



For Immediate Release

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Michigan Opera Theatre Issues RFP for Adjacent Parking Lot and Opera House Parking Center

DETROIT, April 29 - Michigan Opera Theatre (MOT) announced today that it is issuing an RFP for development of the 0.8 acre site immediately adjacent to the Detroit Opera House and for the seven-story Detroit Opera House Parking Center across John R Street from the theatre.

MOT is seeking qualified developers with an interest in pursuing a mixed-use project that could include a mid-to-high-rise tower housing a hotel, office space, apartments, condominiums, ground floor retail/restaurants and underground parking. The Detroit Opera House itself is not included in the RFP, and the garage structure may be modified.

Franklin Whitehall Advisors of Birmingham will serve as real estate advisors on the project.

The development site, one of the premier vacant parcels in downtown Detroit, is located between Madison and Broadway streets and is currently used as a surface parking lot for Detroit Opera House events. The RFP contemplates that the property will be leased to the selected developer on a long-term basis.

MOT Chairman Rick Williams and President and CEO Wayne Brown said the company has been approached by several developers regarding the properties in the past year. The Board concluded that it was in the organization's best interest to issue an RFP in order to maintain openness and transparency.

Williams said that proceeds of any transaction will be used to strengthen MOT's long-term financial stability and enhance visitor experiences to the Detroit Opera House. Brown added that with the proposed development MOT hopes to "make an impactful contribution to the momentum building in downtown Detroit."

The proposed development site is located within walking distance of Detroit's sports arenas, the Detroit Athletic Club, the QLine, Woodward Avenue and Grand Circus Park.

The Detroit Opera House building originally opened on Jan. 12, 1922, as the Capitol Theater. The Capitol was the first in a series of palatial vaudeville and movie theaters built in Grand Circus Park. The building was purchased by MOT in 1988 and rechristened as the Detroit Opera House. Today it is the home of MOT and presents opera, dance and theater performances for more than 250,000 patrons annually. The Opera House Parking Center was built in 2006 and has space for 700 cars.

MOT's season-ending production, "Grapes of Wrath," will run May 11-19 at the Detroit Opera House.

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About Michigan Opera Theatre

Michigan Opera Theatre, one of the nation's most vibrant nonprofit arts organizations, is committed to presenting opera and dance of the highest artistic caliber. Founded in 1971 by Dr. David DiChiera, the company's mission is to serve as a major cultural resource to the state of Michigan and the city of Detroit. The organization is led by President and CEO Wayne S. Brown, Principal Conductor Stephen Lord and Chairman of the Board Rick Williams. Visit the website at www.michiganopera.org.