

**Testimony for BZA case #18722, Andrew Keegan Theatre Company
Jayson and Whitney Donaldson, 1727 Willard Street, NW**

Dear Chairman Jordan and members of the Board,

We have been residents of the Dupont Circle neighborhood for over six years. We are avid supporters of all of the endeavors of the Andrew Keegan Theatre Company ("Keegan"), including theatrical productions, outreach programs, and building acquisition and renovations. Their work enhances the neighborhood, and we urge the Board to approve this zoning variance request, allowing Keegan to continue all of the important efforts in which they are engaged

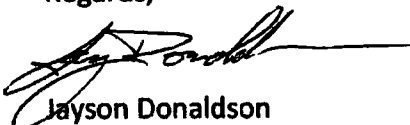
Keegan has been a strong and responsible member of the Dupont Circle neighborhood for many years. Their productions have been enjoyed by thousands of people, and Keegan is consistently recognized for its high caliber work by the Washington Theatre Guide through the Helen Hayes Awards, The Washington Post, Washington City Paper, Washingtonian, and other local media outlets and blogs. We were fortunate to have been direct adjacent neighbors to the theater for several years and truly enjoyed the opportunity to develop a strong relationship with the members of Keegan. They are superb artists and exceptional neighbors. The neighborhood is fortunate to have such a wonderful organization and group of people providing high caliber artistic productions.

In addition to the theatrical productions in this theater, Keegan is engaged in our community, nation, and world. They are consistent participants in the 17th Street Festival and have performed on Dupont Circle. They have raised funds for causes around the United States, most recently victims of the explosion in West, TX, and they are engaged internationally with an annual outreach touring program in Ireland and fundraising for international needs, including support for Haiti. While their work is broad, it is all anchored in providing solid art and utilizing it to improve the world around us, near and far.

Keegan has made an immense effort to acquire the building formerly known as the Church Street Theater and pursue a renovation plan that modernizes the facilities while meticulously maintaining the historical structure and quaint streetscape of Church Street. Bringing the ownership to a local, non-profit owner and operator has been a very positive change, but the current building needs to be renovated to address deficiencies of the aging structure and its limited capabilities. Keegan's planned renovation will not only preserve the important historical structure, but will enhance the desirability of the neighborhood and the theater's ability to deliver high quality performances.

The variance request will allow Keegan to continue all of their wonderful work. As this structure has been solely hosting theatrical performances for decades, this variance will simply formalize the reality of the building's use without any adverse impact to the neighbors and/or neighborhood. We hope you will quickly approve this variance request. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,


Jayson Donaldson


Whitney Donaldson

BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 18722
EXHIBIT NO. 40

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