

Filed

November 8, 1962

Mr. and Mrs. George Forbes
534 S.W. Bancroft
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Forbes:

Your letter concerning the Auditorium also expresses my feelings about it.

I have tried for some time to convince people that with an approved change in the appearance and acoustics of the present building, it would encourage greater attendance and essentially assist in making the operation a success rather than a "deficit type of operation."

I still hope that the voters will give us a chance to improve the entire theatre part of this building.

Very truly yours,

COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE

B:b

E-R 6951

Oct 29 '62
534 S.W. Bancroft
Portland
Filed

Dear Mr. Bean

Mr. Forbes and I have attended
many Concerts and other functions
at our Portland Auditorium and
latter time, we feel ashamed of the
Bldg.

We wonder if something can't be done
to make this Auditorium, a Place
to be Proud of, and one that will
thus fulfil its Proper function.

We would very much appreciate in
Case you can help bring this about.

Sincerely

Nora & George Forbes

E-R
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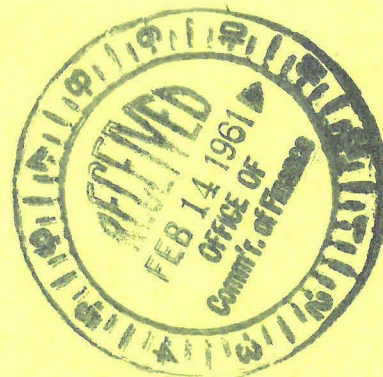
OBSERVATIONS IN RE PORTLAND PUBLIC AUDITORIUM
vs.
E-R CENTER MUSIC HALL

1. Urban Renewal was partly sold the voters as a means of obtaining an ample parking space for the Auditorium.
2. The Auditorium is a well-constructed and a valuable building, but is not adapted to any commercial or living use or civic operation except auditorium purposes. It is too valuable to destroy it. Urban Renewal has estimated that the Auditorium building would be worth approximately \$ and the property approximately from \$320,000 to \$440,000. If the building was removed, the removal might cost approximately \$
3. The cost of removing the building would reduce the property net value to less than a practically usable amount for disposal of the property and could easily be a total loss of property value.
4. From \$500,000 to \$700,000 could make the building into a fine concert hall with adequate seating to supplement the uses of the E-R and other small meeting rooms. Sketches have been prepared on that basis with accoustical corrections possible.
5. The management might be turned over to the E-R Commission to be managed as one operation and supplement the larger capacity of the E-R where smaller attendance is essential.
6. The construction of a new E-R Music Hall type of building would be costly and difficult to obtain the approval of the voters to finance through special levy or bond issue.
7. The construction of an E-R Music Hall with parking facilities would not increase materially the E-R usable parking as both types of parking would usually be functioning at the same time with the operation starting earliest filling up all available space when capacity crowds attended.
8. Any attempt to get voters approval of sufficient funds for a new building for E-R will no doubt stir up factional strife which could be justified by voters feeling that Urban Renewal had suggested parking for the Auditorium and that the \$8,000,000 E-R bonds were to include the construction of an all-purpose building including Music Hall, Arena as well as \$250,000 Veteran Memorial entrance or wing.
9. If the voters were asked to approve \$500,000 or \$700,000 for the alterations of the Auditorium as a Veteran Memorial, with proper meeting rooms, offices, etc. together with a Music Hall seating 2,000 to 2,500 and with ample parking furnished as understood under the Urban Renewal campaign suggestions, the people might approve it.

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10. The management could be put under control of the E-R as a Veterans Memorial and would eliminate some of the criticism which now rankles in the minds of certain of our citizens.
11. The purchase of some theater might solve the Music Hall phase of the problem, but not the Veterans Memorial and would simply result in destroying the values left in the Auditorium and would probably be a simple "bail-out" for some distressed property owner of a theater they would like to unload on the public.



February 14, 1961

Mr. Don Jewell, Manager
Memorial Coliseum
340 N. Broadway
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Jewell:

On Monday, February 6th, a meeting was held in this office with Mr. William Holm, CPA, who is the Auditor for the E-R Commission, and Mr. Thomas Farrell, Property Control Director for the City of Portland, to discuss the inventory of all capital assets of the E-R Fund.

As a result of this meeting, you are hereby notified that it will be the responsibility of the Exposition-Recreation Commission to take and maintain an inventory of all capital assets. I wish to call your attention to the Charter requirement which provides that an annual inventory of all the assets of the Commission must be filed with the City Auditor, such inventory to be kept in conformity with the accounting practices of the city.

Mr. Farrell, Property Control Officer, will turn over to you any information that he has accumulated for inventory control purposes and will be happy to render any assistance to you in establishing an inventory account. The Auditor's office will also be available for any assistance that you may wish in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Auditor of the City of Portland

RS:js

cc - Com. Ormond R. Bean
Thomas Farrell
William Holm
Thaddeus B. Bruno

O.R.B.

6333

Exposition-Recreation
Center

January 6, 1958

Mr. Richard J. Turner, Chairman
Portland Art Commission
The Oregonian
S. W. Broadway and Jefferson
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Turner:

Your letter in connection with the revision of the Auditorium was read with a great deal of interest, and I would like to comment on some of your recommendations.

First, there is not time to properly prepare preliminary plans, estimates of cost and show the public the reasons for the extra tax burden to place it on the May ballot.

Second, we have already discussed the matter with the architectural firm of Church Newberry Roehr & Schuette and they have made certain studies which are not in any way conclusive.

