



The City of Lowell
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Henri B. Marchand
Director
Office of Cultural Affairs and Special Events

TO: Eileen Donoghue, City Manager ^{EMD}

FROM: Henri Marchand, Director

DATE: May 20, 2019

RE: C. Cirillo -Req. City Mgr. Have The Proper Department Work With The Theater And Arts Community To Have A Lowell "Letter Reading" Event.

CASE has done some early research on the possibility of having local theater arts groups stage a dramatic letter reading event similar to *Letters Live* utilizing historical correspondences by Lowell writers, artists, workers and others. The response so far has been very positive.

Since 2013 *Letters Live* events have been staged in a number of cities including the Royal Albert Hall Theater in London and at summer festivals. It is billed as “a celebration of the enduring power of literary correspondence.” *Letters Live* utilizes letters from notable individuals such as Mark Twain, Albert Camus, Kurt Vonnegut, Rudyard Kipling and David Bowie read by British and American actors and others.

Image Theater and Middlesex Community College (MCC) have expressed initial and enthusiastic interest in pursuing this concept. Image Theater would be the producing group; MCC has offered to make their new Richard and Nancy Donahue Academic Arts Center theater, which seats 180, available as the venue. With these partners this has the potential to be a well-received event utilizing theater arts to provide a new, unique perspective on Lowell’s history—industrial, immigrant, literary, culture and arts.

It is expected that researching and choosing a selection of letters, developing a script and production elements and rehearsing would place a possible staging for this event in the winter/spring of 2020 time frame.

We will follow up with Image Theater and MCC to flesh out the concept and work with others to unearth engaging Lowell based letters, review and curate final selections. We will provide updates as we move forward.

Please let me know if you would like further information at this time.