



June 27, 2023

The Honorable Eric Johnson
Dallas City Hall
1500 Marilla Street
Dallas, TX 75201

Dear Mayor Johnson and Dallas City Council:

The Dallas Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA Dallas) recommends that the City Council will move forward and prioritize the **restoration of the Kalita Humphreys Theater**. As one of only two Frank Lloyd Wright theaters in the United States, the Kalita Humphreys Theater is an architectural and historical treasure that Dallas should protect and maintain. Perhaps even more importantly, when the Kalita Humphreys Theater was initially built, it became the centerpiece of Dallas' burgeoning arts and cultural awakening. It remains a beloved cultural gathering place for so many in Dallas. The planned restoration not only recaptures the original genius of the design but also equips the Kalita to continue to support future community arts initiatives, both large and small.

AIA Dallas also recommends that the Dallas City Council adopt an overall master plan, allowing for further refinements as needed, so that, as a City, we can quickly turn our attention to this core mission of preserving the original theater. The Kalita Humphreys Theater would benefit immensely from support from the 2024 bond program with matching funds from private philanthropy.

Like all good master plans, we understand and expect that any Kalita Humphreys Master Plan will be implemented in phases. The first phase *must* focus on renovations to the historic, original theater in order to achieve two principal goals: preserving an important architectural asset and retaining its use for theater productions.

We thank you for supporting architecture, the arts, and historic preservation in Dallas. The Kalita Humphreys Theater is a unique and culturally valuable asset to our city and region. AIA Dallas is committed to partnering with the City of Dallas, the Dallas Theater Center, and all stakeholders on this important civic project.

Thank you for your consideration and continued partnership. Please don't hesitate to call on our organization for additional information and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zaida Basora'.

Zaida Basora, FAIA
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kate Aoki'.

Kate Aoki, AIA
Board President

CC: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Liz Cedillo-Pereira, Assistant City Manager
Martine Elyse Philippe, Office of Arts & Culture