intimate setting of the theater space in the old church is a vital part of that experience.

In my retirement, I'm trying to help others as much as I can given my modest means, and I usually give to the basics: food, shelter, healthcare. Until I got to know Portland Playhouse, I had never given a donation to any arts organization (plenty of rich biddies to support the theater, I always figured!). In the last year, I've opened not only my heart, but my wallet as well. This is an organization worthy of support.

Please give Portland Playhouse its neighborhood home back in the old church at 602 NE Russet Street, so



**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** Dan Fahrbach [dfahrbach@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2012 10:33 AM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** cary.clark@portlandoregon.gov  
**Subject:** LU 11-187799 CU

Hello,

I am writing in strong support of allowing Portland Playhouse to use the Prescott building as its home theater. Personally, I offer two reasons:

1. I can walk to the theater. This is a huge neighborhood benefit for my family, and obviously bears on the parking issue.

2. More importantly, Portland Playhouse should stay in the NE neighborhood because the theater there improves equity in Portland.

Theater is a powerful way for people to hear their stories told, acknowledged and authenticated. PP appears dedicated to telling diverse stories, and so PP should be allowed to present their productions in the most diverse neighborhood in Portland.

Location matters! I saw two August Wilson productions by PP at the two locations--"Ma Rainey" at the Prescott building and "Gem of the Ocean" downtown at the World Trade Center. What a difference! "Ma Rainey" was as good and alive as anything I've seen (I have been lucky enough to see all ten Wilson plays mostly on Broadway in NY). However, the theater location for "Gem" seemed rob the play of power. Instead of being a living thing like Ma Rainey, the play felt more like an artifact, if that makes sense. There was definitely less audience conversation in the hallways afterwards.

So please do the common sense thing and allow Portland Playhouse to use the Prescott Street location. That location is the right size, the right style of place, and the right place in Portland. Portland Playhouse has demonstrated its commitment to diverse theater and extremely high quality productions, especially in its long-term commitment to August Wilson's profound meditation on the African-American experience. What an unnecessary setback in Portland's aims to reduce inequity denying the necessary exemptions would be!

Dan Fahrbach

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** Margaret Gunn [Margaret.Gunn@educationnorthwest.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2012 10:15 AM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** LU1-187799  
**Importance:** High

COUNTY CLERK: PLEASE ENTER THIS COMMENT INTO THE RECORD AND FORWARD IT TO THE CITY COMMISSIONERS FOR THE HEARING TODAY, MARCH 1, 3PM  
LU1-187799

Regarding case # **LU 11-187799**, approval to allow Portland Playhouse to perform as a working theatre in the historic church building on NE Prescott and 6<sup>th</sup>, I am writing in support of allowing the Portland Playhouse to stay in its present location, to continue to perform plays and other functions relating to their theatrical efforts, and be designated a "Community Service." My reasons are reflected below.

I have attended many plays at this venue and found them to be of the highest quality and involving actors and authors of diverse ethnic backgrounds.

Portland Playhouse artistic presentations reward this theater company's audiences with extremely authentic and valuable artistic exposure and experience.

I have attended other community activities at this venue. The Portland Playhouse has comfortably shared the space provided by the historic church and has proved flexible with regard to the use of space to accommodate other groups. The fact that there is theater activity taking place has not inhibited or prevented other community activities to be offered.

Research tells us, and the new Portland Plan supports the concept, that a neighborhood thrives when there is a balance of services and resources (technical, artistic, domestic, and commercial) located within its boundaries and within a 20 minute or less walk or commute. The presence of the Portland Playhouse has helped to provide that balance. In fact, there are few theatrical spaces actively producing work in the Northeast sector of our city. Portland Playhouse is an especially wonderful opportunity for constituents of King, Sabin, and Irvington neighborhoods—all within walking distance.

In my experience, the staff of the Portland Playhouse is extremely capable in the management of the theater. Staff members are courteous, personable, informative, and generous. They promote their productions with maturity and professionalism, despite their limited financial resources. The building offers ample room for audiences to mingle before, during intermission, and after performances without any impact on immediate neighborhood. I have never experienced any chaos or undo noise in exiting a performance. As the building is already designated appropriate for community center activities, I do not think theater activities would create any more parking impacts than other community gatherings would. If it were still a church, the same parking issues would apply. Indeed, because of its proximity to the residential neighborhoods in NE, many theater-goers might be walking to the theater rather than driving.

Portland Playhouse has been listed by the Willamette Week as one of the organizations worthy of receiving public donation as part of their "year end giving campaign" to deserving non-profits. Local

businesses have been generous, throughout the year, to donate items for its various productions.

I understand that the zoning code deems a theater as a "commercial" venture and should therefore be restricted to similarly zoned areas. However, it is my belief, that because this theater is of such small scale, maintains a modest profile, utilizes a building that is not altered by its activity, and provides such a strong and positive cultural contribution to the balance of neighborhood resources, a variance should be made in this case to allow it to continue its activities in this location designated as a "Community Service."

Margaret Gunn  
5344 SE 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97202  
503-774-1661

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** squishypeanutduck@gmail.com on behalf of Peanutduck [peanutduck@ooglenoogole.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2012 9:39 AM

**To:** Moore-Love, Karla

**Cc:** Clarke, Cary

**Subject:** Portland Playhouse, case no (LU 11-187799 CU)

Dear Commissioners,

I write to request that you reconsider your zoning decision that prevents Portland Playhouse from operating out of its theatre space, "The Church", in the King neighborhood.

Portland Playhouse is one of the few performing arts spaces in this neighborhood and the sole resident theatre company. The other major spaces are currently IFCC at Interstate and Killingsworth and one even further north. Conversely, downtown and SE are packed with performing spaces. What about this neighborhood with its unique population? Please let it grow. Along with the retail "improvements" of Alberta, Mississippi, and Williams, we need to build the arts here. We need to keep this community space.

PP is also the sole company in this area committed to producing at least one play by a minority artist each year. This is rare in Portland and something the minority community in this area has responded eagerly to. The Playhouse works tirelessly to incorporate the neighborhood into its company. It has worked with local Jefferson High School students each year, in addition to other schools in Portland and Vancouver. It reaches out to the minority agencies all over Portland. This theatre space is needed in this area.

You're right - the company does sell something, but it is hardly a retail space. The space itself is unobtrusive - it's an old church. From the outside it isn't obvious that it's a theatre; in fact, a school operates out of it. The only time there is traffic comparable to that of a retail store is during its performances. It is my understanding that the parking issues related to the performances have been resolved.

The space itself is unique and unlike any performance space in Portland. The fact that it's a church and almost a theatre in disguise is wonderful. Unlike most performance venues, it is a part of the neighborhood. It belongs to everyone. And that is the spirit of the Playhouse.

Portland Playhouse has been in this neighborhood for over 4 years. The loss of this arts space would leave a hole previously filled by wonderful theatre and a community brought together by the arts. I am only a resident of this neighborhood and an audience member. If my voice isn't loud enough to listen to, then at least listen to the voices of the community leaders who know the history of this neighborhood and its people and support this company's vision.

Sincerely,

theresa hernandez  
4135 N Vancouver

## Moore-Love, Karla

---

**From:** Maggie McOmie [magpipe@mac.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2012 9:35 AM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** PORTLAND PLAYHOUSE

Dear Folks,

I live in the adjacent Vernon neighborhood to the Portland Playhouse.

I have attended most of their productions and really enjoyed WALKING to them.

I urge you to grant them their permit. For those of us in their area we want them to have a long and healthy stay in our community.

They are a COMMUNITY SERVICE, offering workshops for kids and others, and providing live drama for a lively neighborhood.

Do the right thing!!!

Thank You,

Maggie McOmie  
1304 NE Jarrett Street  
Portland 97211

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** Helen Gundlach [helen@spiritone.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2012 9:04 AM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** Letter of support for case # (LU 11-187799 CU)  
**Importance:** High  
**Attachments:** Portland Playhouse protest letter 3.1.12.pdf

Dear Ms. Moore,

I am pleased to present a letter of support for Portland Playhouse that I would like delivered to each City Commissioner. It is attached in pdf form. – Thanks, Helen

Helen Gundlach  
2024 SW Howards Way #203  
Portland, OR 97201  
H: 503.223.9042 / W: 503.535.3594 / C: 503.334.8815



Helen Gundlach

March 1, 2012

City Commissioner Amanda Fritz  
City Commissioner Nick Fish  
City Commissioner Dan Saltzman  
City Commissioner Randy Leonard

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of Portland Playhouse's appeal to present their work at their home theatre, the historic church on NE Preston & 6<sup>th</sup>: # (LU 11-187799 CU). I have attended many of their productions over the years, and I have been impressed with the quality and depth of the performances. They have quickly gained the theatre establishment's notice with their work. In particular, they have won great acclaim and recognition for their productions of August Wilson, the Pulitzer prize-winning playwright who is acknowledged as the preeminent African American playwright of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

I do not agree with the Bureau of Development Services ruling that stated "theater" is a "Commercial, Retail Sales" operation and not "Community Service." Are they insane? Portland Playhouse, like the historic church they perform in, is not a commercial enterprise and should not be defined as such. What about Portland Actors Conservatory on SW Montgomery? They are located in a residential zone and hold performances without incident. This legal challenge is an embarrassment to a city that promotes itself as supporting the creative class.

I am hoping that the esteemed members of Portland City's Council will recognize that they can rectify this unfortunate situation if only to align with the recent announcement in *The Oregonian* about the City of Portland's intent to increase racial diversity in all non-profit organizations in Portland. An important first step in that direction would be to allow Portland's most racially diverse theatre company—Portland Playhouse—to reclaim the Historic Church as their home, so that they can continue their work. I can assure you that all of us will be the beneficiary of this outcome.

Sincerely,

Helen Gundlach  
Proud Subscriber to Portland Playhouse

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** Jack Castle [jack\_books@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2012 8:52 AM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** Portland Playhouse

Hello Portland City Council members,

I'm writing today on behalf of the Portland Playhouse's case #LU 11-187799. I live at 4317 NE 7th Ave, right around the corner from the playhouse. I've seen several plays there, and I have enjoyed living so close, as I can walk over to the show. I am a Company Member at DoJump Extremely Physical theatre, another theatre very near to a residential area. Do Jump has become a cornerstone of it's SE neighborhood, providing a meeting point for neighbors, families, and friends to interact with art and each other for the last 35 years. Having a theatre right near your home is a vital community service. It provides a place to connect with art and new ideas, to connect with neighbors and friends, to connect with new ways of seeing yourself and the world. Please approve the Portland Playhouse's case to be considered a community service, so that they can keep operating out of the Church. So that I, and my neighbors, can keep walking around the corner to see great art, and to meet each other.

Thank you,  
Jack StockLynn

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** szickefoose [szickefoose@comcast.net]

**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2012 8:14 AM

**To:** Moore-Love, Karla

**Cc:** ary.clarke@portlandoregon.gov

**Subject:** case # (LU 11-187799 CU)

To The Portland City Council

I am writing on behalf of The Portland Playhouse being allowed to continue to carry out its mission in the King Neighborhood. Yes it is a theater--but it is also much more. It has brought first class theater to Portland and established itself in an area too often ignored by Portland's Art Community. It has produced work by some of America's finest playwrights (who happen to be African American) who also have too often been ignored by Portland's more established Art Community. It has done this in a setting that encourages the local community to discover powerful works of art while it invites the community to be a part of the theater.

To wit: One Sunday afternoon while at the Portland Playhouse waiting for a play to begin , I noticed some children from the neighborhood peeking in the door to see what was going on. There were a few empty seats available--so the house manager asked if the children would like to come in and see the play. The children had to run home to check with their mom to make sure it was ok. The play was delayed for them to get back. Their mother approved and 5 children were introduced to a beautiful piece of theater. They stayed the whole time and were mesmerized. When they left they asked lots of questions that were warmly welcomed. When they skipped off down the street afterward it was clear that they had had a meaningful experience. This is not the sort of thing that happens in 'a retail establishment' that exists only for commercial gain. It is the kind of success any community arts center would be happy to duplicate.

The Portland Playhouse is an important and valuable asset to the King Community and to Portland. It should be encouraged. And it should be applauded. It should be allowed to get on with its work right where it is, in the church, in the King neighborhood. Please do whatever is required to approve their petition to stay in the King Neighborhood in the old church.

Sandra Zickefoose  
8056 SW 4th Ave  
Portland, Or 97219

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** John Servilio [jservilio@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2012 6:53 AM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** Please forward to City Council Members: case # (LU 11-187799 CU)

Dear City Commissioners/Council Members:

I am writing in support of Portland Playhouse and their ability to keep The Church space on NE Prescott. While I don't live in the neighborhood, I have been attending their performances since before I moved to Portland and they were one of the reasons I decided to move.

They produce some of the highest quality and most culturally diverse plays around town and it would be tragic for them to lose this space and potentially their ability to find another.

I ask you to please allow them to stay.

Thanks very much for your consideration,  
John Servilio  
735 SW St. Clair Ave.  
No. 801  
Portland, OR 97205

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** Martin Pedersen [martinpedersen57@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 29, 2012 9:13 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** Portland Playhouse

Please reconsider the BDS ruling and designate the church as a community service. Portland Playhouse is an important part of our community. I believe that the works of art that they present (which represent the community they are in, veterans, people of color, HIV victims,) are certainly more aligned with community service, as opposed to retail or commercial space like a food cart, coffee shop or a boutique.

11-187799

Thank you for your time.

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** chad sullivan [pdxchad@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 29, 2012 9:01 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** support portland playhouse! case # (LU 11-187799 CU)

Dear Karla,

Please tell the Commissioners that my family, friends, and I live in North Portland and strongly support Portland Playhouse and we vote!

The council needs to decide to classify the Playhouse as a neighborhood art center so it can continue to perform in the neighborhood church building and continue serving a vital community interest.

Thank you,  
Chad Sullivan

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** Chris -Jones [cwpj@comcast.net]

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 29, 2012 8:53 PM

**To:** info@portlandplayhouse.org; Moore-Love, Karla

**Subject:** Re: TOMORROW Save the Playhouse at City Council

Case # (LU 11-187799 CU)

We are enthusiastic supporters of theater in North/Northeast Portland. This building is a wonderful theater. There was no parking issue when this was a church what is the issue now?

Chris Poole-Jones

[cwpj@comcast.net](mailto:cwpj@comcast.net)

|

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** Harold & Gloria Nussbaum [ghnuss@teleport.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 29, 2012 8:37 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** Portland Playhouse

Dear Ms. Moore-Love and Council members,

The Portland Playhouse (case # (LU-187799CU) is a vital part of NE Portland generally and the King Neighborhood specifically. They are doing wonderful work and are a critical element in revitalizing that part of the city. They are most definitely a Community Service and have been strongly endorsed by many of the groups who benefit from their presence.

To quote Alan Silver, Chair of the King Neighborhood Association:  
*"Portland Playhouse contributes significantly to the cultural and social experience of King residents. It would be a striking loss to our community if it was denied the opportunity to continue operating out of the old church building."*

Having attended several performances there, we can attest to Portland Playhouse's worth and value.

We strongly request that each of you vote in favor of allowing this worthwhile and thriving organization to continue to contribute to the community and city by designating it as a Community Service. This is the right thing to do!

Sincerely,  
Gloria & Harold Nussbaum  
870 NW 178 Ave  
Beaverton OR 97006

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** scriptchik@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 29, 2012 8:12 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** Portland Playhouse

Case # LU 11-187799 CU

To the Portland City Council:

I am writing to to voice my support for allowing Portland Playhouse to continue to function as a theater in the King Neighborhood. By providing great art by diverse playwrights, the theater draws folks from the surrounding area as well as from the west side. On show nights there's a genial mixing of cultures, something that might not happen elsewhere. This diversity is something to be preserved and continued.

The playhouse also provides education in the theater arts to the community during the summers. This is a great opportunity for the kids in the neighborhood.

Portland Playhouse strives to be a good neighbor and has the support of the community. Instead of an empty building, it's a thriving community place. It's a win-win to keep Portland Playhouse in this space.

