



City of Homer

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Memorandum Supplemental Packet

TO: MAYOR CASTNER AND HOMER CITY COUNCIL
FROM: MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK
DATE: JUNE 6, 2022
SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTAL PACKET

Letter and drawing from Pier One Theater

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332 E. PIONEER AVE. STE. 3 • HOMER, AK 99603
907-226-2287 • WWW.PIERONETHEATRE.ORG

Dear Homer City Council Members,

Over the last few months several of you, and several community members, have reached out to us regarding a possible theatre component to the new HERC plans. We are so very grateful to be thought of for this dreamy property and this vision of a community space which will serve so many recreational needs.

Since we began discussion with Harbor Master Bryan Hawkins of our lease renewal at the current Spit Theatre location last summer, we have been very seriously considering the future home of Pier One Theatre. In recognition of the potential harbor expansion, a growth in the business at the large-boat haul out, and the age and structural needs of our current theatre, we believe the time is right for planning the next steps.

To this end, we have formed a planning committee tasked with exploring all kinds of different options: the renovation of other local business spaces, a new building on the Spit in collaboration with the City, property in town, collaboration with other local arts groups, the long-sought-after 200 seat theatre, etc. After many conversations and exploration, we concluded that we needed to draw up a plan which included all of the elements Pier One Theatre needs to make an all-encompassing and truly successful new building work. Lynne Roff has taken a first stab at it, and I am sharing that with you today.

We do not know if there is a place for this kind of space in the HERC conversation. If the plans drawn up and presented at the Pratt and the Library are meeting the needs of other local recreational groups, we do not wish to distract or detract from that conversation. Spaces cannot be all things to all users. All the needs of a gym do not align with all the needs of a theatre, but perhaps some of them do, such as reception areas and bathroom facilities. There has been some mention of a separate second building at the HERC with an unknown purpose to be considered down the road. Perhaps that is the place for a theatre conversation.

What we *do* know is that our relationship with the City over the last 49 years has been essential to our ability to create, teach, and present theatre. The gift of the space on the Spit has created a lifetime of shared storytelling and deep artistic experience. We want to know what *you* think about the future home of community theatre in Homer. Do we belong in this HERC conversation, or is there another vision to pursue?

Thank you for your kind consideration and continued support of the performing arts and community theatre in Homer.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Norton
Executive Director
Pier One Theatre, Inc.

