

## Lisa Clausen

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**From:** Council  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2010 11:36 AM  
**To:** 'eric@burienlittletheatre.org'; Joan McGilton  
**Subject:** RE: BLT moving into Burien Arts Building

Thank you for writing to the Burien City Council. Your message will be included in the Correspondence for the Record for an upcoming Council meeting.

Lisa Clausen  
City Manager's Office

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Eric [mailto:eric@burienlittletheatre.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 16, 2010 3:11 PM  
**To:** Council; Joan McGilton  
**Subject:** Re: BLT moving into Burien Arts Building

Dear Mayor and Council,

I was saddened to hear the Burien Arts Gallery is leaving its building. I understand the building currently being used by the Burien Arts Gallery is being returned to the City. At the same time Burien Parks and Recreation is telling Burien Little Theatre that it will be requiring us to move out of what we call the "green house," located by the old Community Center. The green house contains BLT's office, costumes and some set and prop storage. These two events got me thinking about a win/win. (We understand that Burien Parks will be using the green house for storage and a restroom for those working in the P-Patch Parks is putting in.)

Because of losing the use of the green house, Burien Little Theatre needs an office, and a place for costumes and prop storage. Due to a change in the allowed use of BLT's space at Salmon Creek Elementary, BLT also needs a garage to do light building in. The current location of the Burien Arts Gallery would be a perfect location for BLT. It is close to the old Community Center where BLT performs and has a garage that BLT could use to build in. Unlike the green house it is heated, making the space available to BLT year round for office work, meetings and small rehearsals. However, to make that space available to BLT will require the Council's help.

For BLT, cost is always a concern. Therefore, BLT is looking for the best possible rental arrangement. Keep in mind that the performing arts is an economic engine in a community. For example, the most recent analysis of the questionnaires BLT receives at its performances shows that 77.5% of those attending a performance at BLT eat or drink at a restaurant either before or after the performance. (38.3% eat or drink at a restaurant before the performance and 39.3% after the performance.) In these hard economic times getting people into the local restaurants is a good thing for Burien.

Having said that, keeping a nonprofit Burien arts organization in the Burien Arts Galley space makes good sense. First, the Arts Gallery building has the space BLT needs as BLT's programing continues to grow. Second, it is already set up with an office, keeping the cost of BLT's move down (e.i. installing phone lines and the like). And I hope the Council would like to see the building's use in supporting Burien arts organizations continued.

Since many of BLT's activities including use of the office and meeting place would take place in the evening and on weekends, having BLT in the current Burien Arts Galley building will

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also help with crime prevention in the park. Additionally, access to the park itself right outside the building allows BLT to look at summer programming in a new light.

Allowing BLT to use what is now the Burien Art Gallery space is a win/win, and a chance for something good to come out of the Burien Arts Gallery leaving that building. Since BLT is losing its current greenhouse, this could be an exchange of one building for another. Or if necessary there could be a small increase in the rent BLT pays the City to obtain a building that uniquely meets BLT's changing needs.

This win/win is possible if the Council directs City staff to work with BLT to make the Burien Art Gallery building available to BLT at no rent increase or as small an increase as possible.

Thank you.

Eric Dickman  
Artistic Director  
Burien Little Theatre