Thank you,  
Jennifer Lakey  
scriptchik@comcast.net  
4344 SW 34th Ave.  
Portland, OR 97239

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** t.new@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 29, 2012 8:04 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** cary.clark@portlandoregon.gov  
**Subject:** Portland Playhouse  
case # (LU 11-187799 CU)

4025 SW Nehalem Ct, Portland, Oregon

Please allow Portland Playhouse to use the church as their home. They are a great theater group that does fantastic work. They are an appropriate user of the church and add vitality and richness to the neighborhood.

Terry New

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** John Eddy Hall [jeh@jehall.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 29, 2012 5:58 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** cary.clark@portlandoregon.gov  
**Subject:** Portland Playhouse

To the Honorable Portland Mayor and City Councilors,

My name is John E Hall. I reside at 2826 SE Pheasant Way, Gresham OR, 97080. I work in North Portland at 3800 N Interstate Ave, Portland OR, 97227.

I am a season subscriber with the Portland Playhouse. And I respectfully submit, for council consideration, my plea in support of the King Neighborhood Association's appeal of the Bureau of Development Services' finding that the Portland Playhouse use of the historic church building at NE Prescott and NE 6th is a "Commercial, Retail Sales" operation and not a "Community Service".

I was drawn to attend Portland Playhouse performances because of their staging of The Pittsburgh Cycle of plays by the renowned American playwright, August Wilson. Those plays, each set in a different decade in the same location, depict aspects of the African-American experience in the twentieth century. Through those plays, and others, the Portland Playhouse has provided African-American actors and dramatic artists from Portland the opportunity to express those experiences to the small number of us who are fortunate to attend their performances. This is empowerment and enrichment through culture and art. And our community is strengthened by the experience.

I can attest that it is an intimate and highly inter-personal experience to attend Portland Playhouse performances. You meet the artistic director and other theater board members at the door. They serve you refreshments. And, they discuss their commitment to their neighborhood and to their artistic goals. Those goals are framed by their location and the immediate community they serve. They labor from their hearts. Portland Playhouse is an enterprise in pursuit of artistic riches.

Please vote to classify the Neighborhood Art Center in the historic church building at 602 NE Prescott St as the "Community Service" that it truly is. Please allow this Portland Playhouse experience to continue in that small, intimate space.

Sincerely,

jeh

John Eddy Hall  
2826 SE Pheasant Way  
Gresham, OR 97080

503-661-0771  
jeh@jehall.net

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** Becky Larson [blarson@pacifier.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 29, 2012 5:34 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** Portland Playhouse

To whom it may concern:

Re: Case #LU 11-187799 CU

My address: 3222 N.E. 52nd Ave, Portland, OR, 97213

It would be unconscionable for Portland Playhouse to not receive all rights of a Community Service organization. They are the very definition of community service.

Please consider this--my husband was unemployed for 3 & 1/2 years. Prior to the layoff we were avid patrons of theater, dance, and other arts.

During the time of unemployment all we could afford was Portland Playhouse, the other venues being much too expensive. THAT is Community Service. Since he has been back at work we have purchased season tickets to the Playhouse. That, too, is community service. That is what makes a true community, all working for the betterment of others.

Portland Playhouse has also contributed greatly to the King community and there is much support for the Playhouse from King.

Please do the right thing by designating Portland Playhouse a Community Service organization.

Becky & Jim Larson

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** joan grover [joangrvr@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 29, 2012 5:25 PM

**To:** Clarke, Cary

**Cc:** Moore-Love, Karla

**Subject:** Support for Portland Playhouse

Ladies,

Along with many organizations and three neighborhood associations, I'm urging the City Council to permit Portland Playhouse to be designated as a Community Center.

I've attended performances of this theatre and found them to be of the highest quality. Their presence in this neighborhood provides its citizens with the opportunity to see excellent theatre. It would be a loss to this community if the theatre is not allowed back into the neighborhood.

Joan Grover

2024 SW Howards Way #401  
Portland, 97201

## Moore-Love, Karla

---

**From:** Paul and Alice Meyer [paulalice@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 29, 2012 5:06 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** Portland Playhouse aka (LU11-187799 CU)

Dear Ms. Moore: Will you kindly convey the following email to those addressed below.

Dear Mayor Adams and Members of the City Council:

We write as regular theatre goers in Portland - who are also long-time season ticket holders to series after series of dance and music performances of all descriptions, as well as lectures. The audiences in all these venues by and large look just like us: usually younger, a little gray and totally white.

By its choice of well-performed dramatic vehicles as well as its choice of a conveniently located venue, Portland Playhouse offers this city a unique opportunity, as well as a service to the community, nowhere else to be found to our knowledge: the audience is much younger than we and definitely not all white.

We hope you agree and grant whatever permitting the Playhouse needs to carry on its mission as they have conceived it.

Yours sincerely,

Paul and Alice Meyer  
1325 SW Myrtle Drive  
Portland OR 97201  
503-295-6474

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** Rasmussen, William [william.rasmussen@millernash.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 29, 2012 4:37 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** brian@portlandplayhouse.org; hedda.lee@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Playhouse Written Testimony (LU Case # 11-187799; HO Case # 4110034)  
**Attachments:** PDXDOCS-#1959148-v2-Playhouse\_\_Written\_Testimony\_to\_Council.pdf; NW.Community.Center.Decision.pdf; 1992.Decision.pdf; 1993.Decision.pdf; 2010.Decision.pdf

Hi Karla,

Attached is written testimony from the applicant for the Playhouse hearing tomorrow.

Would you please confirm that you received this and will distribute the attached testimony to the Council members?

Thanks,  
Will

**William L. Rasmussen**

**MILLER NASH LLP**

3400 U.S. Bancorp Tower | 111 S.W. Fifth Avenue | Portland, Oregon 97204

Direct: 503-205-2308 | Office: 503-224-5858 | Fax: 503-224-0155

[william.rasmussen@millernash.com](mailto:william.rasmussen@millernash.com) | [www.millernash.com](http://www.millernash.com)

*Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.*

**CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE:** This e-mail message may contain confidential or privileged information. If you have received this message by mistake, please do not review, disclose, copy, or distribute the e-mail. Instead, please notify us immediately by replying to this message or telephoning us. Thank you.

**IRS CIRCULAR 230 NOTICE:** Unless specifically designated therein, any advice that may be expressed above (including in any attachments) as to tax matters was neither written nor intended by the sender or Miller Nash LLP to be used and cannot be used by you or anyone else for (i) the purpose of avoiding tax penalties that may be imposed under the United States Internal Revenue Code or (ii) promoting, marketing or recommending to another party any transaction, plan or arrangement. Each taxpayer should seek advice from their own independent tax adviser, based on the taxpayer's particular circumstances.

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** George Wright [georgec3pub@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 29, 2012 4:00 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** Portland Playhouse

Karla Moore and Cary Clarke: Please forward my email to City Council members who are considering the fate of the Portland Playhouse. Thank you, George Wright

**To the Portland City Commissioners**

**RE: Retain Portland Playhouse, check out the Bureau's semantics, then reverse the decision. It is the right thing to do.**

**First**, I am disappointed to learn that the application to the Bureau of Development Services for the Portland Playhouse to continue to use a King neighborhood historic building to provide a cultural presence has been denied. If anything, the city should be encouraging more arts and culture activities; it is so vital to a healthy Portland.

**Secondly**, it appears that the denial stems from the use of the word "theater", which can only be defined as a "Commercial, Retail Sales" operation, not as "Community Service," and is therefore forbidden in a residential-zoned building. I have attended a number of community-based theater group performances in neighborhoods, some in old churches. So it seems that we are looking only at a "language" issue. If that is the case, please give the Portland Playhouse another term they can use. The King Neighborhood Association itself has appealed BDS's decision on behalf of Portland Playhouse to the City Council.

**Lastly**, all party's but the Bureau seem to approve of the presence of this arts body in the King neighborhood. Please work on a solution. The last thing we need to be doing is tearing down when we can rework policies, and come up with a special amended permit that would not override rules that may have an important purpose but are roadblocks if used without regard for the community good.

I urge you to reverse this decision and direct the Bureau of Development Services to come up with a solution. Remember, it is more fun to find a way to make something work than to tear it down.

Sincerely,  
George Wright  
3495 NW Thurman St.  
Portland, OR 97210

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** Jenny Newbry Waters [jnewbry@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 29, 2012 3:56 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** Letter of Support for Portland Playhouse at The Church

To the Council Members deciding the fate of "The Church" for Portland Playhouse:

(Case number LU 11-187799 CU)

My name is Jenny Newbry Waters and I have been an audience member at Portland Playhouse since January 2010. I also teach Voice to the Portland Playhouse Apprentices. I am an actor and teacher with a BA from the College of Idaho and an MFA from Florida Atlantic University.

I cannot stress strongly enough how vital I believe The Church is for both the King neighborhood and the arts/culture of the Portland community. The Playhouse is constantly creating opportunities for people of diverse backgrounds (ethnic, racial, educational, age, interests) to meet in a common place and engage in storytelling, discussion, and community.

The Playhouse is a theatre company that puts on relevant plays of high quality. The plays are ambitious, diverse, and different from what any other theatre company in town is doing.

More than just putting on plays, the Playhouse provides apprenticeship opportunities -- both for young actors and technical artists. The Playhouse is a professional environment that is also a place of learning, helping pass the torch of our craft to the next generation of theatre artists.

Valuing education and youth highly, the Playhouse runs a Fall Festival of Shakespeare every year, teaming with schools in both Oregon and Washington to put on Shakespeare plays, culminating in a weekend of Shakespeare where all the schools come together. I attended this festival last year, and it was truly magical to see high school students supporting each other, getting as excited about Shakespeare as they get about team sports.

The venue of the Church is vital to all of these Playhouse activities. Portland Playhouse is doing good things -- they are constantly recognized by The Oregonian for the quality and richness of their work, and they are a rising star in the Portland theatre community. They will only do good for the Portland community. Please allow them to continue calling The Church their home.

Sincerely,  
Jenny Newbry Waters  
[jnewbry@gmail.com](mailto:jnewbry@gmail.com)  
[www.jennynewbrywaters.com](http://www.jennynewbrywaters.com)

Residence Address:  
6514 SE 57th Pl.  
Portland, OR 97206

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** Byron Rendar [byronr@easystreet.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 29, 2012 3:54 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** in support of Portland Playhouse (LU 11-187799 CU)

I am writing to support Portland Playhouse in continuing to present plays at the NE Prescott Church building.

I have seen some wonderful plays there and enjoy the atmosphere. The Playhouse is a welcome addition to our cultural scene and has been for years.

As far as I know the issues that were raised in regard to parking and noise have been resolved. Portland has a history of churches being used for concerts and plays and this usage is not different from others. BDS has ruled in a narrow and legalistic way. I am sure that the City Council can attach reasonable conditions, such as opening up rehearsals, offering an acting seminar, or other condition so that it satisfies the community service designation.

--

Byron Rendar  
3586 NE Stanton St.  
Portland, OR 97212

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** January Roeschlaub [JanuaryR@osbplf.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 29, 2012 3:32 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** Portland Playhouse / Case # LU 11-187799 CU

Dear Ms. Moore:

Will you please forward my comments to the city commissioners who will be considering the above enumerated appeal tomorrow.

I would like to add my voice to the others who have written and who will no doubt testify at tomorrow's council hearing in support of the appeal by Portland Playhouse challenging the Bureau of Developmental Service's decision denying the theater company's application to designate the old church at 602 NE Prescott Street as a Neighborhood Art Center where they could continue to produce the high caliber plays many of which are of particular social and cultural relevance to the King neighborhood where the building is located.

It is hard for me to believe Portland city government would thwart this worthy organization's conditional use permit for the premises based on the notion live theater is more akin to a commercial retail sales than it is to community service. If the act of bringing people from diverse backgrounds and various parts of the greater Portland community together in an intimate historic King neighborhood arts space to experience, share and discuss important societal and artistic themes found in the works of renown playwrights is not a community service, I am not sure what would constitute a community service.

The dedicated folks at Portland Playhouse who have made such a name for themselves not only in the theater community but also in the neighborhood they have particularly chosen to engage are not in the business of making money. Clearly the old church is not a mercantile. Portland Playhouse does not peddle wares. It peddles ideas and encourages creative thought and artistic development. One hopes the elected Portland officials will see fit to allow this great organization to continue its mission which has been richly supported by all who have been a part of the experience.

January Roeschlaub  
Unit 420  
1500 SW Park  
Portland, Oregon 97201

## Moore-Love, Karla

---

**From:** Bruce Cantwell [brucec@myenvoy.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 29, 2012 3:04 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** Portland Playhouse at The Church

Hello Ms. Moore:

I attended a performance by Portland Playhouse at the Church and have to say that the experience was much more of a neighborhood arts event than a commercial or retail sales transaction.

In terms of commercial theater, there's very little being done in Portland, you'd have to look at touring shows that play at Keller Auditorium for consistent examples.

Portland Playhouse is a not-for-profit organization and the only retail transactions conducted are the transactions of paying money to cover a portion of the cost of presenting a play.

It's nice to have such high quality theater available on the Northeast side, especially one whose programming is as attuned to its community as this one.

The experience of going down to the World Trade Center to catch a Portland Playhouse show just isn't the same.

I trust you'll make the right decision but just wanted to weigh in on the matter.

Take Care,

Bruce

Bruce Cantwell  
4838 NE 41st Ave.  
Portland, OR 97211-8143  
Tel: 503.287.7862  
E-mail: brucec@myenvoy.com

## Moore-Love, Karla

---

**From:** Kirke Wolfe [kirke@pdx.edu]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 29, 2012 2:57 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** Restoring Portland Playhouse performances to King-Sabin

February 29, 2012

Members of the City Council,

I am writing as a 40 year Sabin resident to urge you to grant Portland Playhouse's request to continue performing plays for the public in their building at NE 6th and Prescott. I have attended six of their performances at that location and have found them to be a wonderful gift to the neighborhood.

I happened upon the Portland Playhouse when I was out for a Sunday afternoon walk about three years ago. As I was going by the little old church building, I noticed a sign telling of a performance at 4 pm that day of a play entitled "Mauritius." The play was said to be about stamp collecting and there was a quote: "It's the flaws that make them valuable."

Wondering what they would make of such unlikely material, I went in to see if tickets were still available and was welcomed by Brian Weaver, the group's artistic director. During our conversation and the performance that followed, it became clear that something remarkable was happening here. A group of able and enthusiastic theatre people had taken on the project of bringing inspired performances of high quality theatrical works into the neighborhood in a relaxed and inviting setting.

Since then I have returned with friends and neighbors to see "Radio Golf," "Fiction," "Telethon," "Dying City" and "BobRauschenbergAmerica." What I almost always find is that these performances open my mind and heart to the lives of other human beings in ways that make my own life richer. Everyone I know who has attended their plays has been enthusiastic that such an experience is available not just in Portland but in our very neighborhood.

There is lots of good theatre in Portland, but there is something special about having the Portland Playhouse performing right here: their obvious desire and ability to connect with us and contribute to our lives, their ready accessibility, which had the effect of more than doubling the number of plays I attended during the time they were performing at the old church, and the simple fact that their presence is one more reason for us to feel good about living here. This has been underscored for me in the sense of loss I've experienced since the Playhouse has been forced to find other venues for their performances, none of which I've managed to attend. I hope that you will be able to restore this treasure to our neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Kirke Wolfe  
3223 NE 14th Ave  
Portland, OR 97212

Case #LU 11-187799 CU

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** Michael J. Campbell [m.j.campbell@comcast.net]

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 29, 2012 2:55 PM

**To:** Moore-Love, Karla

**Cc:** Clarke, Cary

**Subject:** Portland Playhouse IS Community Service NOT Commercial Retail Case# (LU 11-187799 CU)

Dear City Council Members:

I am sending this e-mail as I will not be able to attend the Council Meeting tomorrow, 3/1/12 when at 3:30 PM the of Case#LU 11-187799 CU involving the Portland Playhouse will be discussed. There are many times when I see Portland City Vehicles with that ever present signage "Portland the City that Works". Well, if there ever was a case where this City has proven NOT to work, it is the case involving Portland Playhouse's efforts to provide a cultural experience for the community where the historic church at NE Prescott and 6th is located as well as for the rest of us in Portland who don't live in that neighborhood and the city's continuing efforts to try to prevent it!! The latest, declaring that this effort, which is based on incredible effort and sacrifice not "profits", was determined to be a "Commercial Retail Sales" by the Bureau of Developmental Services (BDS) throwing another if not ultimate road block in their path to use this facility to provide rich cultural experiences. As I will not be able to attend the meeting tomorrow when perhaps there will be an attempt to explain this incomprehensible decision, I can only assume it was based on either total ignorance of the arts or a hidden agenda to prevent arts of this nature to be produced in Portland. Most importantly, since I can not be at this meeting, I would like to use this e-mail to urge the Council in the strongest of terms to reverse the BDS decision and allow the Portland Playhouse to use the Church and continue what it has started, a rich cultural experience for that neighborhood and all of us in Portland fortunate enough to be able to experience their efforts.

