

# WEST SIDE Theatre GUILD

*Serving the community one performance at a time.*

***"Serving the Community...One Performance at a Time."***

March 3, 2025

Mayor Eddie Melton  
Office of the Mayor, City of Gary  
401 Broadway  
Gary, Indiana 46402

RE: Letter of Support – City of Gary & Hard Rock Northern Indiana Proposal for Lake County Convention Center

Dear Mayor Melton,

On behalf of the West Side Theatre Guild, I submit this letter in full support of the proposal submitted by the City of Gary and Hard Rock Northern Indiana in response to the RFP/RFQ issued by the Lake County Board of Commissioners for the establishment of a Lake County Convention Center.

For nearly three decades, the West Side Theatre Guild has served as a cultural cornerstone in Gary, fostering artistic excellence, educational enrichment, and civic engagement for our students and community. Throughout this journey, Hard Rock Northern Indiana has been a valued and committed partner, providing financial support, cultural investment, and unwavering advocacy for the arts in our city. Their dedication to fostering creativity and community development aligns seamlessly with the vision of a convention center that will not only serve as an economic engine but also as a hub for cultural and artistic expression in Northwest Indiana.

We strongly believe that Gary is the ideal home for this convention center. The city's rich history, strategic location, and deep-rooted cultural assets make it a natural choice for a facility of this caliber. The partnership between the City of Gary and Hard Rock ensures a well-managed, world-class convention center that will create meaningful opportunities for local businesses, residents, and organizations like ours—organizations that have long been at the forefront of shaping the artistic and cultural landscape of this region.

As the director of one of Indiana's most recognized arts education programs, I stand in full support of this proposal and urge the Lake County Board of Commissioners to recognize the immense benefits this project will bring—not only to Gary but to the entire region. Should the Board require further insights into the cultural and community impact of this project, I would be honored to provide additional information.

Sincerely,  
Mark Spencer, M.Ed.  
Director, West Side Theatre Guild



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