



PRESERVATION
MARYLAND

January 22, 2009

The Honorable Sheila Dixon
City of Baltimore
City Hall, Room 250
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

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Dear Mayor Dixon:

I am writing to urge you to assist with the effort to protect the historic Senator Theatre from the threat of imminent closure. The Senator is not only a National Register and Baltimore City landmark; it also is a cornerstone to the ongoing economic development of Belvedere Square.

The Senator Theatre has long been an important Baltimore landmark. It is the best and most complete Art Deco movie theatre in Baltimore City and one of only a few remaining of its kind. The Senator's continuous use as a movie theatre and its role as host to the premieres of locally based films also make it a valuable cultural venue for the city.

In addition, The Senator is a vital part of a newly emerging commercial center in Baltimore, Belvedere Square. Outside of being a visual symbol of the area, the Senator brings a large number people to the nearby shops and restaurants. Without these patrons, the revitalization of the neighborhood would suffer.

The current efforts underway to change the Senator to a not-for-profit operation are a promising development that could breathe new life into this Baltimore institution. By offering a variety of entertainment and educational offerings the Senator would continue to serve as a hub for Belvedere Square.

We hope you will help draw attention to the threats facing the Senator and urge action from those who may be able to donate time, money or services to keeping the doors of this historic landmark open.

Thank you,

Tyler Gearhart
Executive Director

Cc:

M.J. Brodie, Baltimore Development Corporation
Bill Henry, 4th District Council
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