

## Glendale Secondary School HWDSB PROGRAMS OF THE ARTS

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TO: Legislative Coordinator, GIC City of Hamilton, 71 Main Street West, 1st Floor, Hamilton, Ontario, L8P 4Y5 <u>clerk@hamilton.ca</u>

## RE: PED25142 - Grant for Centenary Methodist Church to Establish A Mid-Sized Performance Centre, 24 Main Street West, Hamilton (Ward 2)

This letter reflects my program's support for the funding request for New Vision United Church and The Music Hall. When the news first hit that New Vision wanted to convert the church sanctuary into a **live performance venue and Creative Community Hub**, we were both excited and relieved. Hamilton has lacked a venue that can accommodate up to 1,000 people for years, if not decades. Without such a venue, many local and touring performers have had to exclude Hamilton.

With the recent installation of a state-of-the-art sound and lighting system in the auditorium, the desirability of the Music Hall as a performance venue has increased. We understand that interest in booking the space from a wide range of music and performing arts promoters and diverse community groups is strong. The Music Hall will bring the arts to a wider audience and contribute to tourism activity in Hamilton.

The Music Hall has without a doubt enhanced our own opportunities and will provide access to a variety of performing artists and other creative not-for-profit community groups. We believe the Music Hall has established itself as an invaluable component of the Hamilton region's live music ecosystem.

As a lifelong Hamiltonian, I equate this request with the City's work on upgrading the lighting system at Bernie Arbour Stadium or the work that I am doing with the steering committee for the PAMP. The Music Hall upgrades, and their completion will be part of Hamilton's cultural growth and City Council's vision and support of Culture and Tourism growth.

Sincerely,

Paul Borsc

Coordinator of HWDSB Programs of the Arts at Glendale Secondary

