

Written Testimony - Agenda Item 819

| Agenda Item | Name or Organization | Position | Comments | Attachment | Created |
|-------------|---|----------|--|------------|-------------------|
| 819 | Mihai Capotă | Support | I find the report compelling. As a resident of downtown Portland, I am happy to see | No | 09/27/23 1:50 PM |
| 819 | Anne E. Draper, SE Portland resident | Support | <p>I am a long-time patron of events at the Keller Auditorium & user of the Keller Fountain.</p> <p>I support the Keller Renaissance proposal. I feel strongly that rehabilitation & expansion of the current Keller Auditorium should be pursued as soon as possible. The rehab proposal is superior to rebuild alternatives on all the city's major criteria & is the best use of public funds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Cost: Significantly lower than any new build alternative. •Timing: Ready to move forward first, least total construction time, earliest completion of earthquake-ready venue. Minimal closure with ample time to plan ahead for alternatives. •Environmental benefits: Builds upon existing infrastructure. Does not require new parking structure. •Downtown revitalization: Meets all performance venue criteria & adds restaurant/bar amenities, outdoor space (open & covered) for programming & activation beyond performance dates/times. Benefits neighboring residents & businesses. <p>This exceptionally beautiful & exciting facility will stand as a lasting legacy of your tenure on the City Council.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment.</p> <p>One request: In future communications, I hope you will make clear that new-build alternatives must be evaluated against rehabilitation/expansion of the Keller on all criteria. In the RFEI response document, there is no mention of the rebuild proposal. Readers who are not aware of the Keller Renaissance Report would be left with the impression that only new-build alternatives are under consideration.</p> | No | 09/27/23 11:34 AM |
| 819 | CJ | Support | As a native Portlander I have watched downtown Portland through many seasons. Currently downtown Portland is struggling. One of the bright lights in downtown is the Keller Auditorium. The Halprin Conservancy's proposal would revitalize an important arts venue and send the right signal to residents, businesses, tourists, developers etc. that downtown Portland is still a great place and has potential to improve and evolve. | No | 09/27/23 10:56 AM |
| 819 | Thomas Ochinerio 1511 SW Park Ave. Apt. 609 Portland, OR 97201 | Support | <p>I am writing in support of Agenda Item 819, Accept Halprin Landscape Conservancy report on Keller Auditorium renovation. The Keller has been my neighbor for more than 30 of its 100+ years in this city, and an integral part of downtown's cultural scene. The surrounding area has unique features and amenities that would be difficult or expensive to replicate elsewhere.</p> <p>Renovating the Keller is a positive step in the re-imagining of this city and its downtown core in order to keep Portland moving forward.</p> | No | 09/27/23 10:12 AM |
| 819 | Meghan Wieters 2221 SW 1st Ave | Support | I live downtown and highly value keeping generators of economic, cultural, and quality of life centers like Keller Auditorium in our core. The current location is excellent as a punctuation to the pedestrian corridor and belongs in this space as renovations are planned. This is an important anchor to this area of downtown. I strongly encourage the current location be kept as you move forward. Please continue to support and bolster the "good bones" of our core as we recover from setbacks from recent years. Thank you for your consideration. | No | 09/27/23 7:43 AM |

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| 819 | Zoe S. | Support | The Keller Auditorium is an iconic facility that draws visitors to Portland downtown area. This building has given over hundred years of memories to millions of people as a space for the performance of musical, theatrical, speaking and other similar events. Many families have traditions to visit this facility for the Nutcracker during the holidays and to watch many other musicals and shows throughout the year. Abandoning this venue will only draw more filth and crime into downtown and hurt what's left of the local small businesses. Let's keep Portland classy, and not trashy! Thank you! | No | 09/26/23 1:22 PM |
| 819 | Frank Evans and Alice Dale | Support | Every great city has a public building for the performance of musical, theatrical, speaking and other similar events. Those buildings are the hearts of their respective cities and Keller Auditorium is that facility for Portland. The Keller Auditorium has acted as Portland's heart for over one hundred years and should continue in that position. The former Forecourt Fountain, now Keller Fountain, serves as a focal point and gathering place for visitors to the city and for those attending functions at the Keller Auditorium. Both the Keller Auditorium and Keller Fountain are visually and functionally tied together and to the Halprin Open Space elements that form an axis with the Auditorium. We recommend the Portland City Council vote to allow the Keller Auditorium to function as a 21st Century performance facility in its current location. | No | 09/25/23 6:50 PM |
| 819 | Architectural Heritage Center (Bosco-Milligan Foundation) | Support | | Yes | 09/25/23 3:54 PM |
| 819 | Amy Lynn Caplan | Support | I support the renovation of Keller Auditorium in its current location. The "Fountain District" of Portland, more quiet and less tourist/business-friendly than the rest of downtown, requires revitalization. Upgrading Keller in its current location could bring in more tourists, more locals from nearby counties and encourage small businesses and restaurants that closed during the pandemic and summer 2020 protests to return to the "fountain district" side of downtown. More Portlanders would consider starting new businesses on this more quiet side of town. Please support the renovation of Keller in its current location. | No | 09/24/23 11:49 AM |



