



April 30, 2019

Honorable Paul Krekorian, Chair  
Budget and Finance Committee  
City of Los Angeles  
200 N.Spring Street, Room 435  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Los Angeles Theatre Center

Dear Chairman Krekorian and Committee Members:

We write this letter in support of the Latino Theater Company, the non-profit operators of the Los Angeles Theatre Center (LATC), located in the heart of Downtown Los Angeles' Historic Core, at 514 South Spring Street and serving as a Cultural Hub for the entire City with a robust schedule of high-quality performances and resources for artists throughout Los Angeles.

The eight-floor LATC building is an architectural, historic and cultural gem, originally designed by famed LA architect John Parkinson, which today remains vibrant due to the artistic programming overseen by the Latino Theater Company. Every year it showcases thousands of artists in the space's five theaters, artists who reflect our city's rich diversity, cultural and sexual identity.

As operators of the LATC for the last 13 years, the Latino Theatre Company, has invested \$27.5 million in renovations, maintenance and programming at the LATC, investments that have correspondingly saved the millions of dollars that the City of Los Angeles used to pay annually to operate the LATC. The Latino Theater Company has provided rehearsal and performance space and resources to more than 1,000 other non-profit organizations and partners, created more than 3,800 jobs, produced 152 plays that highlight, support and celebrate Latinx, Black, Asian, Native-American, LGBTQ and Women experiences, and given opportunity to writers, directors, and performers from all of Los Angeles' distinct communities and demographics.

In an entertainment industry town that too often fails to reflect its population's diversity, and the important stories all Angelenos deserve to hear, the Latino Theater Company ensures that the LATC truly is first and foremost "Los Angeles' Theater."

While their programming work is supported by major funders, such as The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The California Endowment, The Ahmanson, The Doris Duke Foundation, Time Warner, and others, the Latino Theatre Company is struggling under the debt of maintenance and operations costs of such a large space.

We strongly believe, it is in the City's best interest to provide modest annual maintenance and operations support at the LATC to ensure that the Latino Theater Company can continue to work with its partners, including the Department of Cultural Affairs, to prioritize and produce theater for LA artists and our varied, beautiful and diverse communities.

In 2018 alone, more than 63,000 Angelenos visited the LATC to experience a myriad of theatrical stories and perspectives. To lose that vibrancy and voice would represent an irretrievable loss.

We ask for your support to identify funding to assist the Latino Theater Company in maintaining and operating the Los Angeles Theatre Center. Currently, per CF 11-2095-S2, the Department of General Services is renegotiating the use of the Los Angeles Theatre Center by the Latino Theater Company to secure a new long-term lease.

At this critical time, it is important that we plan for technical needs, maintenance and operation costs, City programming and public benefits that will be afforded students and audiences from throughout the City. Funding identified in the FY19-20 budget will help the City negotiate a generous component of public benefits, as is being advocated for by the Department of Cultural Affairs.

Sincerely,



José Huizar  
Councilmember, 14<sup>th</sup> District



Gil Cedillo  
Councilmember, 1<sup>st</sup> District



Nury Martinez  
Councilmember, 6<sup>th</sup> District



Monica Rodriguez  
Councilmember, 7<sup>th</sup> District