Michael J. Campbell  
6446 SW Parkhill Drive  
Portland, OR 97239

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** Stepan Simek [simek@lclark.edu]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 29, 2012 2:47 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** Portland Playhouse/BDS Hearing March 1st Case #LU 11-187799 CU

Dear Council Members,

I'm writing to you in order to express my strong support for the Portland Playhouse's quest to retain the old church in the King neighborhood as their artistic home.

I'm currently the Chair of the Theatre Department at Lewis & Clark College and an active Portland theatre practitioner and "consumer," and I believe that the Portland Playhouse is currently the most interesting, exciting, and - especially - RELEVANT theatre company in Portland. Their programming is impressive in terms of their choices of plays that speak DIRECTLY to what it means to be an American citizen, and a participant in the world HERE AND NOW.

It is exactly that kind of theatre that America needs today, and it is a theatre that is DIRECTLY connected to the daily lives of a community as well as a theatre that is INTIMATELY part of that community. The old church in the King neighborhood is a PERFECT place for such a theatre. The physical space of the church, and its location in a real neighborhood is an essential expression of the values that the Portland Playhouse is putting forth with their choice of plays, their casting, and their overall mission.

While the plays they produce can of course be shown in other places, the impact of such productions would inevitably be lesser, because good theatre such as that that the Portland Playhouse presents is a complex mechanism where every choice being made by the artists actually matters. And those choices include the physical space of the theatre. The old church and the King neighborhood ARE an integral part of Portland Playhouse, and without it, the company will be incomplete.

I'm especially sensitive to the issue of "evicting" artists from their home. I came to the United States many years ago as a refugee from what was then communist Czechoslovakia. I was a young theatre artist, who has seen numerous theatres closed by the authorities, theatre artists persecuted, plays censored, and young people forbidden to do what they desperately wanted to do. While I'm in no way suggesting that the issue with the old church in the King neighborhood is comparable to the persecution that I and many of my fellow theatre practitioners experienced under Communism, I cringe when I hear that an "agency" is "evicting" artists, and is taking it upon itself to "define" what a theatre is supposed to be (Commercial, Retail Sales, etc...).

As a fellow citizen of Portland, a great supporter of both the arts and the vital neighborhoods in our city, and as a person who passionately believes in the impact theatre can have on the lives of those who partake in it as audiences, I PLEAD with you to allow the Portland Playhouse to remain in their artistic home. Without it they will be a lesser company, the neighborhood will be a lesser neighborhood, and the city will be a lesser city.

Thank you for your attention,

2/29/2012

Stepan S. Simek  
Associate Professor of Theatre,  
Chair, Theatre Department  
Lewis & Clark College  
Portland, OR 97219

503 768 7494  
[simek@lclark.edu](mailto:simek@lclark.edu)

## Moore-Love, Karla

---

**From:** lmcclary1@aol.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 29, 2012 2:20 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla; Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** Fwd: Portland Playhouse take two

I am re-sending this as a forward, because I forgot to include the case # LU 11-187799 CU, and my street address, which is 3509 NW Chapin Drive, Portland, 97229. And again I would say, please let the Portland Playhouse continue in the old church!! Thank you.

-----Original Message-----

From: lmcclary1 <lmcclary1@aol.com>  
To: Karla.moore-love <Karla.moore-love@portlandoregon.gov>  
Cc: cary.clarke <cary.clarke@portlandoregon.gov>  
Sent: Tue, Feb 21, 2012 2:23 pm  
Subject: Portland Playhouse

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing to ask you to please designate the Portland Playhouse use of the old church on NE Prescott and 6th as a "community service," and allow it to put on plays there. We love this theater, and its continued operation in that particular space is crucial to its character. It is not just any commercial theater. Its plays speak to us all, but particularly to the community there. To treat it like just any retail outlet is a travesty. Please reconsider and reverse the ill-conceived decision to throw it out of its home. This unnecessarily harsh and narrow decision shocks and saddens me, and I am certain everyone who has had the privilege of being in the Playhouse audience, both in its original home and in its brave peripatetic existence around the city in the last year. May it not remain without its rightful home! Please allow it to go back to the old church, where it is indeed a community service.

Thank you,

Louisa McCleary

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** Barbara Steinfeld [barbara@travelportland.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 29, 2012 2:18 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** Case # (LU 11-187799 CU)

To the members of the Portland City Council:

In defense of the Portland Playhouse continuing to perform in the King neighborhood in the church:

Portland Playhouse is a small but mighty professional theater group that adds something positive to the neighborhood. Instead of performing where everyone else does, they have chosen to enhance a section of town that doesn't always get the cutting edge cultural activities. This should be encouraged, not discouraged. I personally had never been to this part of town until I attended one of Portland Playhouse's excellent productions. I loved seeing the King neighborhood including the houses and small businesses there. This is a quality organization and brings benefits to wherever it is housed.

Cordially,

Barbara Steinfeld  
3536 SW Hamilton Court  
Portland, OR 97221

---

BARBARA STEINFELD  
VICE PRESIDENT OF TOURISM SALES

BARBARA@TRAVELPORTLAND.COM  
TRAVELPORTLAND.COM

TRAVEL PORTLAND  
1000 S.W. BROADWAY, STE. 2300  
PORTLAND, OR 97205

503.275.9778 DIRECT  
503.730.8754 MOBILE  
800.962.3700 TOLL-FREE  
503.275.9297 FAX

---

*Please conserve paper; print this e-mail only if necessary.*

2/29/2012

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** Nancy [nsellers2722@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 29, 2012 2:11 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** Portland Playhouse

**RE: # LU 11-187799 CU**

Please approve the use of the church for the Portland Playhouse theater. I used to live just a few blocks away from this church (and several others in the neighborhood). The churches generated extra cars several times a week, as does the Portland Playhouse. But, I see them as serving a neighborhood with spiritual and cultural enrichment. I hope the Council can vote to allow this group to use the church in the manner that doesn't infringe on codes already in place. The Portland Playhouse is a valuable asset to the community. Many of the playwrights and subject matter come from that diverse neighborhood. It also brings people to the neighborhood which encourages improvements and businesses. It benefits everyone.

Nancy Sellers  
2722 SE Lincoln St.  
Portland, OR 97214  
503-201-6754

**Parsons, Susan**

---

**From:** george [gbruender@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 29, 2012 10:29 AM  
**To:** Parsons, Susan; Moore-Love, Karla  
**Subject:** written testimony for time certain item 207, Mar. 1.2012  
Hearing LU 11-187799 CU  
Portland Playhouse Time certain item 207

To: City Council members  
FR: George M. Bruender  
Land Use Chair Concordia Neighborhood Assn.

I would like to add a more general historical perspective to the appeal of King Neighborhood Assn to allow the continuation of the services of the Portland Playhouse.

The past 20-30 years have seen the dislocation and dispersal of many of the long time residents of inner Northeast Portland and their replacement by other groups of residents. When these original residents have moved out their homes have been quickly remodeled and reinhabited, but their larger community facilities (churches, lodge halls) have been left behind, vacant and often falling into disrepair over time, devaluing nearby homes. Many of these structures exist within the R2.5 and R5 residential zones which severely limits options for their use. They were once walkable sites (no parking spaces needed); actually the original "20 minute neighborhoods" we are now trying to create (or re-create).

As we try to regenerate our broken neighborhoods, we are attempting to fill in the gaps. The commercial sectors, the residential sectors seem to be self-regenerating. Re-structuring the empty community facilities is a harder task. Our neighborhood associations have worked hard to find and develop nearby community places that residents can get to quickly and on foot or bike. These buildings fit that purpose.

We also need amenities in our neighborhoods to encourage those residents who have fled to outer Portland to come back home. The Portland Playhouse is one such positive amenity and there are others in the pipeline. Following "the letter of the regulations" is an obstacle. (Recall the cliché which is still apropos: First, do no harm.) Zoning, etc. were never intended to be obstacles to rejuvenating our communities.

This hearing conclusion, if supported by City Council, will send a chilling message to our land use efforts. Instead decide for King NA - and for the rest of us.

George M. Bruender

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** JON A HIRSCH [jomarlia@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2012 5:13 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla; cary.clarke@portlandoregon.go  
**Subject:** [User Approved] Portland Playhouse

Ms. Moore,

I am writing to urge the City Council to classify Portland Playhouse activities as 'community service' and an allowed use in the neighborhood.

As an inner NE Portland resident, I value the programming of Portland Playhouse and the cultural and social experience it brings to area residents. Portland Playhouse has shown their commitment to the immediate community through their play selections and active efforts to stay in the NE Prescott location - it would be a loss to our neighborhood to have this cultural group forced out. Theatre, and all arts, belong amongst the populace and not centrally located within a specific district - particularly a theater group that presents work relevant to their community. Portland Playhouse has resolved the initial issues with their immediate neighbors and gained the support of multiple inner NE neighborhood associations - this support should be confirmed by the City Council and Portland Playhouse should be granted the classification to stay on NE Prescott.

Sincerely,  
Marjorie Hirsch  
3325 NE 18th Avenue  
Portland OR 97212

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** Dave Sutton [DaveSutton@Windermere.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2012 3:57 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** Portland Playhouse zoning case # (LU 11-187799 CU)

I write to support the classification of "Community Service", which will permit Portland Playhouse to continue in this location.

Surely a key part of what "makes Portland Portland" is the diversity of live theater and this reclassification supports that with no negative consequence to the neighborhood.

(My home address is 5029 N. Cecelia St., Portland 97203)

Thanks for your consideration,

*Dave*

**Dave Sutton** | Realtor®

**Windermere Lloyd Tower**  
Windermere Cronin & Caplan Realty Group  
825 NE Multnomah St.  
Portland, OR 97232

**CELL/DIRECT/TXT (503) 505-9722**  
OFFICE (503) 284-7755  
FAX (971) 230-7929

[www.DaveSuttonHomes.com](http://www.DaveSuttonHomes.com)



**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** Mark Oldani [mark.oldani@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2012 3:16 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** Portland Playhouse Case # LU 11-187799 CU

Hello Ms. Moore-Love, I am writing in regards to case # LU 11-187799 CU concerning the zoning of Portland Playhouse. I live at 2414 NE Tillamook, 97212. I would like to ask you to give the variance to Portland Playhouse. Besides the fine work they have done on producing plays they have been responsible neighborhood residents. When concerns arose related to their zoning the members of Portland Playhouse acted immediately to address those concerns. It appears that the parking and noise issues have been resolved leading to the endorsement by several key community and neighborhood organizations, including: RACC, Oregon Cultural Trust, The Urban League, Creative Advocacy Network; as well as the King, Sabin, and Humboldt Neighborhood Associations.

Thank you for your time and I hope you resolve this issue so Portland Playhouse can continue its high quality, sensitive, and diverse productions.

Yours,  
Mark Oldani

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** Mary Swartz [ernmare@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2012 2:04 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** cary.clark@portlandoregon.gov  
**Subject:** Case LU 11-187799 CU - Portland Playhouse Classification

Portland City Council:

I am writing in strong support of Portland Playhouse being classified as a Neighborhood Arts Center. The activities of the Playhouse have been a wonderful and significant addition to the community. My grandchildren have enjoyed wonderful experiences at their summer art camp for the past two summers. My husband and I have attended all of their plays and their music nights. Being a part of the audience at a play performed at the Portland Playhouse Church is a very meaningful experience, and we so appreciate being able to attend such performances without going downtown. Whether at plays or other gatherings at "the Church", we have connected with others in the community in a we could not have if they were located elsewhere.

Thank you so much for your support. "Neighbor Arts Center" embodies the mission of Portland Playhouse to bring together people of all social, economic, racial and political backgrounds to celebrate our shared experiences.

Ernie and Mary Swartz  
8040 N Chautauqua Blvd  
Portland OR 97217

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** Pastor Lynne [pastor@ainsworthucc.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2012 1:43 PM

**To:** Moore-Love, Karla

**Subject:** Portland Playhouse on NE Prescott

Dear City Commissioners:

I am writing to voice my support for the Portland Playhouse on NE 6<sup>th</sup> and Prescott. The Playhouse should be designated a Neighborhood Arts Center and remain open to serve our neighborhood. We have so few theaters in our area, and we have a critical need for promoting the arts. The theater is not a commercial building; it is a public service, so please support dramatic arts in Northeast Portland and allow them to continue their presence and service to our community.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Rev. Lynne Smouse López  
4332 NE 27<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Portland, OR 97211

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** briandavidweaver@gmail.com on behalf of brian weaver [brian@portlandplayhouse.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2012 1:17 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Subject:** case # (LU 11-187799 CU)  
**Attachments:** St. Andrews Letter.jpeg; St-1. Andrews Thank You - City Council Appeal.pdf; st andrews 1.jpeg; st andrews.jpeg

Hi Karla,

This cover letter and accompanying cards were given to me from St. Andrews Nativity School and they asked me to submit them to the City Council for consideration at Thursdays Appeal hearing.

Thanks,  
Brian

--  
Brian Weaver  
Artistic Director,  
Portland Playhouse  
[www.portlandplayhouse.org](http://www.portlandplayhouse.org)



ST. ANDREW NATIVITY SCHOOL

*A Jesuit Middle School*

February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Ashley Whitty  
6022 SE 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Portland, OR 97202

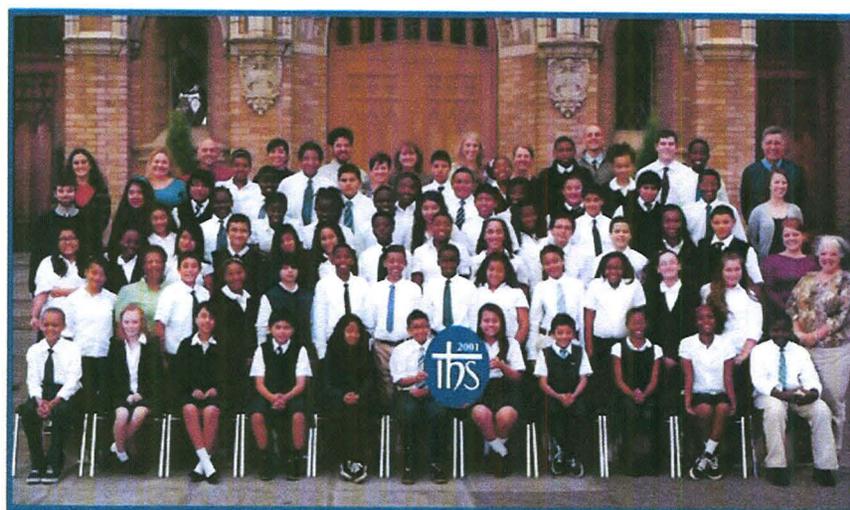
Dear City Council and Council Clerk Karla Moore:

Enclosed, please find letters from the current students of St. Andrew Nativity School. The Portland Playhouse has generously donated its space the past three years for our school's annual talent show. This event helps build community by bringing together our school's families, volunteers, teachers, faculty and graduates.

Please consider St. Andrew Nativity School's relationship with the Portland Playhouse when making your decision regarding case # LU 11-187799 CU.