September 25, 2023

Portland City Council
1221 SW 4th Ave.
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Mayor Wheeler and Portland City Commissioners,

The Architectural Heritage Center/Bosco-Milligan Foundation enthusiastically supports the plan for a major renovation of Keller Auditorium as proposed by the Marking Keller group and their collaborators. This approach of renovation and reuse, rather than replacement, would beautifully achieve the goal of creating a superb arts venue plus many more City objectives. It will:

- Honor the legacy and long history of the Keller as a center of arts and culture.
- Revitalize a long-suffering but culturally significant part of downtown, supporting surrounding businesses.
- Leverage existing resources and infrastructure: parking, transit, hotels, restaurants, freeway access.
- Connect and engage the entire community in the Halprin Open Space Sequence.
- Cost far less than building new.
- Walk the talk of environmental responsibility, expending significantly less carbon than new construction.
- Come to fruition three years faster than a new venue.
- Serve as a truly world-class interactive destination attracting performers and visitors from around the world.

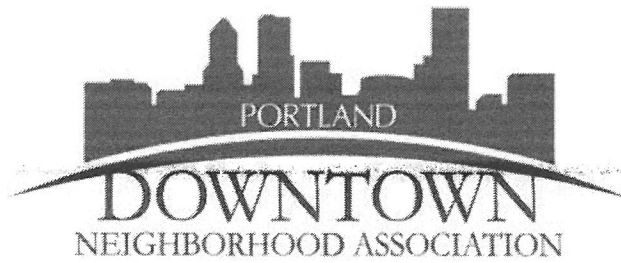
In a time with so many challenges, surely moving this proposal forward will be of your easiest decisions!

Respectfully,

Peggy Moretti
Interim Executive Director

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| 819 | Thomas L. Ray, MD | Support | <p>Keller Auditorium Restoration - Agenda Item 819 - September 27, 2023</p> <p>For 100 years the Keller Auditorium has been the cultural heart of this city, and a preeminent asset for the vitality of downtown Portland. This iconic venue was astutely developed by prominent city leaders with vision, to be the anchor for what has become the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, the Antoinette Hatfield Hall, the Winningstad Theater, the Newmark Theater, the Portland Art Museum, the Oregon Historical Society, the Oregon Symphony and the Oregon Ballet Company. They are collectively a cultural center envied by many cities lacking such vision.</p> <p>Stunning, award winning, infrastructure surrounds our auditorium. The Halprin Open Space Sequence and its renowned Keller (Forecourt) Fountain showcase this performance hall. Numerous hotels, restaurants and retail serve the public attracted to our cultural district. Notable high rise residential towers, in walking distance to The Keller, complement this neighborhood. Abundant public transit services and sizable parking structures provide unparalleled access to this matchless location.</p> <p>It is now time to upgrade this building, for only the second time, to assure its continued active place in the future of our city. The location is exceptional and could not be reproduced. The infrastructure surrounding the Keller (fountains, green space, parking, hotels, restaurants, public transit and freeway access) would be prohibitively expensive to reproduce in most other places in the City.</p> <p>The Halprin Landscape Conservancy (HLC), along with several partners, have conducted a comprehensive feasibility study for this complete renovation project. The detailed proposal addresses and overcomes all shortcomings of the current building. Importantly it provides a world-class building that is not only as seismically sound as new construction (at a fraction of the cost), but it provides a source of pride for what this city can do. The extraordinary architecture will take the auditorium well into the 21st century, while maximizing the exceptional attributes (physical, financial, cultural) of this unique location. The long-term benefits of this renovation will assure the continued synergism of this cultural center for the enrichment and unification of our diverse city. Short-term gains of building new elsewhere (if there are any) do not compensate for the enduring and irreparable harm that an abandonment of The Keller would cause to the city core.</p> <p>I urge the City Council to stand behind a century of commitment to this city's landmark, and to its values and culture, by rejuvenating and restoring The Keller Auditorium. This commitment to the vitality and viability of the downtown core is not only overdue, but essential to the recovery of our city. The outstanding value of this renovation can not be overstated.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Thomas L. Ray, MD 2211 SW 1st Ave., Unit 802 Portland, Oregon 97201</p> | No | 09/23/23 4:26 PM |

