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August 16, 2022

Muarice Cox
Commissioner, Department of Planning and Development
121 N LaSalle Street, Room 1000
Chicago, Illinois 60602

RE: *Support for Chicago Recovery Grant Application for Uprising Theater*

Dear Commissioner Cox:

As Alderman of the 35th Ward of Chicago, I write to share my full support for Uprising Theater's plan to make the property located at 2905 North Milwaukee Avenue in Chicago's Avondale neighborhood their permanent home. Uprising Theater's work will have a significant impact on individuals and the city at large, accelerating the economy, the arts, and education. Currently, the proposed site is vacant, and Uprising Theater's plan is to build a fully-functioning performing arts and cultural center that will stimulate economic growth, provide jobs, and a greater number of cultural opportunities to the community, especially in light of the pandemic, in which many of our artistic venues didn't survive.

The proposed site at 2905 N Milwaukee Avenue was originally built as a Nickelodeon theater, and functioned as such from 1912-1919. Uprising's commitment to honoring this legacy by building a physical space for its artistic work, in addition to its use as a public gathering space by both Uprising and other community members, will restore an important component of Avondale's legacy. The owner of the building is a local business owner whose family has been in the Avondale neighborhood since the 1960s. We're pleased to be helping add benefit to the neighborhood for those who are already there, not just those who are visiting or moving in.

I am eager to stimulate business, culture, and community along Milwaukee Avenue in Avondale. I have no doubt that Uprising Theater's plan will contribute to this critical goal. As a Palestinian American theater and arts organization, Uprising's mission is to provide a platform for historically marginalized communities, bringing diverse groups together to make them stronger. I believe Uprising's work will have a deep and lasting economic and cultural impact, revitalizing a significant community in Chicago. If you have any questions, or would like to speak with me directly, please feel free to contact my Policy Director Billy Drew at 773-887-3772.

Sincerely,

Carlos Ramirez-Rosa
Alderman, 35th Ward