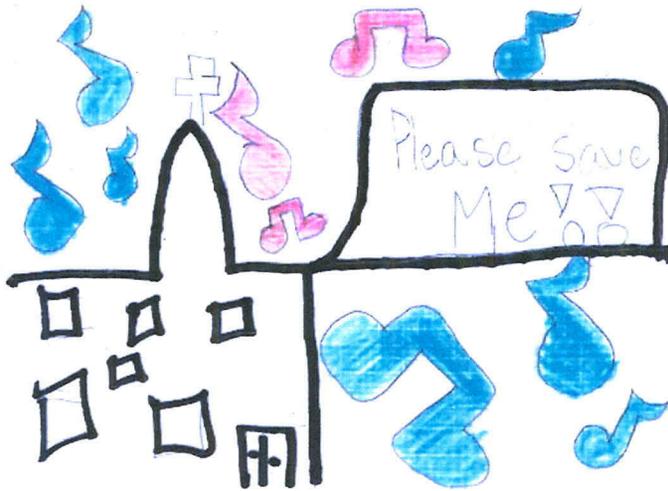
Sincerely,

Ashley Whitty  
Teacher of English



St. Andrew Nativity School 2011~2012

---



Portland playhouse,  
 Thank you for letting us use your playhouse  
 for our talent show. It's a really great  
 place to be and it's our third year  
 holding it there.

Sincerely  
 Stephanie Ruiz ©

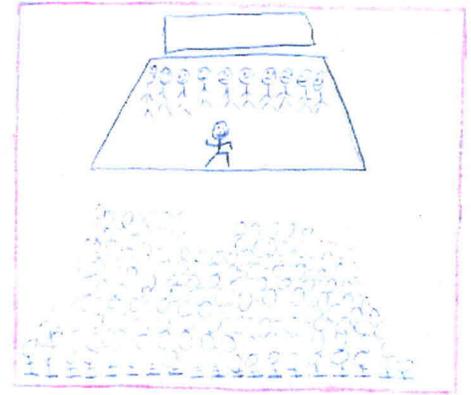
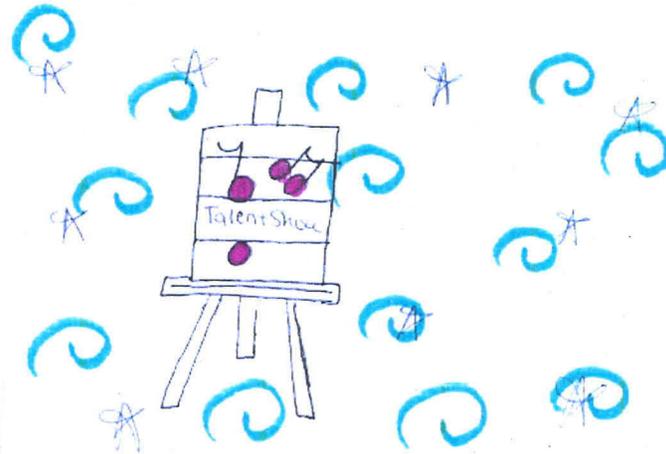
Please save the Portland playhouse.  
 This is the home for our annual  
 talent show. If there is no  
 Playhouse then there will be no  
 talent show. This is important  
 because it is a big part in  
 our community. Think of us  
 while you make this decision.  
 Sincerely,  
 Jesus Cruz

Dear City Council,

Please keep the Portland  
 Playhouse open. It's really  
 important for our community.  
 They bring in the show  
 and it's a really great  
 credit community event for  
 everyone. From inside.

memory for my classmates & me  
have our Talent Show there.  
I hope by writing this letter,  
it will help you make your  
decision.

Sincerely,  
Syana



Dear City Council,  
Hello, I'm writing to you to  
save the Portland Playhouse. It  
should be saved because we  
have our talent shows there  
so, the community uses the  
space for different things. I'm  
an eighth grader, it's a special

Dear City Council,  
I am an 8th grader at  
St. Andrew Nativity. I have had my  
annual talent show at the Portland  
Playhouse for 3 years. I understand there  
were some difficulties involved  
there. I just want you to tell  
me that I have learned that  
the playhouse is filled with  
love, family, friends and happiness. Please  
consider what the effect of your  
decision will do. Sincerely, Hannah

Dear City Council,  
You should not shut down the Portland Playhouse.  
It is a very important place. It should be kept because  
it is a place where the community of St. Andrew  
Nativity School. They let us keep our talent shows there  
for 3 years in a row. Just so we can have an  
awesome time, you should not shut it down. We don't want it to be  
shut down. Thank you for making your decision.  
Sincerely,  
Lissa Solis

Feb 12, 2017

SAVE THE  
PORTLAND  
PLAYHOUSE

Dear City Council,  
Please save the Portland Playhouse. We should save it because our school uses it to have our talent show. We've used it for three years and it's an annual tradition. It's important to me 'cause we have our talent show here and they are fun! Please think of us when you make our decision.

Sincerely,  
Melissa Ferrusca-G  
7th grade girl at SAIX



Dear city council,  
Please don't close down the playhouse. We've had our talent show there and it's a great place. This was our third year having our talent show there. It's not only a theater it's also a performing arts center. When you make your decision please think of us.  
Thank you.

-Stephanie Ruiz



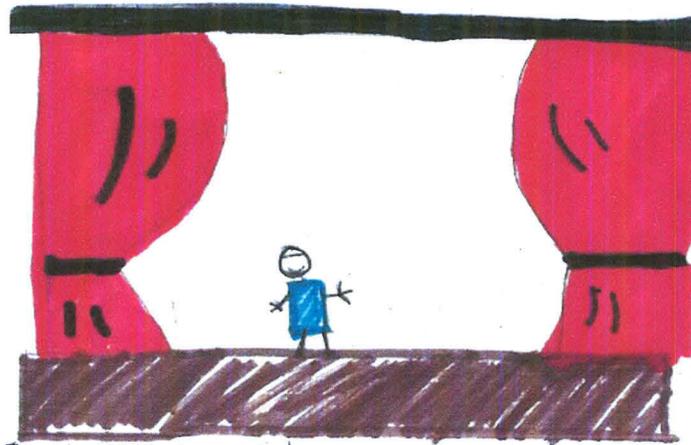
Dear, city council

2-17-12

Hello, my name is ERICK REYER MORENO. I am a student at St. Andrew Nativity and I am writing this letter so you won't shut the Portland Playhouse. I think that it should be saved because it is part of our community of St. Andrew Nativity. The thing that I like is that they change the stage every year. It's the third year that St. Andrew Nativity has their talent show there and it's actually fun just performing our talent. So I hope you think of others and me because it is cool.

Sincerely, ERICK

REYER  
MORENO



Dear city council,  
 please don't shut the portland  
 playhouse down. It is a great  
 place for African Americans  
 watch great entertainers

Dylan

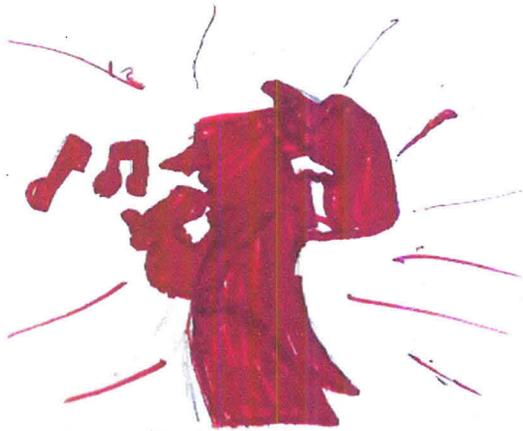
Dear city council,  
 please save the portland playhouse.  
 It is very important to me because  
 we have had our talent show  
 there for the last three years.  
 The talent show has been awesome  
 experience. It is a great place  
 place to hold community events,  
 so when you make your decision  
 please think of us!

Sincerely,  
 Iris Hernandez  
 7<sup>th</sup> grade

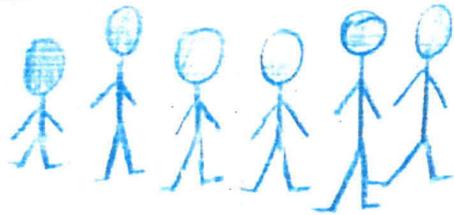
Dear city council,

I would love it if portland playhouse  
 be stayed open. The portland playhouse  
 helps everyone, it helps them  
 face their fears like me. It also  
 affects everyone. They've let us  
 use it for free, for 3 years in a  
 row. It is not only a theater,  
 it is also an art center. Please  
 think of this when you make  
 your decision.

From  
 Fern



## TALENT\*SHOW



Dear City Council,  
 please keep the portland playhouse open!  
 a showing of portland spirit and art.  
 Andrew Nativity school needs it or else  
 won't have a talent show, which  
 been going for 3 years! It's also  
 the people's only way to show their  
 special talents please keep it open for the sake  
 of the city.

Sincerely,  
 Dashauna

Dear City Council,

Please save the Portland Playhouse!  
 I think you shouldn't close it because  
 it's not just a theater, but also an  
 art center. Our school holds a talent  
 show every year there. So please, when  
 you're deciding on closing the Portland  
 Playhouse, consider how we'd feel. This  
 is an added, ongoing tradition. Thanks.

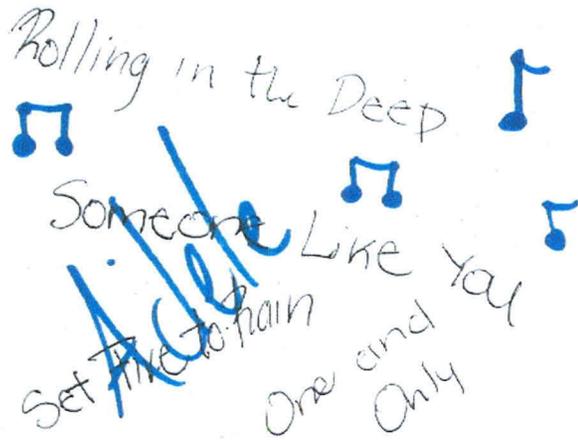
Sincerely,

Stephany Alvarado,  
 7th grader at Saint Andrew Nativity

Dear City Council,

You should save the Portland  
 Playhouse because that's where  
 we perform for our talent show.  
 We don't just have acting. We  
 had dancing, singing, juggling, and recit-  
 ing. I like that it's a community  
 thing that everyone can come and  
 watch. We used that place for 3  
 years. Also the graduates had a  
 fundraiser there. Please think of  
 us when you make your decision.  
 Love,  
 Da'Shanya S.

Rolling in the Deep  
 Someone Like You  
 Set Fire to Rain  
 One and Only



Dear City Council,  
 please don't shut down the  
 Portland Playhouse. The Portland  
 Playhouse is more than a theater,  
 it's an art center. We have held  
 our school talent show there for 3  
 years. This is a place where our  
 community gathers. Think of us  
 before you make your decision.  
 Sincerely,  
 Leah Sparkman

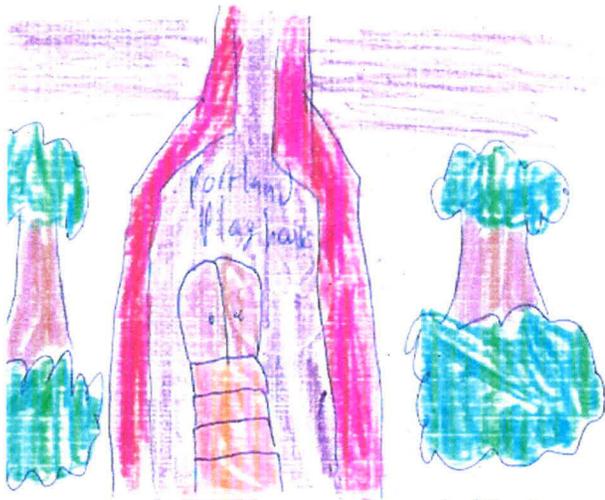


Dear City Council,  
 Hello my name is Marisol. I am  
 writing this letter to say to save  
 the Portland playhouse. The playhouse is  
 very important to my school and to  
 graduates and to the community. It's  
 not just a playhouse it is an art center  
 and it brings people together. We used it  
 3 yrs. for our SAN Talent show. You should  
 come and see us and we will perform  
 for you our talent show. Think of us when  
 you make the decision.  
 Sincerely,  
 Marisol, 7th grade at Santa Ana  
 Nat. High School



Dear Portland Playhouse,  
 Thank you for letting us use  
 your playhouse for three years  
 in a row. I really appreciate it.  
 Without your playhouse we  
 would have to use our gym.  
 I hope you guys enjoyed  
 our talents/acts. Thank you  
 so much.

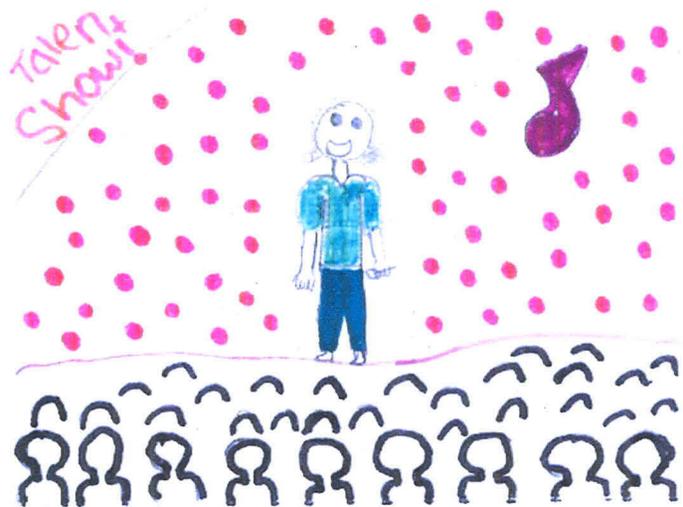
Love,  
 Da'Shayla



2-17-12

Dear City Council,  
 Please save the Portland Playhouse, it is a very  
 important part of Saint Andrew Nativity School.  
 I think I would like it saved is that it is a really  
 fun place to have our Talent Show. Please think  
 us and the St Mary's girls who raised money  
 through a bake sale at the Talent Show for their  
 insiders club. Remember us when you make your  
 decision.

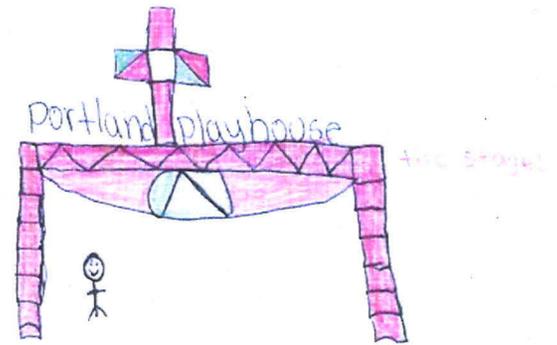
Sincerely,  
 Cal Jones - Herndon



Dear City Council,

The Portland Playhouse is very important  
 to the NE community, especially  
 to our school. Our school has held talent  
 shows for 3 years. We really love the  
 place. So, before you shut it down,  
 please think about us.

Sincerely,  
 Nardos  
 Maria, 7th  
 Grade girls



Dear city council

We should keep the Portland  
 Playhouse, because it is important  
 to us. We love to be there, and  
 we want to be able to have our  
 next talent show there next year,  
 please keep the Portland Playhouse  
 open.

From: Jean Pierre Mategeko



Dear City Council,

Please don't shut down the Portland play house because it isn't only a theater but art too. It is very important to me because my school has used it for 3 years for our talent show & people do awesome dances & it's really fun. Also it's important because our graduates had a bake sale so when you're making your decision please think of us.  
Sincerely, Melanie

# PLEASE

Please please save portland playhouse  
it is a art theatre! we always  
have had our talent show  
there. I love it because we've  
had alot of memories there and  
it would be sad to lose  
it. please when you think  
about making the decision think  
about of us. Meera 8<sup>th</sup> St Andrew middle

We  
The Portland  
Play House!!

Dear City Council,

I am a 8th grader of St Andrew  
ativity School. Please don't take  
away The Portland Play House, we  
have had many memories made  
here. The Portland Play House is a  
part of the St Andrew Community.  
We use it for our annual Talent  
how and if it is taken away we  
won't be able to build more memories  
here. We will miss it if it's gone.

