



Since 1946
A Highly Acclaimed Company

To: City Council President Linda Morad and Members of the City Council

June 13, 2016

As President of the Board of Your Theatre, Inc., I am very happy to support Mayor Mitchell's Proposed Home Rule Petition to establish an Arts, Culture, and Tourism Promotion Fund for the City of New Bedford. Your Theatre is a New Bedford based community theatre which is about to begin its 70th season, offering affordable, high quality productions for the citizens of this area. From our founder to our current board, Your Theatre members have always believed in the creativity and cultural richness of this area. We know that there are young people coming up through our wonderful area schools that need an opportunity to expand their love of the arts and the art and cultural institutions in New Bedford are primed and ready to provide them the support they need.

Groups like Your Theatre need the support of the city to enhance our development and strengthen our programs. In particular, we know that improving the downtown area as a cultural district is vital towards furthering tourism and development. We hope to be part of that future as we work toward acquiring the First Baptist Church on Williams Street and, with the help of WHALE, turn it into a small performing arts center.

Your Theatre supports the level of funding suggested by the Mayor for the Cultural Coordinator position it would help to establish, this would help all of us who work as volunteers and employees for non-profits and for-profits that enhance the atmosphere and identity of the city.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Susan P. Richard".

Susan Richard
President of the Governing Board
Your Theatre, Inc.