



November 20, 2013

Dear Markham Council:

Unionville Theatre Company was established in 1979 and we will celebrate our 35th Anniversary in 2014. We have a rich history of mentoring youth however need to make a transformational shift in our operations as increased costs have placed tremendous pressure on our long term sustainability. We are not visible outside performance periods due to limitations including the lack of a permanent home. We operate out of board member's homes, and rent space for construction and rehearsals. While our show and major production costs (royalties and fees paid directly or indirectly to the City of Markham) continue to increase, we have historically had one revenue stream, the public. While we want to ensure future operating sustainability, we need to balance this against maintaining and increasing accessibility of the theatre to families of all social diversity.

After years of successful operation and demonstrated fiscal responsibility, we are currently at a junction and need assistance. We are at risk of not being able to deliver high quality performances and mentor ship as the downloading of government costs has exceeded our ability to raise revenue. As a result of over-extension, the Company is suffering from volunteer burn out, losing four board members in the last three years.

We would like to request Unionville Theatre Company be added to the next agenda of City Council meeting for the purpose of asking for a gift, or non-interest loan in the amount of \$35,000 to be repaid over ten years. We need to enhance our marketing and fundraising efforts so we may explore new revenue generating opportunities and audience development. As we work towards our permanent home, this grant/loan would enable us to enhance our offerings such as increased program enrollment, collaboration with other organizations, program expansion to

offer workshops, seminars, and summer camp programs with the objective of providing greater theatrical training and performance opportunities for the youth of York Region

We believe we should be considered for funding as we have a proven track record in the community for mounting high calibre theatrical productions with over 200 volunteers. We have been an active member of the Arts community in York Region and provide an important training ground for young performers, set builders and costume volunteers, orchestra performers and backstage crew. The success of each production continues to pivot on many volunteers and their gift of time.

We continue to provide accessibility by maintaining ticket prices despite increasing production costs however the pressure points have been building. We continue to make tickets available to well deserving individuals and groups through York Services, 360Kids (York Pathway) and local churches. We continue to focus on mentoring our youth particularly kids that maybe considered at risk. We are giving our leaders of tomorrow, the self-confidence and life skills to make better citizens that will repay your investment in the Company in spades that will last a lifetime.

We have submitted a grant request to the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the results of our application will not be known until March 2014.

We thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Flynn', written over a horizontal line.

Carlene Flynn, President