Love

Please save  
our playhouse  
you will be a  
hero.

Hear me out!

Dear City Council,

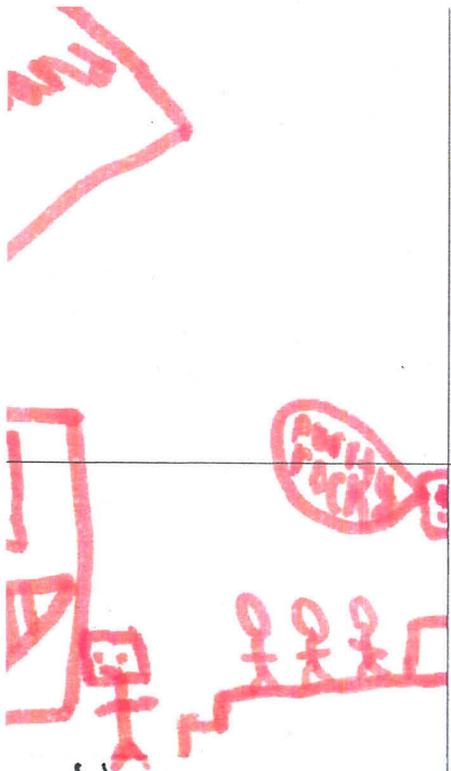
My name is Ananya Lambert @  
St. Andrew Nativity School and I  
am an 8<sup>th</sup> grade girl. I would be so  
happy if you saved the portland play  
house because this is the place where  
we show off our talent, such as:  
singing, dancing, artwork, and reciting  
important passages we learned. The portland  
playhouse should be saved because this is where  
the community can express who we are. we  
are 2 years in a row



Dear City Council,

My name is Angel Jr Pulido, I am a student at St. Andrews Nativity School. We are on 9<sup>th</sup> St in Alberta. We have our talent show at the play house on NW 6 and Prescott. I heard that city council may shut it down. We really want you guys not to close it because lot of people go to the talent show to see people with talent. This keeps kids from doing bad things, and shows people what kind of talent they have in them. Some kids might not even know they have it in them. Think of us when you make your decision!!!

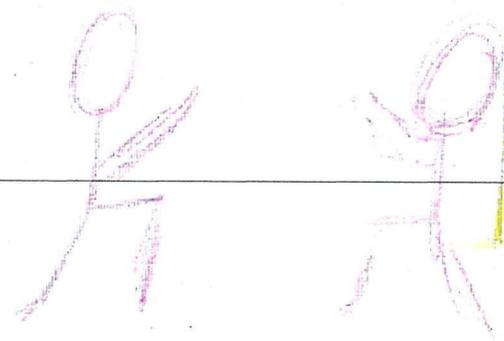
From Angel Pulido



ncil  
and I attend  
and play house  
talent show  
ears. I beg you  
& playhouse

you, Oliver

Please save our  
playhouse!!

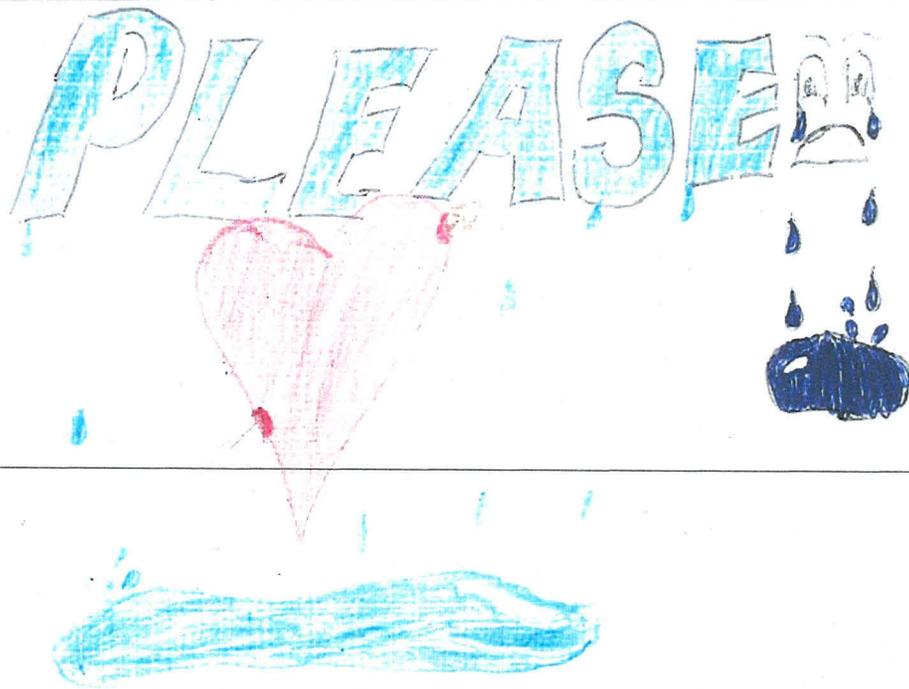


Dear City Council,

Hello, I'm a student at St. Andrew Nativity School. The Portland playhouse means so much to my family at St. Andrew, and to our beloved community. It will hurt me & many others if it gets shut down. We have done our talent show there for 3 years & we don't want it to go so soon. Please remember the students at Nativity when making your decision. We love the Portland Playhouse!  
Please save our playhouse, Anandi Thompson



Dear City Council,  
The Portland Play place. It's not just our school's talent show. It's important to our school, a special thing of our school. Please think of our school when you make your decision. Save our Playhouse!



for diversity to come  
by allowing and support  
actors to come and live  
if shut down this beaut  
from the soul, mind, c  
will be disappointing  
And breaking the door  
brings

2-17-12

Dear City Council,

Please don't take away the  
Portland Playhouse. They have been  
so kind to us, for letting us use  
it 3 years in a row for our  
talent show. It has been great  
having our talent shows there, it  
makes it so much funner. Please let  
~~us~~ the Portland Playhouse stay.

Sincerely,  
Sebastian

Dear City Cou  
I strongly believe that  
you make regarding the  
will affect many peopl  
Portland Playhouse has  
children to grow in the  
ing better people in this  
their talents. Not only d  
for children, but for th  
Nativity school who for  
been noshing our talent  
much inspriration for o  
to be accepthing and st  
Portland Playhouse me

n Saint Andrew Nativity  
didn't shut the Portland  
e saved because it's where  
f people go there to support  
rs & they have let us use it  
o do our talent shows. It's also  
ity because it's a great place  
talent shows. Think of us

Sincerely,  
Esther

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** Patrick Cassidy [patrickcassidy@mindspring.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2012 11:54 AM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** Portland Playhouse; Case # (LU 11-187799 CU)

TO: Commissioners Amanda Fritz, Nick Fish, Randy Leonard, and Dan Saltzman

Regarding case number LU 11-187799 CU, to be considered at the March 1st City Council meeting:

It has been my great pleasure to attend many of the OUTSTANDING productions at Portland Playhouse over the last several years, and I certainly believe the Playhouse has very quickly established itself as one of the finest cultural institutions within our city.

It would be a great loss for both the city and the King Neighborhood to lose this wonderful cultural resource. I feel the unique venue has contributed to the Playhouse's success - the clever staging realized in their intimate and interesting space has been very much a part of the Playhouse experience, and I hope to see them continue in this location.

I believe the quality of their work and their choices of repertoire make them an invaluable asset to the King Neighborhood's cultural scene. Bringing this level of service and dedication into the community seems to me to be self-evidently COMMUNITY SERVICE. I think most practitioners of live theater in our city would agree.

Please vote to recognize Portland Playhouse as a community service,  
and to designate 602 NE Prescott Street as a Neighborhood Arts Center.

Please join the King Neighborhood in supporting this excellent and welcome addition to our city's arts and culture community.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you in the near future for a thought provoking night of theater at the old church.

THANK YOU for Your Consideration,

Patrick T. Cassidy  
3571 NE Rosa Parks Way  
Portland, OR 97211

## Moore-Love, Karla

---

**From:** Bruce Murray [bruce.murray@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2012 11:10 AM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla; Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** Portland Playhouse - case # (LU 11-187799 CU)

We strongly support that the Portland Playhouse's activities at 602 NE Prescott be classified as a neighborhood Art Center. We previously were frequent attendees of their productions, and now are season ticket holders and donors. The NE Prescott venue has been critical to their mission, and we urge the City Council members to take the necessary steps so this may continue.

Bruce Murray and Valerie Ilsley  
4110 SW Patrick Place  
Portland 97239

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** Eileen Kerry Kovac [writeeileen@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2012 9:43 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** Case # LU 11-187799 CU PORTLAND PLAYHOUSE

To Portland City Council:

Portland Playhouse must continue producing its fine, relevant theatre in Northeast Portland.

Portland Playhouse is a unique, thriving, appreciated gift to NE and the rest of Portland, providing what I can only define as a community arts center; it is a multifaceted gift to the neighborhoods it serves and would be as much a loss if plays were no longer produced in The Old Church.

After over twenty years working across the country on behalf of theatre as well as intercultural organizations, I discovered Portland Playhouse, with its community-driven programming and ambitious, community-*building* outreach and education efforts. This is no ordinary theatre operation. I cannot think of Portland Playhouse, in its rich King neighborhood setting of The Church on NE 6th and Prescott, as an amalgam of separate components, such as theatre . . . such as education . . . such as community education. It is all these things, unique as ever I have seen an organization dedicated to enrichment of its environment.

The majority of theatre organizations in Portland are located west of the Willamette, and while their operations are not exclusive to the interests of persons of color, many offer no or limited outreach and education programs, while Portland Playhouse establishes itself in the center of eastside

community, guiding every component of its operation, including programming, to the richly mixed population that surrounds it.

In 1990 I attended a presentation of August Wilson's *Fences* at the PCPA; we were into the 90s, yet this was the very first Equity production of a play by a major black playwright in Portland. Today, Portland Playhouse has made it not only a priority to produce a Wilson play each season, but to generate related community dialogue and education projects that would not have taken place without the organization's devotion to plays that matter to and the people who see them. A unique community-forward process, in line with the City of Portland's restated dedication to honoring arts organizations that work to include and honor this city's multiracial and multiethnic population. I strongly urge you to allow Portland Playhouse to continue producing plays at the King neighborhood's Old Church, and in so doing, honor an organization that walks its talk, in terms of serving its community.

Thank you so much for your attention and consideration,

Eileen Kerry Kovac

[writeeileen@comcast.net](mailto:writeeileen@comcast.net)

13456 SW Hawks Beard St. #512

Tigard, OR 97223



## Moore-Love, Karla

---

**From:** Barbara Lawson [barbaralaws@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2012 8:55 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** cary.clark@portlandoregon.gov  
**Subject:** Portland Playhouse: Case #LU11-287799CU

I am writing in support of Portland Playhouse's effort to continue presenting plays in the old church on NE Prescott St., under the classification of Community Service. I've attended probably a half dozen performances at Portland Playhouse, all but one on NE Prescott. The old church setting is friendly, almost intimate, casual and informal. By contrast, the performance I attended at the WTC downtown, while excellent, was in a far larger, more impersonal venue. The stage was further away.

As I understand the situation, neighbors of the old church are in favor of Portland Playhouse returning to the neighborhood. I hope that you will consider that theater does not exist solely to sell tickets and make money, but to provide a service to the community in which it resides.

Barbara Lawson  
1412 SE 44th Ave.  
Portland OR 97215

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** ISABELSHERIDAN6367 [isabelsheridan6367@comcast.net]

**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2012 12:39 PM

**To:** Moore-Love, Karla

**Cc:** Clarke, Cary

**Subject:** Portland Playhouse

**Re:** Case # LU 11-187799 CU

Members of City Council:

I am writing to strongly support Portland Playhouse in the re-permitting process. I see Portland Playhouse as an indispensable force in creating beloved community in the NE Prescott neighborhood.

As a member of First Unitarian Church, I worked with the playhouse to bring teens from Jefferson High and DeLaSalle High to see the latest two August Wilson plays, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* and *Gem of the Ocean*. Portland Playhouse gave First Church members a group discount, and we gave back the discount to provide tickets for the teens. This 2-for-1 arrangement brought 78 students to see *Ma Rainey* and 50 students to see *Gem of the Ocean*. We will continue this 2-for-1 arrangement for the upcoming *Brothers/ Sisters Plays* of Tarell Alvin McCraney.

The night our church group saw *Ma Rainey*, a large group of teens from Jefferson were also in the audience. One of their classmates was in the play. So Portland Playhouse not only produces plays written by renowned African American playwrights, it also reaches out into the community to have teens bring those roles alive. I can think of no more powerful way to empower our youth.

Being involved in Portland Playhouse's outreach into the community is one of the most meaningful parts of my life.

Sincerely,

Isabel Sheridan

2533 NW Marshall Street, #105  
Portland, OR 97210

2/27/2012

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** Lynn Bonner [lynnbonner@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2012 7:23 AM

**To:** Moore-Love, Karla

**Cc:** Clarke, Cary

**Subject:** LU 11-187799 CU - Portland Playhouse

I would like the City Council members to know how strongly I support Portland Playhouse and its presence in King Neighborhood and NE Portland. It appears to me that neighborhood residents appreciate and support its contribution to their neighborhood. As a resident of NE Portland near Lloyd Center, I am proud that such a cultural institution exists near my neighborhood. Furthermore, having attended several plays produced by the Portland Playhouse, I value its contribution to the entire Portland community's art and theater "scene". I most especially appreciate there being an institution focused on African American theater and a place where Portland citizens of all races can gather and meet and greet each other in the presence of really fine theater. I believe Portland Playhouse plays an important role in Portland's livability and sustainability. I would be dismayed, yes devastated, to lose this cultural resource.

Sincerely,  
Lynn Bonner  
1220 NE 17th Ave. 5E  
Portland OR 97232

**Moore-Love, Karla**

**From:** Brenan Dwyer [brenan.dwyer@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 25, 2012 11:46 AM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** cary.clark@portlandoregon.gov  
**Subject:** Portland Playhouse Neighborhood Art Center

Dear Commissioners Frtiz, Leonard, Fish, and Satlzman,

I am writing regarding case LU 11-187799 CU, in which Portland Playhouse is petitioning to make the former church building on 602 NE Prescott St. into a Neighborhood Art Center, thus allowing them to continue performances, events and classes in that space.

I am strongly in support of their initiative. As a native Portlander, and an actor here, I cannot speak strongly enough in support of theatre and arts based in our neighborhoods and communities. Portland Playhouse presents excellent theatre right in the heart of NE Portland, the neighborhood where I grew up. The neighborhood is diverse, growing, alternately affluent and poor, and the work of Portland Playhouse speaks to all of these things. They are not just a theatre company looking for a home; they are indeed crucial to this neighborhood's emergence as a rich, thriving zone of life and activity in our City. Theatre and art in our neighborhoods is what will continue to make Portland more and more interesting, diverse and communal. It is important not to overlook the value of their work in this particular location when considering the zoning requirements of the site.

Their shows attract a range of people because of their location, the plays they choose to perform, and because the ticket prices are reasonable. This last one I believe is crucial, and have no doubt that it is a result of their having a permanent home to call their own (though I have no particular knowledge of their business model or finances). Should Portland Playhouse have to move to a new location (for example, the World Trade Center downtown where they have performed a few shows during this process), they lose the sense that they are doing these plays for the unique community in that neighborhood. Indeed their shows respond to the struggles of city life vs. rural life, living in racially mixed environments, struggling with money and class, etc. These issues are everywhere, but especially in that particular neighborhood of NE Portland.

Portland Playhouse gives a valuable service to the people of Portland. They go beyond exchanging entertainment for dollars, making them a commercial enterprise. They give insight, and perspective, and offer people a chance to go inside themselves and reflect on their lives and community. It is more than a sandwich shop or shoe store, which are also worthy community stores, but are not the same type of enterprise at all. You must give art and culture the freedom to live and breathe wherever it sprouts up. Location is important. Art is important.

There are so many important issues to tackle in our city, country, and the world. I don't think this is one that should be taking up the City of Portland's time. It is in our best interest as a City to let this theatre thrive in the environment it has built in NE Portland, and to dedicate our resources to other problems instead of this battle.

