

From: Kate Meehan

Sent: Monday, January 07, 2019 4:13 PM

To: Barton-Holmes, Christine <Christine.Barton-Holmes@austintexas.gov>

Subject: Vortex Theatre - #SPC-2017-0531A

Ms. Barton-Holmes:

I'm writing on behalf of the B. Iden Payne Awards Council, an arts service organization representing the theatre community at large. It has come to our attention that the Conditional Use Permit under which the Vortex operates is up for renewal and is a case pending before the Planning Commission on Tuesday (item C-19).

I cannot emphasize enough that The Vortex is a critical venue for theatre artists in Austin. The venue itself holds three stages which are constantly in use by the community. After losing six stages to land development, the loss of the Vortex would deal a blow to Austin's artistic community from which we would not likely recover.

In addition to the venue itself, the Vortex as a production company represents some of the longest-running independent theatre in Austin. The level of artistry and commitment to community service demonstrated by their organization is unparalleled. They are true supporters of their peers, pioneers of their artistry, and all around great neighbors.

The Austin artistic community strongly urges the Planning Commission to approve their Conditional Use Permit. I can be reached with questions or further comment at (512) 826-2132.

Best,

Kate Meehan
President
B. Iden Payne Awards Council