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| 819 | LaJune Thorson | Support | <p>The Keller has been in this neighborhood for over 100 years. It is surrounded by services that entertainment-goers rely on: mass transit, restaurants, and parking. Our local businesses rely on the foot traffic it brings. It is vital to the recovery of downtown.</p> <p>The Keller is recognized as part of the downtown Cultural District along with the Portland Art Museum, Portland 5, Portland State University's College of Arts, as well as Oregon Symphony and Oregon Ballet Company.</p> <p>Even though they weren't built at the same time, the Keller Auditorium and the Keller Fountain are now inseparable. Together they are recognized as the culmination of the Halplin Landscape Sequence where water flows from "The Source" northward to the Keller Fountain. The Halprin Sequence is internationally recognized by the American Society of Landscape Architects, receiving their Landmark Award in 2021.</p> <p>Please do not separate these two important landmarks. Please accept the Halprin Landscape Conservancy Keller Auditorium Renovation Design Concept report and keep the Keller in its current location.</p> <p>LaJune Thorson long time downtown resident Land Use & Transportation Committee member Downtown Neighborhood Association board member</p> | No | 09/23/23 3:36 AM |



Good afternoon Mr. Mayor and City Council Members.

I am Diana Stuart. I live in the RiverPlace community, and I am a Downtown Neighborhood Association Board member. In the absence of our Chair Walt Weyler, I am speaking today on behalf of the DNA's 500 plus members enthusiastically supporting the proposal for the renovation of the Keller Auditorium just presented to you.

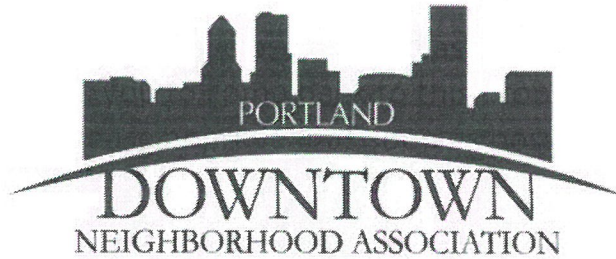
DNA members live, work and study in the downtown – the core of the City. We are still here fighting for this City we love and want to see come back to life. The Downtown needs wins right now - city actions which people see coming to fruition soon – not in 10 or 15 years – but now.

The Halprin Sequence has always been Portland's chain of park gems. This exciting design of the Keller Auditorium seamlessly flowing to the Keller Fountain is a sparkling setting for those gems demonstrating Portland's commitment to not only revitalizing our streets and businesses but our cultural significance to the region as well.

This renovation is an important symbol which you can make to the state, the region, the country and the world that Portland is coming back stronger than ever as a vital city center to be enjoyed by families, visitors and the community for the arts, the ballet, musical theater, Broadway shows and so much more.

The thrilling design work of this project is ready for you, problems previously raised have been refuted. The infrastructure of the Keller (public transit, easy street access for bicycles, pedestrians and cars, parking, hotel rooms, restaurants, easy access to freeways) – all is here and ready.

Concerns about costs or environmental impacts of a performing art center will be significantly ameliorated by a renovation - far over a new build which will create



more cost, require years more to complete, have more infrastructure issues, and have far more negative environmental impacts.

For the DNA – this proposal is a win-win-win for our beloved City. This stunning transformation of the Keller and urban spaces around it will have a catalytic impact on the downtown and the greater Portland region. This modernization plan with planned programming of the expanded exterior spaces will transform the district into a destination during the day and evening throughout the year rather than only around performance times.

We urge you to keep this proposal close at hand as you hear from other proposals. The DNA urges you to come back to this proposal as the win that the downtown needs now. Please approve it as soon as possible.

Thank you.

DON'T destroy Downtown

by dismantling core

institutions **INSTEAD**

Improve and build on efforts

to **RENOVATE toward**

service to all citizens!

Marian deBardelaben

Thank You

Portland City Council Meeting - Wednesday, September 27, 2023 2:00 p.m.

| Agenda Item | First Name | Last Name |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 819-1 | Dean | Barnett |
| 819-2 | Mike | Lindberg |
| 819-3 | John | Widder |
| 819-4 | Anne | Francis |
| 819-5 | Nicole | Possert |
| 819-6 | Xavier | Stickler |
| 819-7 | Susan | Rinker |
| 819-8 | Suzanne | Nance |