Please consider my words, and know that they speak for many who may not have a chance to attend the City's hearing on March 1, and also speak for many who don't even know that this issue is threatening the home of Portland Playhouse; those who ask themselves as they go past 602 NE Prescott now, "Why hasn't there been a play there for a while?" We want Portland

Playhouse back.

Thank you for your time considering my words,

Brenan Dwyer

Resident of NE Portland for 23 years, now living at 2829 SE Belmont #310, Portland OR 97214.

--

[brenan.dwyer@gmail.com](mailto:brenan.dwyer@gmail.com)

(626) 379-0035

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** dariuspierce@hotmail.com on behalf of Darius Pierce [darius@dariuspierce.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 25, 2012 8:06 AM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** Portland Playhouse (LU 11-187799 CU)

Hello,

I am writing to comment about case #(LU 11-187799 CU).

The life of the Portland Playhouse has been a wonderful addition to the NE neighborhood. It continually makes significant contributions to the culture and community in that area. As not just a theater, but as a gathering place and classroom.

So much has been done to make them able to stay at that location and continue to elevate the community. It would a shame for them to have to leave based solely on their designation.

Thank you for your time!

Darius

--

[www.dariuspierce.com](http://www.dariuspierce.com)

## Moore-Love, Karla

---

**From:** Steve Brian [stevengregorybrian@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 25, 2012 11:09 AM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** In regards to Portland Playhouse, case # LU 11-187799 CU

Dear Karla and Cary,

As a former member of the Portland acting community who one day hopes to return to Portland, I believe that what Portland Playhouse is doing will not only change the acting scene and strengthen the artistic community, but will also encourage the next generation of young artists to pursue their dreams, as well as learn the many valuable lessons about community that theater has to offer.

I am 100% support of their cause and hope that the city can work with them to fulfill their goals of becoming a staple in the artistic community of Portland.

To the future!

--

Steve Brian  
[www.stevebrian.com](http://www.stevebrian.com)

"Decide what to be and go be it."

-The Avett Brothers

## Moore-Love, Karla

---

**From:** Mary Shaw [dcosums@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2012 11:59 AM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla; Clarke, Cary  
**Cc:** Portland Playhouse  
**Subject:** Case number LU 11-187799 CU

Dear Portland City Council,

I am writing to encourage you to vote to classify Portland Playhouse as a Community Service. Although it is a theater, I see it as much more to the King Neighborhood where it is located. The Playhouse has integrated itself into the neighborhood. It fills a need in the neighborhood and brings arts to the children through outreach, example and by virtue of its existence. Children are aware that something special is happening there. Several African American leaders serve on the board of the Playhouse and they help to develop policy for the organization.

I am a retired special education teacher. When I taught at Whitaker Middle School I had some students from the King Neighborhood. I know the value of theater in a child's life. It opens so many possibilities about life. I was excited when Portland Playhouse opened on Prescott. I thought it was wonderful to have a theater which was integrated into the community. It made theatre real. It made theatre attainable. It made theatre affordable. The theater was where the people were and not downtown with a long bus ride to get there. I feel that Portland Playhouse is a unique theater, therefore, I feel that they are making a unique request in asking to be designated as a Community Service. I hope that you will see it that way and vote in such a way that they can remain in their current location because if you don't the neighborhood will lose a valuable resource.

Mary Shaw  
8300 SW Birchwood Rd  
Portland, OR 97225

503 292-6699

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** Nick Zagone [zagonenick@me.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2012 10:59 AM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** case # (LU 11-187799 CU) 1524 NE Ainsworth St.

Dear City Commissioners,

I'm writing on behalf of the recent developments involving Portland Playhouse.

I was born and raised in Portland. I live on 15th and Ainsworth.  
I have worked in the theatre here and in every major city across the West Coast. I have been around non-profit theatres from Seattle to Vegas.  
And there is no better community engaging theatre than Portland Playhouse.

Many theatres just want to do theatre. Not so with Portland Playhouse.  
They are vital to this community. They listen to it, they understand it, and they back it up.  
They know their audience, their community and they help it. They get it.

Simply put, please keep it. It's good for the neighborhoods of Northeast Portland and it's good for the city.

You will be better commissioners by working to make this happen.  
Citizens, children, artists and educators will lose. Arts organizations are needed. Don't let this one go away because of an old ordinance. People of this city do not want to hear about policies.

This neighborhood needs Portland Playhouse.

Let's make it happen.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Nick Zagone

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** Kim [kamway.pdx@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2012 9:41 AM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla; Clarke, Cary; Adams, Sam  
**Cc:** michael@portlandplayhouse.org  
**Subject:** case # (LU 11-187799 CU) Portland Playhouse

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I write with concern for the Portland Playhouse and recent decisions that treat them as a retail commercial entity when, in fact, Portland Playhouse is no. It is "The Portland Playhouse, a 501c3 not-for-profit organization, currently leases the old church at 602 NE Prescott Street and has been an integral part of the King Neighborhood for the last four years, performing culturally diverse plays from playwrights such as August Wilson. Portland Playhouse also provides ongoing classes, workshops, a summer camp, and humanities programming as a community arts center." Clearly Portland Playhouse performs community service and is deserving of the permit in the church on NE Prescott.

To decide otherwise and reclassify Portland Playhouse as a commercial/retail entity seems misleading, deliberate and inaccurate.

Please take into consideration the good community service they provide and their non-profit community service states.

Kind Regards,  
Kim Morrison  
Beaverton Oregon

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** Charlotte Rubin [charubina@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2012 12:01 AM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary; cary.clark@portlandoregon.gov; info@portlandplayhouse.org  
**Subject:** Portland Playhouse, Case #LU 11-187799 CU

Karla and Cary,

Please pass the following on to the City Council members who will be ruling on the appropriateness of Portland Playhouse performing plays in their King neighborhood "church:" I am writing because I truly cannot believe that the Portland powers-that-be would reject the neighborhood treasure that is Portland Playhouse. I was so delighted to see a live theater in a NE neighborhood where people of color might feel more comfortable than at a downtown venue. And I have been very impressed by the Weaver brothers' effort to put on a good number of plays by people of color, with actors of color--and seeing the audiences respond in kind. I have seen WAY more blacks in that venue than I ever have downtown--even when, again, both the playwright and the actors were black. The only other time I have seen more blacks in the audience has been when Stumptown Stages put on The Wiz at Jefferson High School. Isn't one of Portland's goals to be inclusive? To deny Portland Playhouse the right to perform in their lovingly and earnestly converted neighborhood church-space (where they invited their neighbors to share their enthusiasm for affordable live theater) is truly a bureaucratic, narrow-minded ruling. It strongly reminds me of Portland's long denial of vibrant neighborhood murals because they somehow could not be defined separately from commercial billboards. This seems to be exactly the same situation. If the neighborhood does not object, there cannot be any good reason to deny Portland Playhouse the right to be a Neighborhood Art Center.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Rubin

2147 NW Irving St. (My NW neighborhood has two live theaters within walking distance.)  
Portland, OR 97210

## Parsons, Susan

---

**From:** Dawn kely [tobsyddon321@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2012 8:26 AM

**To:** Moore-Love, Karla

**Subject:** Theater in the old church in NE Portland...regarding the city council meeting 3/1/12

Hi,

I am a community person of 60 years and I am 68 years old. I want to support the church theater on 6th and NE Prescott to continue holding community events in the church.

It is NICE to have a setting in North/NE Portland so we don't have to drive downtown every time we want entertainment. I can also walk from my home to the church and have attended several plays at that location.

## Parsons, Susan

---

**From:** Barbara Walden [bwalden@wisc.edu]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2012 2:33 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** cary.clark@portlandoregon.gov  
**Subject:** Portland Playhouse is artistic,educational, not commercial (case # LU 11-187799cu)

I was dismayed to learn that the Bureau of Development Services has deemed Portland Playhouse to be a commercial establishment, and has denied its application to return to its home in the historic church on NE Prescott. This seems to be a complete misreading of an institution which provides an educational, artistic, and cultural mission including representation of diverse and minority culture. As a modest contributor to Portland Playhouse's scholarship program I have been proud to assist its outreach programs to students who might otherwise not be able to learn what its plays can teach us, as well as enjoying and learning myself. The mission and activities of Portland Playhouse are not commercial, retail. To claim it is commercial is to overlook and denigrate its important mission for education, cultural healing, and artistic expression. I hope that it will be possible for Portland Playhouse to continue as a force for positive artistic, cultural, and educational activity in its home on NE Prescott.

Barbara Walden  
4926 SW Corbett Ave., #301  
Portland, OR 97239

**Parsons, Susan**

---

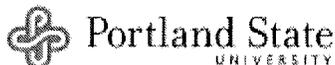
**From:** Michael Toth [tothm@pdx.edu]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2012 2:24 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** Portland Playhouse Community Church

In re: case# (LU11-187799 CU)

I am writing in support of permitting Portland Playhouse to continue to use the community church as their venue for the presentation of significant drama in the NE neighborhood. My wife and I are only recent supporters of their undertaking but it seems to us that their presence in the neighborhood and their use of an historic building are in the finest traditions of community outreach and support. We urge you to grant Portland Playhouse to continue to serve the arts, their neighborhood, and the greater Portland community by using the church for their cultural contribution to Portland.

--

**Michael A. Toth, Ph.D.**  
**Professor Emeritus, Department of Sociology**  
**O: 503-725-3620 | F: 503-725-3957 | [web.pdx.edu/~tothm](http://web.pdx.edu/~tothm)**



**Parsons, Susan**

---

**From:** phaysee1@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2012 2:20 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** Portland Playhouse - Case # LU11-187799 CU

To Portland City Council Members:

I urge you to reconsider Portland Playhouse's application to perform plays at NE Prescott and 6th Ave. I have attended performances at this venue, and it is a wonderful, intimate space with negligible impact on parking in the neighborhood. The Playhouse brings professional, creative actors to the Portland community to present plays by African-American writers about African American experiences that are not being produced here by any other theatres. If Portland Playhouse is denied the opportunity to continue its work, it will be a huge loss to the entire community.

Sincerely,

Faye Powell  
452 SE Cesar E. Chavez Blvd.  
Portland, OR

2/23/2012

**Moore-Love, Karla**

---

**From:** Ann Brayfield [abrayfield@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2012 8:14 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** LU 11-187799 CU

Dear Council Persons,

On March 1 you will have an opportunity to vote on an appeal by the King Neighborhood Association to allow Portland Playhouse to continue presenting plays as a form of arts and community service at 602 NE Prescott Street. A BDS hearing officer has stated that "theater" can only be defined as a "Commercial, Retail Sales" operation.

Portland Playhouse "holds theater to be a space in which people of all social, economic, racial, sexual and political backgrounds can come together to celebrate the complexity of our shared human experience." Through its choice of plays and actors this celebration with a diverse audience is ongoing throughout its season. It is an exemplary model in our community of bringing people together to interact with artists in an intimate setting in their neighborhood. Through theatre it is a positive agent for creating much needed awareness and understanding in our community.

As we struggle in this community with institutional racism and huge gaps in equity among our citizens, we need this breath of fresh air in the King neighborhood and beyond. This fall with Portland Playhouse's home at the World Trade Center the neighborhood lost out on a community service that belongs among its citizens right where they live.

Comparing theatre ticket prices around town, Portland Playhouse is clearly not a commercial operation as its ticket prices are half or less of what other theatres in our community are charging.

Personally, I value the experience of theatre in the King neighborhood so much that I drive across town to partake of this incredible community service. I attend a lot of theatre around town and place the highest value on the work of Portland Playhouse. It serves me well beyond what any other theatre in town offers.

Please vote to support our community by allowing Portland Playhouse to continue presenting plays in the King neighborhood.

Thank you,

Ann Brayfield  
4019 SW Downsview Ct  
Portland OR 97221

## Parsons, Susan

---

**From:** Mary Bothwell [marybothwell@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 22, 2012 8:43 AM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** cary.clark@portlandoregon.gov  
**Subject:** Portland Play House case#(LU11-187799CU)

I am writing in defense of the Portland Play House in Northeast Portland. My address is 7335 SE 29th Ave. While I am not a resident of that neighborhood, I am one of the citizens who enjoys the artistic endeavors that it provides all of Portland, and I appreciate the opportunity to see plays of a high quality that also present an ethnic diversity in our arts scene, both in material and in opportunity for actors. As I understand it, the neighborhood itself is not negative about the use of the old church, and I certainly hope the City Council can give this situation another more favorable look. Sincerely, Mary K. Bothwell.

## Parsons, Susan

---

**From:** Suzanne Van Fleet [suzanne@vergedesign.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 22, 2012 10:06 AM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** Save Portland Playhouse! #LU 11-187799 CU

This email is to add my support for keeping the Portland Playhouse on Prescott Street.

This space is the primary reason I attended a play there in their first season. I was able to walk there from my house, and it turned out to be so low-key and intimate that it made me realize that attending a cultural event doesn't have to be a stuffy, intimidating experience. It really seemed like one of those "Only in Portland" moments that make living here special.

I've since recruited a few other couples who also had never been play-goers in the past and they are really proud to have Portland Playhouse in their neighborhood too.

This is such an important part of the community, I strongly encourage you to formally designate 602 NE Prescott Street as a Neighborhood Art Center.

Christine Van Fleet  
4631 NE 20th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97211

**Parsons, Susan**

---

**From:** Clara Weishahn [clara@claraweishahn.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 22, 2012 12:02 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** Support for Portland Playhouse

Dear Ms. Moore,

I am writing in support of Portland Playhouse in lieu of the upcoming March 1, 2012 council meeting (Case No. LU 11-187799 CU) which addresses the Playhouse's Neighborhood Art Center at the church in NE Portland.

Not only does Portland Playhouse present some of the highest quality live theater being produced in the city, their work encompasses a larger array of contributions to our social and cultural landscape. The Playhouse has been an integral part of the King Neighborhood for the last four years, performing culturally diverse plays and providing ongoing classes, workshops, a summer camp, and humanities programming as a community arts center. Portland Playhouse, through their Neighborhood Art Center on NE Prescott, is clearly offering a Community Service which enriches the lives of NE Portland residents, as well as the whole metro area. Portland Playhouse is *not* merely functioning as a "Commercial, Retail Sales" operation. The social awareness and empowering nature of the Playhouse's work has become vital to the King Neighborhood, not as a Commercial organization, but a non-profit service to the community overall.

The quotes below reflect the scope of support Portland Playhouse has from a diverse range of organizations:

*We believe that the programming and vision of Portland Playhouse falls into line with the mission of the Urban League, whose mission is to empower African Americans and others to achieve social and economic equity and justice.*

-Midge Purcell, Director of Advocacy and Public Policy, Urban League of Portland

*Portland Playhouse contributes significantly to the cultural and social experience of King residents. It would be a striking loss to our community if it was denied the opportunity to continue operating out of the old church building.*

-Alan Silver, Chair of the King Neighborhood Association

*It is their place in the neighborhood as much as the quality of their work that*

*impressed the panel reviewers who recommended this theater company for a grant. Because they saw that the two were intertwined, the work needing to be done in the neighborhood and presented there, with the neighborhood giving rise to the work.*

-Kimberly Howard, Trust Manager, Oregon Cultural Trust

I respectfully urge you to classify Portland Playhouse's Neighborhood Art Center on NE Prescott as a Community Service at the March 1st council meeting, and to take part in supporting the kind of organization that communities need in order to grow and flourish.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Clara Weishahn

Clara Weishahn  
Actor - Director  
2015 NW Kearney St. #301  
Portland, OR 97209

[clara@claraweishahn.com](mailto:clara@claraweishahn.com)  
[www.claraweishahn.com](http://www.claraweishahn.com)

## Parsons, Susan

---

**From:** annjulie@earthlink.net  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 22, 2012 1:09 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla; Clarke, Cary  
**Cc:** info@portlandplayhouse.org  
**Subject:** Portland Playhouse

Re: case #LU 11-187799 CU

To Portland City Council and Cary Clark, Art and Culture Director:

I am writing to support Portland Playhouse's designation as a Community Service in the King neighborhood.

