

Testimony to the Zoning Commission for the  
Hoffman-Madison Waterfront Development Team's PUD Application  
Case No. 11-03  
Public Hearing, Monday, July 18, 2011

Good Evening, Chairman Hood and Members of the Commission. My name is Desiree Urquhart and I am the director of Government and Community Relations at Arena Stage. I am pleased to offer Arena Stage's full support for the Hoffman-Madison Waterfront Development Team's Planned Unit Development of the SW Waterfront.

Monty Hoffman and his entire team have been ardent supporters of Arena Stage and of our newly completed \$130 million redevelopment known as the Mead Center for American Theater at the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Maine Avenue, SW. They have met with Arena, and our architect, Bing Thom, on numerous occasions to discuss and review their project design plans, always with a focused commitment to identify and pursue synergies with our redevelopment project. They have been willing to consider a broad range of topics. When we expressed concerns about protecting and enhancing our views of the waterfront from our grand public lobby, the Developer responded with changes to their plans, not once, not twice but three times to accommodate our concerns. And Monty was always there.

Since we reoccupied our amazing new complex last August, we have engaged in productive discussions to ensure mutual success, compatibility, and interaction between Arena and the waterfront redevelopment. Issues of great importance to Arena include view corridors, the size and locations of open space and public areas, prescribed uses and amenities, scale and location of buildings, water features, and safe pedestrian movement across Maine Avenue. We hope that the Commission will be mindful of the contributions of these elements to the synergistic relationship between the waterfront redevelopment and Arena.

We have expressed to the Developer and to the Commission, our strong desire that the public benefits you approve as part of the PUD include access for our patrons to off-street parking within the project, a set-aside of a portion of the proposed affordable housing for Arena Stage artists/fellows/interns, provisions for convenient dining options, a bus lay-by, and potential periodic programming in public space, all in a safe and welcoming environment. The Developer has expressed a commitment to work with us on all of these benefits. We consider these features, particularly the parking and artist housing, to be critical to achieving the highest degree of success for a project of this size and importance in DC.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for this innovative and ambitious project. We believe that the Developer's plans will enhance Arena Stage's visibility and prominence as the very best in performing arts and will create the kind of lively, attractive waterfront that will benefit not only Arena, but the entire city.

ZONING COMMISSION  
District of Columbia  
CASE NO. 11-03  
EXHIBIT NO. 81e