

Lisa Clausen

From: Public Council Inbox
Sent: Friday, March 05, 2010 5:13 PM
To: 'eric@edickman.com'
Subject: RE: March 2010 issue of The Business Report - "Arts Represents a Boon to Local Economy"

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 Dickman [mailto:eric@edickman.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2010 3:09 PM
To: Public Council Inbox; Joan McGilton
Cc: Debbie Zemke
Subject: Re: March 2010 issue of The Business Report - "Arts Represents a Boon to Local Economy"

Dear Mayor and Council,

Attached is a copy of an article in the most recent edition (March 2010) of The Business Report, a newspaper serving business interests in South King County. The article, "Arts Represents a Boon to the Local Economy," describes some of the economic benefits arts organizations provide to South King County. Three arts organizations mentioned by name in the article are the Federal Way Symphony, Burien Little Theatre and the Seattle Opera Scenic Studios. The latter is located in Renton.

As the article notes a 2005 study by American for the Arts showed that non-profit arts and culture organizations generate \$166.2 billion in economic activity in a year. The ArtsFund 2003 King County Economic Impact Study reported that county wide arts and culture were responsible for \$208 million in sales, 113.4 million in labor income and \$8 million in tax revenues.

As also noted in the attached article, not only does Burien Little Theatre buy locally whenever possible 77.6 percent of BLT's patrons go out and eat or drink before or after seeing one of Burien Little Theatre's performances. It is about equal the number or eat or drink before as those who eat and drink after the performance. This is business for local restaurants and bars that would not occur without the performances at Burien Little Theatre. Additionally, for many years Burien Little Theatre has partnered with the Mark Restaurant and Bar in Burien for a dinner and a show package, where patrons can combine both dinner and a performance for a reduced rate. This has been very successful.

Not mentioned in the article is Burien Little Theatre's recently joining with the local child care service Jungle Gym to provide child care during one of the evening performances during a run, so parents can enjoy and night out and have their children entertained too.

As you know Burien Little Theatre is suffering from loss of space in the near term and the long term. Approaching is the loss of the green house, the office and costume storage space Burien Little Theatre has rented from Burien Parks and Recreation for years. BLT has also been told by Burien Parks that BLT's rent will go up 10 percent next year, a much bigger jump than just inflation. In the long term there has been, and continues to be, discussion of BLT's losing its performance space.

CFTR: 03/22/10

In a City like Burien, with strong leadership, the arts, including Burien Little Theatre, can flourish and help lead the way out of tough economic times for all of the people in Burien. The attached article and the studies mentioned within it can help you answer the question, "Why help the arts?" The arts are a proven economic engine, one that is much needed right now.

Eric Dickman
Artistic Director
Burien Little Theatre