Since its inception, Portland Playhouse has produced excellent plays of great cultural worth. The inclusion of a deep roster of visionary African American playwrights has led to a strong embrace of and by the community. Performances are sold out and plays are often extended to allow for broader attendance. Excellent post-performance discussions deepen the experience and allow for interaction about the issues portrayed as they apply locally.

Alliances with school theater programs bring students to the performances and support the schools' theater arts programs.

The Portland Playhouse program is the one I examine closely, and arrange to attend with friends for an evening of provocative and thoughtful stimulation. It is indeed the only theater organization where I find a truly racially mixed audience, a function in part of the material presented, and its community location. Please allow this remarkable theater to continue to enrich the neighborhood in which it is housed.

Sincerely,  
Julie Chapman,  
2028 SE Taylor St,  
Portland, Or 97214

## Parsons, Susan

---

**From:** Kathleen Worley [worleyk@reed.edu]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 22, 2012 3:38 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** cary.clark@portlandoregon.gov; info@portlandplayhouse.org  
**Subject:** Public Playhouse #LU11-187799CU

Dear Council Members,

I regret that I will be unable to attend the council meeting, as it happens during a time when I will be teaching a theatre class at Reed.

However, I *strongly* urge you to recognize the contribution that theatre can make in creating a community from a disparate group of people. While there are indeed a few theatres that manage to function on a purely "commercial, retail basis" this would describe very few theatres in the Portland area. While regional theatres charge for tickets in order to help defray expenses, tickets sales seldom generate enough funds to cover actual production costs. In order to make ends meet, artists donate some portion of their time and talent and appreciative audience members donate either in-kind or actual financial support. People do this because they believe in the power of theatre to help communities and individuals find and express their identities as well as in its power to challenge us to examine our lives and social structures in order to find ways in which we might live together better.

Portland Playhouse has done an extraordinary job of connecting with an under-served community (at least in terms of access to theatre) and has selected shows that will address that community's interests. Having attended plays there, I have no doubt that the Prescott St. church space serves as a Neighborhood Art Center playing a crucial community service function and that no one is reaping the kind of commercial reward that might be associated with Broadway shows and national tours. Shutting down a space whose purpose and function have strong neighborhood support would only serve to further ghettoize that part of Portland, depriving citizens of that neighborhood of access to cultural dialogue so vital to community. The company's endorsements from RACC, Oregon Cultural Trust and the King, Sabin and Humboldt Neighborhood Associations testify to the quality of their work and the nature and degree of their importance both to their own community and to the cultural life of the city. LET THEM LIVE!!!!!!!!!!

Kathleen Worley  
Reed College Theatre  
Home address: 9141 SW 23rd Dr.  
Portland, OR 97219



**Parsons, Susan**

---

**From:** Jeanie Golino [jeaniegolino@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 22, 2012 5:45 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** Case # (LU 11-187799 CU) Save the Playhouse

Dear Council

I live at 4618 NE 30th Avenue in Portland. I am a supporter of all things that bring a community together. Having a theater in the neighborhood is a great asset to the community. When I went to see my first Portland Playhouse performance it was at the old Church and I walked there - as I'm sure others did. It felt great to have a theater right here in my neighborhood! What a disappointment when it was forced to move so far away.

One block from my house is a Church. A couple times a week there are services there. Many of the people who attend the church drive there and park on my street. There are probably some who walk. But regardless it is an asset to the community - and as far as parking goes no different from a theater.

Two blocks from my house is the Alberta-Rose Theater. Yes, it is on a very commercial street (NE Alberta). Yet it is right in the middle of the neighborhood and has a 300 seat theater! Sometimes there are a lot of cars - but never anything disruptive, never anything that would make me wish the Alberta-Rose Theater wasn't there.

Let our community thrive and grow with the old Church allowed to be used as a theater and performance space. There are many supporters - please broaden your perspective and look beyond the usual rules that don't really work in our favor in this instance.

Thank you,

Jeanie Golino

**Moore-Love, Karla**

**From:** Aija Gundega [aijagundega@hotmail.com]

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 22, 2012 9:04 PM

**To:** Moore-Love, Karla

**Cc:** Clarke, Cary

**Subject:** [User Approved] Portland Playhouse zoning petition, Council meeting agenda March 1st, 2012

Dear City Council members - I strongly urge you to approve the petition of Portland Playhouse, being brought before the Council on March 1st by the King Neighborhood Association, to allow Portland Playhouse to operate in its home at 602 NE Prescott St. as a neighborhood arts center, including being able to present theater performances at that location.

There seems to be no negative feedback to the proposal, which was turned down, it would appear, on a technicality which defines theater as a "commercial, sales" enterprise and not as a community service. Issues of impact on the surrounding neighborhood, such as parking, have been addressed to everyone's satisfaction.

I am a retired librarian who moved here from the rich cultural center of the San Francisco Bay Area in 2009. Portland Playhouse is not only the best theater in town, it's an amazing community resource. It's an organization that really walks its talk. Not only is it a non-profit with subsidized, really affordable theater admission, it has consistently reached out to a diverse and often underserved community. The annual high school Shakespeare project, which culminates in student performances in a "real" downtown theater, is breathtakingly wonderful, and it includes schools from many areas and socio-economic strata of Portland, not just the so-called "good" schools.

I first became aware of Portland Playhouse when I noticed that someone was actually putting on a production of an August Wilson play here ("Radio Golf")! August Wilson is one of the greatest American playwrights of the 20th century, and here were two white guys and their theater group, working with African American actors and directors to stage a play about gentrification of African American neighborhoods. I was impressed, and immediately subscribed to the upcoming season. Since then, Portland Playhouse has collaborated in producing two more of Wilson's plays, and will shortly be presenting the Brother/Sister Plays by the exciting young African-American playwright Tarell Alvin McCraney.

If you've ever attended a Portland Playhouse performance, then you know that it's like going to a gathering of friends. There is a wonderfully informal and totally unpretentious atmosphere - we are not here just to be entertained, we are here to learn and think and experience together. The intimate setting of the theater space in the old church is a vital part of that experience.

In my retirement, I'm trying to help others as much as I can given my modest means, and I usually give to the basics: food, shelter, healthcare. Until I got to know Portland Playhouse, I had never given a donation to any arts organization (plenty of rich biddies to support the theater, I always figured!). In the last year, I've opened not only my heart, but my wallet as well. This is an organization worthy of support.

Please give Portland Playhouse its neighborhood home back in the old church at 602 NE Russet Street, so that it can continue to be a complete neighborhood arts center and continue its good works in Northeast/North Portland and beyond.

Thank you!

Aija G. Kanbergs  
2811 N. Russet St., Portland OR 97217

2/27/2012

## Parsons, Susan

---

**To:** Crail, Tim; Edwards, Kenneth; Grumm, Matt; Hardy, Douglas; Papaefthimiou, Jonna; Rees, Linly; Schmanski, Sonia; Walhood, Mark; Beaumont, Kathryn  
**Cc:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Subject:** FW: Let Portland Playhouse back into the historic church. Case # LU 11-187799 CU

Testimony for March 1st.

Sue Parsons  
Assistant Council Clerk  
City of Portland  
503.823.4085  
please note new email address:  
Susan.Parsons@portlandoregon.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: William Wilson [mailto:whwbsn@gmail.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2012 12:30 PM  
To: Parsons, Susan  
Subject: Fwd: Let Portland Playhouse back into the historic church. Case # LU 11-187799 CU

Ms. Parson's I'm forwarding this to you sinc Ms Moore is out of town. Thank you.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: William Wilson <whwbsn@gmail.com>  
Date: Tue, Feb 21, 2012 at 12:05 PM  
Subject: Let Portland Playhouse back into the historic church. Case # LU 11-187799 CU  
To: karla.moore-love@portlandoregon.gov  
Cc: cary.clarke@portlandoregon.gov, info@portlandplayhouse.org

To the Portland City Council  
Attn: Karla Moore, Council Clerk

Dear Council Members,

You will soon be ruling whether Portland Playhouse can return to performing plays at the historic church at NE 6th and Prescott. This issue is whether or not the Playhouse is a "community service" or a commercial business.

There is no doubt that Portland Playhouse is truely a community service. This group of talented theater professionals has managed to bring a sense of community to this Northeast Portland Neighborhood, and indeed to all of us in Portland. Through their wonderful series of plays, including those of August Wilson, they have explored race relations in a way that brings us together in mutual understanding and hope that is all to rare, and all too needed. They do this while sustaining a level of artistic production on a par with any of Portland's professional theater companies, and while reaching out to the King neighborhood in open goodwill.

This Playhouse is a gem. There neighbors want them in the church.  
Please let them return to using it.

Sincerely,

William H. Wilson, MD  
3635 SW Corbett Ave  
Portland OR 97239

**Parsons, Susan**

---

**From:** Imagun@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012 10:46 AM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** Portland Playhouse

Hi Karla,

I am unable to be at the meeting on March 1, 2012. I would like to support the application of Portland Playhouse to be listed as a Community Service Organization. I believe that the Portland Playhouse adds to the community it is located in, as well as to the larger community. I do hope this issue can be resolved.

Louise Magun  
4028 SW Jerald Ct.,  
Portland, Oregon 97221

## Parsons, Susan

---

**From:** Wayne [wayne.harrel@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012 11:30 AM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary; info@portlandplayhouse.org  
**Subject:** Support for Portland Playhouse as a Community Service - case # LU 11-187799 CU

Dear City Council,

I urgently urge you to declare Portland Playhouse a Community Service in your March 1st council vote.

This non-profit organization serves its immediate neighborhood and the Portland metro area with heartfelt stories that build community. I'm particularly impressed with their genuine interracial collaboration.

They model racial equity in a manner - and location - that enriches this city. And they do it through volunteers, minimally paid professionals and a handful of staff who depend on grants and the occasional (and insufficient) sale of tickets to support them and all their material costs. Is this not service? It ain't Commercial Retail.

Please support their sacrificial Community Service to Portland by allowing them to remain in their humble and affordable home.

Sincerely,

Wayne Harrel

9833 SW 52nd Avenue

Portland, OR 97219

**Parsons, Susan**

---

**From:** reuben nisenfeld [theinkwells@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012 11:36 AM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla; cary.clarke@portlandoregonl.gov  
**Subject:** LU 11-187799 CU Portland Playhouse

Please forward my support of Portland Playhouse as a Community Center to Council members:

I am a true fan of the work that Portland Playhouse does in our city. Being that I spend much of my time making art, thinking and talking about art, I love what the Portland Playhouse has meant to the community that it sits in the middle of. It is a special place, a space for people to come together, whether they are making art or being formed by the experience of what others have created.

Fostering this type of organization is exactly the type of action the city needs for the burgeoning arts community to continue to flourish.

LU 11-187799 CU

Reuben Nisenfeld  
4504 N Maryland  
Portland OR 97217  
503-353-5001

## Parsons, Susan

---

**From:** Jeffrey Zurschmeide [j.zursch@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012 12:31 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla; Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** Portland Playhouse

Hi there,

I'm writing in reference to case #LU 11-187799 CU.

I support the Portland Playhouse - they've done a great job renovating that old church into a great place for affordable theater in Portland.

I live down in Lake Oswego, but every time I attend a play at Portland Playhouse, I spend the evening in Portland starting with dinner for two somewhere in the neighborhood, and usually stop somewhere for drinks or dessert afterwards. So besides supporting the arts, Portland Playhouse supports restaurants and other businesses in North Portland.

In every way possible, Portland Playhouse is a community service.

Please designate the Portland Playhouse at 602 NE Prescott St. as a Neighborhood Art Center.

Thanks,

Jeff Zurschmeide  
5857 Carman Drive  
Lake Oswego, OR  
97035

**Parsons, Susan**

---

**From:** sarah canterberry [scanterberry@hotmail.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012 12:55 PM

**To:** Moore-Love, Karla

**Cc:** Clarke, Cary

**Subject:** Playhouse testimony, Sarah Canterbury

Hello Karla Moore,

This communication is regarding case # (LU 11-187799 CU)

I would like to urge the city council to vote to approve the Church on 6th and Prescott to be classified as "community service". The Portland Playhouse provides a vital and necessary resource for arts in the King Neighborhood. The Portland Playhouse offers a location to explore african-american issues, and with a neighborhood dealing with the issues of gentrification, more work needs to be done to bring the community together.

Both of my children have attended the preschool located in the old church, and to me it represents a real community hub.

Thanks for your time and consideration,

Sarah Canterbury  
4255 NE Alberta Street, Portland OR 97218

**Parsons, Susan**

---

**From:** Judy Davis [jwdavis@hevanet.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012 1:17 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Subject:** Support of the King Neighborhood Association appeal

**Please convey this message to the Mayor and members of the Portland City Council in their consideration of the appeal of the King Neighborhood Association for approval of the Portland Playhouse application to use the historic church building at the corner of NE Prescott and NE 6th Avenue.**

We wish to express strong support of the appeal by the King Neighborhood Association for redefinition of the Portland Playhouse proposed use of the historic church building at the corner of NE Prescott and NE 6th as a Community Service.

We are subscribers to the Portland Playhouse series of plays and have attended several of their productions at the church. It is our understanding that parking issues have been worked out and the remaining block to the Portland Playhouse proposal is one of zoning definition that currently requires the proposal be considered a "Retail Sales" operation, rather than a "Community Service," which it obviously is.

Portland Playhouse has added new life and a cultural resource to the King Neighborhood in what has been a moribund building. There is broad support for this appeal. In addition to the King Neighborhood Association, the Portland Playhouse proposal is endorsed by the Oregon Cultural Trust, the Urban League, and the Humboldt and Sabin neighborhood associations.

Thank you for your consideration of this appeal.

John Kysar and Judith Davis  
17617 Arbor Lane  
Lake Oswego, OR 97035  
Home phone: 503-699-8737

**Parsons, Susan**

---

**From:** Michael Ossar [mossar@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012 3:06 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** case # (LU 11-187799 CU)

Dear Ms. Moore:

Please convey to all of the City Commissioners my strong support for the Portland Playhouse's request to be classified as a "community service" rather than a "retail sales" operation. The PP sells no tangible product, does not operate during 9:00-5:00 business hours, and does not earn a lot of money for stockholders and hedge fund investors. Its raison d'etre is, genuinely and sincerely, a community service, akin to a library or a church. Its function is both artistic and educational, and it succeeds wonderfully at both. It takes very seriously the needs of its diverse community and it is obvious to me (and, I'm sure, to all of its very loyal and enthusiastic followers and supporters) that its commitment to its neighborhood and to the larger community is deep and abiding and not mere window-dressing. In the years I have been attending their plays the PP has done many plays by African-American playwrights and with African-American actors, plays that I would otherwise not had the chance to see and that very few other theaters in our city perform, and these have been a revelation to me. So in that sense, I view its work as indispensable. Furthermore, these guys are good! Portland is still an exciting city to live in despite all the stresses of a serious economic downturn, but it is not yet a city suffering under the burden of excessive cultural riches or a city that can afford to throw away such talented people.

When my partner and I decided to move here we were charmed by the musical life, the terrific library system, the Fareless Zone, the bike lanes, the wonderful restaurants, the specialty shops, the urban growth boundary, the tolerant attitudes toward sexual orientation. Many of those things are gone now: there is no more Fareless Zone, Tri-Met is degrading its service for the second time since we've been here, restaurants are closing all over town, everywhere you look there is commercial real estate for lease and a homeless problem. But when we have something as completely good and valuable as the Portland Playhouse, those responsible for managing our city should exercise all their problem solving skills and bend over backwards to find a way to keep it here, by a waiver of regulations if necessary, and not drive it away.

Sincerely yours,

Michael Ossar

--

---

Michael Ossar  
9436 SW Wood Parkway  
Portland, OR 97219-5169  
(503) 985-6351  
(503) 442-6359 cell  
mossar@gmail.com

"It's quite serious, isn't it, this business of being alive?"

