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City Manager
The City of Edmonton
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August 22, 2006



TransAlta Arts Barns
Fringe Theatre for Young People
Fringe Theatre School
Edmonton International
Fringe Theatre Festival
Beyond the Fringe

Dear Al,

It was a pleasure to meet with you on August 21. Thank you for taking time out of your busy day for Bob and myself.

Fringe Theatre Adventures presents a year round family theatre season in the Westbury Theatre, produces the Edmonton International Fringe Theatre Festival and manages the city owned TransAlta Arts Barns. All of FTA activities centre in or around the TransAlta Arts barns and our administrative office operates out of the facility.

The TransAlta Arts Barns, now in its third year of operations, is settling into its "rhythm", refining the mechanical systems for optimal operations and gaining a good history on utilities consumption and maintenance expectations. Please be assured that the city owned TransAlta Arts Barns has been well maintained by FTA and is proving to be a wonderful performance and rehearsal space for Edmonton theatre presentations. We are very proud of this innovative facility that is so adaptable to varying performances and rehearsals and forms the cornerstone to the world renowned international theatre festival.

With a three year history of operations it is now becoming clear that the financial cost of utilities and maintenance for the facility is placing a heavy burden on the production side of Fringe Theatre Adventures. Each year more and more of the FTA resources are being reallocated into gas, power, insurance, custodial and ongoing maintenance. As costs inevitably rise for those commodities we are becoming increasingly burdened to simultaneously maintain the facility and produce at the expected level. We are also concerned that any large capital issues would further tax FTA in a serious way.

In order to address these concerns FTA has begun working with the Edmonton Community Foundation to create an endowment fund to help with the financial commitments. We are planning a long range strategy to ensure that an endowment is in place for future stability.

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In addition to retaining TransAlta as its title sponsor along with many other corporate sponsors, Fringe Theatre Adventures was recently advised by the Alberta Foundation for the Arts (AFA) that their membership into AMPAC (Alberta Major Performing Arts Companies) for the 2005/06 operating year was approved. The AMPAC Operating Grant Program supports the operating expenses of Alberta's ten largest performing arts companies in a manner consistent with a philosophy of artistic and financial sustainability. FTA will be joining such companies as the Alberta Ballet, Edmonton Opera, Edmonton Symphony Society, the Citadel Theatre and the Calgary Philharmonic Society.

Although we charge rent for the use of the TransAlta Art's Barns venues we feel that we have little room to move on the rent charged to other non-profit theatre companies. We are attempting to be as open as we can to help the other companies requiring performance space especially after the loss of the smaller Kassa theatre in the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium renovation. We will be reviewing the other revenue possibilities in ticketing and concessions that do not directly affect the producing companies.

As Bob and I indicated, FTA requires ongoing financial assistance to operate and maintain the facility for FTA, the community and the City of Edmonton. A yearly amount of \$190,000 from the City of Edmonton to assist in operations would ensure that the building remain accessible, affordable and well maintained for years to come without running FTA into considerable financial hardship. We are very proud of the TransAlta Arts Barns and the fundraising we accomplished to renovate and rejuvenate the building. We truly want to ensure that we are doing all we can to maintain this very special Edmonton heritage. Your assistance in this goal is essential and valued.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julian Mayne', written over a horizontal line.

Julian Mayne
Executive Director
Fringe Theatre Adventures

Cc: Dr. Robert Westbury

FTA Facility Expense

1999-2000*	\$ 51,107.00	<i>Old Bus Barns</i>
2000-2001*	\$ 58,918.00	<i>Old Bus Barns</i>
2001-2002*	\$ 56,292.00	<i>Old Bus Barns</i>
2002-2003*	\$ 30,847.00	<i>construction year, moved in July 2003</i>
2003-2004*	\$ 231,379.00	<i>1st full year in TransAlta Arts Barn</i>
2004-2005*	\$ 228,372.22	<i>2nd full year in TransAlta Arts Barn</i>
2005-2006	\$ 269,569.00	<i>projection / Year end September 30, 2006</i>

* audited statement

Breakdown of expenditures

	<u>2003/ 04</u>	<u>2004/ 05</u>	<u>2005/ 06</u>
Utilities	115,343.33	99,978.68	\$128,520.32
Janitorial Wages	19,200.00	27,600.00	49,332.31
Janitorial (supplies)	3,031.07	5,934.42	5,450.64
Theatre Maintenance	11,642.00	7,508.66	7,765.25
Refuse	450.00	807.55	763.67
Insurance	26,758.00	22,646.35	26,256.00
Facility Maintenance	54,954.60	63,896.56	51,480.81
	<u>231,379.00</u>	<u>228,372.22</u>	<u>269,569.00</u>

Utilities Breakdown

	<u>2003/ 04</u>		<u>2004/ 05</u>		<u>2005/ 06 (YTD)</u>	
	Epcor	Atco	Epcor	Atco	Epcor	Atco
October	\$5,248.58	\$162.83	\$5,504.68	\$672.42	\$8,256.68	\$1,097.00
November	\$5,100.00	\$4,135.47	\$3,458.66	\$3,269.17	\$7,669.03	\$5,318.48
December	\$5,183.65	\$6,892.64	\$4,554.59	\$6,584.49	\$6,740.18	\$7,783.10
January	\$0.00	\$9,207.55	\$3,651.55	\$8,441.44	\$5,353.65	\$6,780.01
February	\$9,387.34	\$10,351.44	\$3,256.78	\$6,088.43	\$4,671.43	\$6,506.42
March	\$4,933.91	\$7,213.15	\$3,987.85	\$5,569.70	\$6,044.09	\$5,893.49
April	\$4,800.59	\$3,706.88	\$3,795.67	\$5,068.45	\$4,806.78	\$4,330.98
May	\$4,855.34	\$3,391.16	\$3,980.91	\$2,333.49	\$6,391.24	\$2,859.07
June	\$5,674.00	\$1,996.03	\$4,521.98	\$734.06	\$7,818.49	\$1,225.58
July	\$6,413.55	\$595.34	\$3,438.95	\$385.82	\$4,900.00	\$324.62
August	\$8,101.69	\$1,156.73	\$10,458.15	\$306.96	\$12,000.00	\$750.00 **
September	\$4,636.06	\$2,199.40	\$6,042.58	\$3,871.90	\$7,000.00	\$4,000.00 **
					<u>\$81,651.57</u>	<u>\$46,868.75</u>
Total		\$115,343.33		\$99,978.68		\$128,520.32

May 2005 - Repairs on mechanical controls reduced utilities consumption

** Projections