Third, when the proper time comes, I propose to recommend to the Council that a local architectural firm be employed to make some preliminary sketches, estimates and studies in the same way we did with the new zoo - an initial payment of \$1000.00 with a contingent contract for the architectural work if the voters approve the money necessary.

Fourth, any contract with a local firm of architects would include a provision that they shall employ the best consultants obtainable for theater design with special emphasis on acoustical properties of the design suggested.

Fifth, if the firm of Church Newberry Roehr & Schuette believe that they can accomplish what we believe is needed and are willing to take a contingent contract, I will probably recommend their employment.

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Greg.*

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Mr. Richard J. Turner
Page 2

January 6, 1958

Sixth, we have discussed with Mr. Isaacs the question of maximum seating, and he recommends 3000 as the maximum.

These items may not agree with your thinking, and anytime you care to come in to talk the matter over with me, I will be glad to see you. Before any definite studies are undertaken, I will ask the architects selected to meet with the Art Commission to obtain from you and other members of the Commission any suggestions that will help produce what the City needs.

Sincerely yours,

COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE

B:a

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC SAFETY



TERRY D. SCHRUNK
MAYOR

CITY OF PORTLAND
OREGON

January 2, 1958



Commissioner Ormond R. Bean
Department of Finance
Room 211, City Hall
Portland, Oregon

Dear Commissioner Bean:

At the last meeting of the Portland Art Commission the architect for the E-R Center, John Merrill, was present with perspective drawings of the proposed buildings and with information as to the use to be made of those structures. He made it very clear at that meeting that there was no facility contemplated which would take care of drama, ballet and concerts, as envisaged by the Stanford Research Institute in their several studies of site and function in Portland.

It was the understanding of the group which met with you in your office several weeks ago that if the plans of the E-R Commission, when they were put out, did not include this type of facility, you would be glad to sponsor our request for funds with which to have a study made of the feasibility of converting the present public auditorium into a usable facility for ballet, drama and concerts.

Our aim, as expressed to you in a letter at that time, was for a sum of \$2000.00 for the employment of competent architectural service to make a thoroughgoing exploration of the potentialities of the existing structure; to consider the uses of plural elevation and other possibilities that a resourceful firm might envision. It would not be enough, we think, to consider enclosing the balcony, or moving the rear wall forward, since provision is already available for reducing the seating capacity, and the acoustical faults are built in.

It will be necessary, if the city is to be satisfied as to future potentialities and present limitations of the public auditorium, to engage a knowledgeable concern empowered to study all phases of re-design and adaptation. If the present structure is to be made to function within the meaning of the Stanford Research Institute's criteria, it will, we believe, take some resourceful investigation to accurately determine how near it can be made to approach these standards.

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E-R Center

Commissioner Ormond R. Bean
Page 2

January 2, 1958

We shouldn't be satisfied with knowing less than the best potential
use.

Yours very truly,


Richard J. Turner, Chairman
Portland Art Commission

RJT:ld

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC SAFETY



TERRY D. SCHRUNK
MAYOR

CITY OF PORTLAND
OREGON

November 12, 1957

Commissioner Ormond R. Bean
Department of Finance
City Hall
Portland, Oregon

Dear Commissioner Bean:

In its report to the E-R Commission the Stanford Research Institute emphasized the need for theater and concert facilities in Portland. In each of its four location analyses, it included within the 8 million dollar limitation a theater costing \$1,250,000.00.

The present E-R Center plans now contain no facility suitable for the presentation of stage plays, musicals or concerts.

The disappointment of the Art Commission at this turn of events is keen. The only alternative which seems worth pursuing is also a part of the Stanford report. That is the suggestion that in connection with the location of the E-R Center at the South Auditorium site. This plan called for the remodeling of the present Public Auditorium at a cost of \$600,000.00.

Is \$600,000.00 the correct figure for this remodelling to accommodate stage plays, musicals and concerts?

Certainly the facility is needed. In summarizing its report to the E-R Commission the Stanford Research staff had this to say, "Because of the Auditorium's obsolete design, poor acoustics and lack of adequate service facilities, Portland is in need of an improved facility for handling theater-type events. By evaluating the experience of other cities comparable in size to Portland, and Portland's own attendance records, it is estimated that a theater with 2000 to 2500 seats should be included in the plans for the new Center."

OTCB

3533-E-R Center

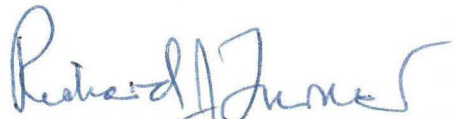
Commissioner Ormond R. Bean
November 12, 1957

Page 2

Since this facility is badly needed, it seems imperative that some means of bringing a solution to the need must be found outside the present planning of the E-R Commission. It is the feeling of the Art Commission that a determination should be made as to how completely this need could be met by a remodelling of the present Auditorium. Once this basic fact is determined, and the probable cost computed, then the city will be in a position to ask the public for money to provide such a facility.

The only way we can know if the present Auditorium is subject to satisfactory reconstruction is to have a study made by competent professional help. It is the recommendation of the Portland Art Commission that the City Council provide a sum of \$2000.00 for exploratory studies by an architect to determine whether it is feasible to remodel the public Auditorium, and if so, at what cost can a satisfactory solution of the theater-type facility need be met.

Respectfully yours,



PORTLAND ART COMMISSION
Richard J. Turner, Chairman

RJT:ld

November 12, 1957

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Department of Finance
City Hall
Portland, Oregon

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Commissioner Ormond R. Bean
November 12, 1957

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PORTLAND ART COMMISSION
Richard J. Turner, Chairman

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