



**NEDERLANDER**  
PRODUCING COMPANY  
OF AMERICA, INC.

February 21, 2008

Haarlem Victoria Restoration Group  
Kingsdale, LLC  
P.O. Box 462  
New York, NY 10027

**Re: Victoria Theatre**

Dear HVRG:

In addition to my job as Vice President of the Nederlander Organization, one of the largest producing and presenting organizations of live theatrical events, I serve as President of the Board of Directors for the League of Historic American Theatres, a membership association promoting the rescue, rehabilitation and sustainable operation of historic theatres. It is in that capacity that I write this letter of continued support of your efforts to save the Victoria Theatre.

My recollection is that this theatre was acquired by the HUDC *specifically* to prevent its being converted to non-theatre use. Yet it now appears that ESDC and HCDC are acquiescing to the destruction of the theatre. They should reject developers who say the theatre can't be restored or isn't economically feasible. Historic Theatre and New Market tax credits can cover almost 33% of renovation expenses. What matters is the vision for this site and it's role as a vital part of the community. The Haarlem Victoria Restoration Group submitted a proposal that included saving the theatre and providing ample educational facilities for arts organizations as well as restaurant and hotel space. Your proposal was *the only one true to the original intent of the HUDC*, so why was it summarily rejected? The community deserves a better answer than has been provided.

The ability of historic theatres to serve as an anchor to and generator of greater economic development within a local community has been demonstrated time and again, and there are many resources available to confirm those statistics. The proximity of the Victoria to the Apollo Theatre creates a tremendous synergistic opportunity for both venues and for 125<sup>th</sup> Street.

I have had the great pleasure of meeting with Ms. Ethel Bates, and believe her vision for the Victoria Theatre and the surrounding site speaks most clearly for the revitalization of the theatre by and for the local community. I hope someone with just such a strong view of the need for local community involvement will play a prominent role in saving this site.

Very Truly Yours

James A. Boese

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