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David Graves
Major Projects Challenge Fund
Seattle Parks and Recreation
100 Dexter Ave N
Seattle, WA 98109

Dear Mr. Graves:

My name is Terry Morgan and I am the founder and owner of Modern Enterprises, LLC. I am writing to affirm the broad ethnic and cultural diversity of people who use Volunteer Park and the benefits this community will gain from a new Amphitheater.

As the most successful minority owned event production company in Washington State, Modern Enterprises LLC has served clients since 1979 providing talent, production, and technical services for cities, corporate clients and civic occasions. From major grand opening celebrations attended by tens of thousands of people, to signature fundraising events and galas, to concerts of all sizes featuring acclaimed performing artists, we create, plan and produce a diverse spectrum of events and projects.

We are located in the Lake Forest Park, however over the past four decades, we have produced many events in Seattle's Volunteer Park either as co-producer or as hired consultants for other organizations.

I am grateful that Volunteer Park Trust has reached out to Modern Enterprises as an important part of their project feasibility and design research. To be frank, the current Volunteer Park Amphitheater is an old underdeveloped venue. As a performance facility it offers only the barest minimum of a concrete stage and difficult technical access. Its poor acoustic structure, extremely limited power outlets, lack of storage or load-in space (among many other issues) require experienced technical skill and much equipment to produce a quality performance. This places harsh limits on who can perform there. The fact that so many events are scheduled under these conditions at the Amphitheater each year, show what a prime and sought-after location it is in. The people of Seattle deserve better.

Volunteer Park Trust has done an incredible amount of community outreach to assure that **the proposed new Amphitheater design meets the broadest possible performance requirements and community needs.** From neighborhood meetings addressing sound issues to focus groups with theaters, orchestral and dance groups, from discussions with Olmsted landscape professionals to community organizers producing annual celebrations and rallies, the concerns of Seattle's citizens have been heard and addressed in the new facility design.

A new Amphitheater will have a huge impact on the communities of Seattle and well beyond. The facility will greatly broaden the number and types of performances that can occur there, but thoughtfully does not expand the audience size. It will allow for disabled performers and event speakers to use the stage. It will allow for lower set-up and equipment costs which will provide access to lower income performers and groups typically found in underserved communities.

This project is vital to the cultural growth of Seattle and deserving of funding from the Major Projects Challenge Fund. I urge to fund the Volunteer Park Amphitheater Project.

Sincerely,



Terry Morgan
Modern Enterprises LLC