



The Arts Asylum
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March 24, 2020

Council Member Bunch,

First, let me express my gratitude - and that of my family and friends - for the remarkable and very difficult actions the City has taken to keep us all healthy and safe during our current public health crisis. **You all have led by example and are saving lives every day.**

As Executive Director of the Arts Asylum, I strongly support reconstructing the Parking Garage and the Plaza at Barney Allis and urge you to support **Ordinance No. 200225**. The underground Auditorium Parking Garage is experiencing end-of-life failure due to 65 years of salt infiltration and chronic deterioration. Barney Allis Plaza is an underutilized space in the heart of downtown Kansas City that does not present a lasting positive image of KC to the millions of visitors each year heading to the Convention Center and other nearby destinations including arts venues, and who bring billions of dollars of economic impact to the region annually. I agree with Mayor Lucas when he said, "Barney Allis today seems to be a barren place. We're trying to create something more open and welcoming, and get more business developing in the area."

I understand that the City Council is making difficult budget decisions but urge you to authorize the funds for Barney Allis redevelopment and continue the progress made thus far. This project is shovel-ready, keeps Kansas Citians working, and positions Kansas City to emerge even stronger from this current economic downturn. I look forward to the day when the Barney Allis Plaza has amenities providing recreational and arts programming for the thousands of patrons at our wonderful Music Hall and Folly Theatre, drawing them to spend time and money in our City and not just run through it on their way to a performance.

The City has shown remarkable leadership and compassion during these difficult days. It is everyone's responsibility to keep moving forward so that we come out on the other side with a better Kansas City and a better world.

Sincerely,

Evie Craig
Executive Director, The Arts Asylum