--Anonymous Englishman

2/21/2012

**Parsons, Susan**

---

**From:** Melissa Chernaik [mchernaik@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012 2:48 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary; Jeff Brock  
**Subject:** Portland Playhouse is good for our community!  
Re: Case # (LU 11-187799 CU)

Karla,

Please convey to the City Council our family's strong support for Portland Playhouse being designated as a Neighborhood Art Center.

Having this sort of cultural AND community-based theater in our Northeast Portland neighborhood is most definitely a community service. This is particularly true given the content of the plays they choose--many of explore African American writing, history and culture. We strongly urge the Council to allow Portland Playhouse to continue to bring this vital service to our community at the church at 602 NE Prescott St.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Melissa Chernaik and Jeff Brock  
4848 NE 12th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97211

2/21/2012

**Parsons, Susan**

---

**From:** lmcclary1@aol.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012 2:23 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** Portland Playhouse

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing to ask you to please designate the Portland Playhouse use of the old church on NE Prescott and 6th as a "community service," and allow it to put on plays there. We love this theater, and its continued operation in that particular space is crucial to its character. It is not just any commercial theater. Its plays speak to us all, but particularly to the community there. To treat it like just any retail outlet is a travesty. Please reconsider and reverse the ill-conceived decision to throw it out of its home. This unnecessarily harsh and narrow decision shocks and saddens me, and I am certain everyone who has had the privilege of being in the Playhouse audience, both in its original home and in its brave peripatetic existence around the city in the last year. May it not remain without its rightful home! Please allow it to go back to the old church, where it is indeed a community service.

Thank you,

Louisa McCleary

## Parsons, Susan

---

**From:** Samantha Petty [spetty23@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012 1:33 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** The Portland Playhouse

Dear Ms. Moore,

I write to you as a season ticket holder at The Portland Playhouse regarding case # (LU 11-187799 CU). Even though I have a limited income, I became a season ticket holder to show my support for this valuable community group, and to be inspired by the wonderful theatrical experiences they provide. I grew up in St. Paul Minnesota near the Selby/Dale neighborhood. This is a historically African American neighborhood and when I was young it had fallen on hard times. Houses were falling apart, graffiti was prevalent, and families who could afford to were beginning to leave. Today this neighborhood is revitalized. Old neighborhood residents have been joined by young families of all races and ethnicities, artists have covered graffiti with murals, Garrison Keillor opened a bookstore, and a wonderful teacher has begun a renowned music camp for youth. Anchoring this rebirth is the Penumbra Theater Company. Like The Portland Playhouse, Penumbra deals primarily with the African American experience. The theater purposely is physically located in the center of the neighborhood and serves as a gathering place for long term neighborhood residents. It is also a venue for the rest of the city to learn about important issues of race and class through first rate theater. Penumbra is an asset to the Twin Cities. It has achieved national recognition for its productions and launched the career of two-time Pulitzer Prize winner August Wilson.

I know The Portland Playhouse can play a similar role for the King neighborhood and for the entire city of Portland. Zoning should serve as a tool to protect neighborhoods and promote playful development. Using the church to house The Portland Playhouse is such a development. I've attended 4 plays put on by this theater company and all were excellent. I hope to see them back in their home theater soon.

Sincerely,

Samantha Petty  
1106 SE 13th Ave. #305  
Portland, OR 97214

**Parsons, Susan**

---

**From:** Sharon Fekety [fekety@hevanet.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012 4:03 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** cary-clarke@portlandoregon.gov  
**Subject:** March 1st City Hall hearing-Portland Playhouse-case # LU-187799CU

Mayor Adams, Commissioners Fish, Fritz, Leonard, Saltzman,

I have been attending plays at Portland Playhouse in the historic church building at NE 6th and Prescott for several years. The plays are excellent and the location is an important resource for arts in the King Neighborhood. Recently, their plays have had to be presented elsewhere because of a zoning problem. The 9-month application process was denied last month because the theater is considered "commercial, retail sales" and not "community service".

The King, Sabin and Humbolt Neighborhood Associations strongly endorse the theater as well as many arts and cultural associations and the Urban League. This little theater is an asset to this community as well as to the City of Portland. Its plays continually receive excellent reviews.

Please classify this Neighborhood Arts Center as "Community Service" so it can continue to use this location and not have to spend its scarce resources on finding another location.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sharon Fekety  
5858 SW Riveridge Ln.  
Portland, OR 97239

**Parsons, Susan**

---

**From:** Barbara Conable [barbconable@hevanet.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012 4:49 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** case # LU 11-187799 CU  
**Attachments:** Portland\_Playhouse\_letter.doc

Dear Karla Moore, please forward my letter to the Mayor and each of the commissioners on behalf of the Sabin Community Association regarding the Portland Playhouse, case #LU-187799 CU. I will also bring hard copies to the 1 March hearing and hope to testify for the Association. Thank you very much.

March 1, 2012

Mr. Mayor, members of the Council:

My name is Barbara Conable and I represent the Sabin Community Association. The SCA supports Portland Playhouse in its conditional use application for Community Service Use at 602 NE Prescott Street. We consider Portland Playhouse to be an important asset in our community, providing uplifting cultural opportunities for residents and educational options for our children.

Moreover, Portland Playhouse has made its theatrical offerings especially relevant to our diverse community, in particular through productions of three August Wilson plays, and through its outreach to members of our community who are often underserved by Portland theaters. I see seventy or eighty plays a year in Portland and I can tell you that there is nothing else like this happening here. The stunning quality of these productions has put Portland Playhouse very quickly among at the top few theaters in our state.

The fact that these productions are offered at a site within the community is a crucial part of their unique effect the community. The work of Portland Playhouse regularly confronts issues of racism, gentrification, and community, creating a space where our economically and racially diverse neighbors can interact in a productive dialogue. To force these performances out of our neighborhood would water down their influence, rendering the experience infinitely less meaningful and useful to our community.

We feel strongly that a conditional use for community service is the most appropriate way to allow this important asset to continue. If the Zoning Code says that what Portland Playhouse is doing is a "Commercial, Retail Sales" operation, then the Code is wrong, and ought to be changed. Nor do we want to see this property rezoned to allow retail sales—a move that could ultimately result in a Seven-Eleven or similar operation on the site. We understand that the Code, as written, did not anticipate this unique combination of performance, education, and dialogue. We urge you to be creative and community-minded, in the spirit of Portland Playhouse, and approve this conditional use.

Thank you.

Most sincerely,  
Barbara Conable  
3713 NE 15th Avenue  
Portland OR 97212

503 283 9636 home 503 890 8291 cell

Sabin Community Association

**Parsons, Susan**

---

**From:** marisapdx@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012 2:37 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary; info@portlandplayhouse.org  
**Subject:** Testimony for March 1, 2012 City Council Hearing [requested doc file sp]  
**Attachments:** Portland Playhouse Letter to Council.pages

Karla and Cary,  
Please confirm receipt of the attachment. Thank you.  
--Lisa Turpel

Lisa Thomas Turpel  
5912 SE 47th Avenue - Portland, OR 97206-6237  
marisapdx@comcast.net - 503.232.1930

February 21, 2012

RE: Case LU 11-187799 CU

Dear Mayor Adams, Commissioners Fish, Fritz, Leonard and Saltzman:

I am unable to attend the March 1st City Council meeting to express my support for the Portland Playhouse (PP). My husband and I have been both financial and participatory arts supporters for over 35 years in Portland. From the very first PP performance we attended three years ago, it was clear that the calibre of this theatre company was something special.

The youthfulness of this theatrical company is refreshing. The creative use of an unused and historic church building is intriguing, and brings an intimacy to the productions unique to Portland's other theatre venues. The Company's choice of the King neighborhood is not only commendable, but deliberate. Finally, their choice of artistically meaningful material is both challenging and to be celebrated in a city whose cultural competency has a ways to go.

As recently retired local government workers (Metro and Portland Parks & Recreation), my husband and I worked professionally in land use/transportation planning and community service for over 30 years. We chose to relocate to Portland in 1976 largely because of this city's and region's recognition that planning and public services are integral to a vibrant community and neighborhood livability. Portland's urban flavor today is due in good measure to the fortitude of electeds such as you (and those from the past five decades) to envision, act on and uphold initiatives such as urban density, renewal, historic preservation, 20-minute neighborhoods, mixed-use developments, equity, public transportation and welcoming with open arms those young creatives.

It is no accident that I live in one of those neighborhoods with densifying residential, cultural diversity and a "main street." With a great selection of quality retail stores, a farmers' market for 22 weeks annually, a branch library, a post office, two pharmacies, a dozen great restaurants/bars and two food carts, hair/nail salons, two independent coffee houses, an independent bakery, international influences, medical offices (traditional and alternative), a

coffee roaster, yoga studio, a liberal arts college, park lands and a small PP&R community center. An independent movie theatre would be great and we can only dream about live theatre.

Consider that both active and passive parks as well as all sizes of recreation centers exist in residential zones throughout the city. Many of these publicly owned spaces offer concerts/movies and theatre/dance performances outdoors in the summertime or indoors throughout the year -- many of which don't have off-street parking and are surrounded by residential. I note PP&R's Community Music Center on SE Francis and Multnomah Arts Center on SW Capital Hwy, two superb arts facilities. One independent theatre company, Portland Actor's Conservatory on SW Montgomery, has successfully provided acting classes and live theatre performances open to the general public for over 25 years. Although their building is owned by the City of Portland, their location is surrounded by residential with less on-street parking and fewer bus lines than the PP location. Remember too, the arts events at local schools and colleges -- often widely marketed to the general public. One of many examples is Chamber Music NW at Reed College and Catlin Gable School, both located in residential neighborhoods.

I would ask that you consider ways to approve Portland Playhouse's land use appeal. Their request is for usage that is already granted for schools, churches and City-owned park and recreation facilities. Perhaps the Council might require PP to offer a percentage of free tickets for each production, as a way to make even more accessible their spectacular artistry. Please don't create an extended hardship to Portland Playhouse, the result of which could spell its disappearance to those of us who love the arts.

Thank you, and for the work you do on behalf of all Portlanders.

Sincerely,

Lisa Thomas Turpel  
(2011-12 season subscriber)

**Parsons, Susan**

---

**From:** Lee Ann Gekas [leeann59@comcast.net]

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012 9:31 PM

**To:** Moore-Love, Karla

**Cc:** Clarke, Cary

**Subject:** Portland Playhouse case #(LU11-187799)

Hello. I wish to encourage you to allow the Portland Playhouse to exist and function in it's existing neighborhood location. Although it is a theatre, it provides a benefit to the community and is not run as a business for profit but as an art center which gives to the community.

I do not live in Portland but across the river in Washington. We enjoy coming into Portland for the wonderful shows they have been putting on , allowing new playwrights to be heard and exposing us to great art.

Please consider this in your decision.

Lee Ann Gekas

1226 23rd Ave

Longview, WA 98632

**Parsons, Susan**

---

**From:** k fallon [ktfallon@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012 8:33 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** case # LU 11-187799 CU

Dear City Council Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my strong support for the Portland Playhouse to continue as a vital and necessary resource for arts in the King Neighborhood. As a proud member of this neighborhood, I have seen a positive impact by the Portland Playhouse's presence in our community. Not only have the Playhouse presented a wide range of interesting, thought-provoking and compelling plays, it also have served as a symbol of hope. It means a lot to know that we can walk to a play in our neighborhood, not have to travel to SE Portland or downtown. It also means a lot to know that an arts organization of such quality as the Portland Playhouse would want to stay in and support our community. I have lived in the community since 1996 and I know that the Portland Playhouse has become a real asset in our community. It would be a mistake to deny it's existence in the King neighborhood because of a misinterpretation of its role in our community.

The Portland Playhouse decidedly plays a community service to our neighborhood. Please don't take it away.

Sincerely,

Catherine Fallon  
3956 NE 9th Ave.  
Portland, OR 97212

2/22/2012

## Parsons, Susan

---

**From:** Mike Cino [mjcino@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012 6:03 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** Case #LU 11-187799 CU - Restriction of Arts, Culture, and Community

Council members, % Karla Moore,

I have just heard of an alarming development. A local theatre community, Portland Playhouse, has been banned from performing in residential-zoned business building. I did not realize that church businesses were considered residential, which alarms me as well, but this is not the place to strike against that. What worries me most is that by telling an already very poor theatre community that they are restricted from performing in residential areas, you are limiting the theatre arts from performing in a variety of innovative ways. Furthermore, by attempting to remove an established theatre from the King neighborhood, you will be removing a source of culture from the community.

Please reconsider - don't strike down this community service.

Thanks!  
Mike Cino  
Tech services  
10447 NE Weidler St.  
Portland, OR 97220  
MJCino@AOL.com

## Parsons, Susan

---

**From:** Chet Skibinski [cskibinski67@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012 5:44 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** Portland Playhouse

To: County Commissioners  
Re: Case # LU 11-187799 CU

As a patron of Portland Playhouse since its inception, I feel I have firsthand knowledge of its goals and its workings. There now exists a situation whereby the Playhouse may be denied use of its King neighborhood facility because its status may change from "Community Service" to "Commercial, Retail Sales." If this were to take place, it would be a blow to not only the Playhouse but to the community which it serves.

Far from being a commercial or retail business, the Playhouse's goal has always being to stimulate community interest in theater as a whole. To do this requires more than merely selling tickets. It requires a commitment to the youth of the community by such programs as the fall Shakespeare Festival, helping various high schools produce plays that they otherwise might never even see - let alone have the total theater experience of acting, set designing, and all the other tasks required of a successful production. Students who take part in these performances are then also allowed to see the Playhouse's regular evening shows - free of charge. For many, this awareness of the world of drama can be a life-changing experience.

One of the major values of the Playhouse is the attention given to notable African-American playwrights. This is something that all of us in the Portland area can appreciate and enjoy, but it's particularly true of young people in the King neighborhood. The Playhouse is aware of this, and does such things as allowing groups of students from De La Salle High School to see such plays as August Wilson's great "Radio Golf" free of charge.

The Playhouse produces excellent plays, yes, but I believe more than any drama company in the Portland area, the Portland Playhouse is a true community organization, and deserves recognition of this by being designated a "Community Service" group.

Sincerely,

Chet Skibinski  
930 York Rd  
Lake Oswego, OR 97034  
(503) 636-2591  
cskibinski67@gmail.com

**Parsons, Susan**

---

**From:** Eric Behny [eric@allclassical.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012 5:09 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** RE: Case LU 11-187799 CU

Good Afternoon

I am Eric Behny, the Director of Corporate Sales with All Classical FM KQAC in Portland

I am writing to encourage the City Council of Portland to designate the church located at 602 NE Prescott as a Neighborhood Art Center and classified as a "Community Service"

I live in NE Portland at 4017 NE 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue and highly value how live theater enriches our community

**Eric Behny**

**Director of Corporate Sales**

**The Stations of All Classical FM**

**89.9 FM KQAC Portland/Vancouver**

**88.1 FM Hood River/The Dalles KQHR**

**88.1 FM Lincoln City/Newport KQOC**

**(503) 802-9417**

**WWW dot ALLCLASSICAL dot ORG**

**ALL CLASSICAL FM**

**#7 IN PORTLAND MARKET WITH 3.9 SHARE(Arbitron/December 2010)**

**THE SECOND HIGHEST PERFORMING CLASSICAL STATION IN THE COUNTRY!**

**Parsons, Susan**

---

**From:** Kiley Yuthas [kiley.yuthas@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012 10:27 PM  
**To:** Moore-Love, Karla  
**Cc:** Clarke, Cary  
**Subject:** Portland Playhouse Case # (LU 11-187799 CU) [done sp]

Hi!

My name is Kiley Yuthas, and I am writing to encourage you to count the performances given by Portland Playhouse as a service to the community. The playhouse fosters some amazing creativity, and their shows are wonderful. Lots of my friends and fellow Lincoln high school students have done internships or worked for the playhouse, and have been able to improve their learning through shows that are put on by the company. The church in which PP performs is such an incredible place to have shows, and helps everyone who is in or who wants to be a part of the theatre community. So please, consider students and theatre lovers in your decision regarding church building on NE Prescott and 6th.

Thank you!

Kiley Yuthas  
555 SW Viewmont Dr Portland, OR 97225  
# (LU 11-187799 CU)