

Hamilton City Council 71 Main Street West Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Members of Hamilton City Council,

Subject: Letter of Support for The Hamilton Music Hall Project

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the Hamilton Music Hall project, spearheaded by the Music Hall Alliance in collaboration with Centenary United Church. This initiative represents a transformative opportunity for our city, addressing the need for a socially engaged, 1,000-seat venue that serves as a hub for cultural and community events.

Hamilton has long been a city rich in creativity and diversity, yet it lacks a dedicated space for local musicians, performers, and equity-deserving groups to meet, rehearse, and perform. The Hamilton Music Hall will fill this void, fostering inclusivity and providing a platform for marginalized and racialized communities. Additionally, the preservation of the iconic 1868 heritage building at 24 Main St. W. ensures that future generations can enjoy and benefit from this historic space.

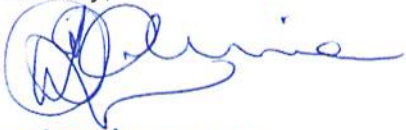
The Music Hall Alliance has already demonstrated its commitment to this project, investing over \$700,000 in planning, engineering, and capital works. The requested \$900,000 grant from Hamilton City Council is critical to complete the next phase of renovations, including structural and environmental abatement. This funding will not only ensure the building is safe and welcoming but also serve as a catalyst for further investment from other donors and levels of government.

The benefits of this project to Hamilton taxpayers are significant. It will enhance the tourism economy, particularly the nighttime economy, and attract major cultural events such as the Ontario Country Music Awards and the 2026 JUNO Awards. Moreover, it will provide a much-needed space for local talent to thrive while preserving a key piece of Hamilton's heritage.

Being an advocate of the arts for several years has brought communities, its people and businesses together, this is dear to my heart, and I urge you to approve the grant request and support this vital project. The Hamilton Music Hall is more than just a venue—it is a symbol of our city's commitment to creativity, inclusivity, and community.

Thank you for considering this important initiative.

Sincerely,



**Dan Lawrie**, CLU, C.F.S.B.

Founder and Chairman