



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Daniel Roberts, President
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(702) 303-7530

thehuntridgefoundation@gmail.com

Pending Sale of Historic Huntridge Theatre

As community advocates for the historic Huntridge Theatre since 2012, our mission is *to preserve the architectural integrity, history, and culture of the Huntridge Theatre and the surrounding community*. We support restoration efforts of the Huntridge Theatre.

However, we have two major areas of concern regarding the pending sale of the Huntridge Theatre.

First, the sale between Theatre sellers, King George, LLC, and buyer, J. Dapper, seeks termination of existing protective covenants and an outstanding consent judgement against King George, LLC, in the amount of \$389,925 (representing a fraction of greater than \$1.2 million in grant monies previously allocated to the building). The canceled debt for noncompliance of the protective building covenants, officially undermines the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and any future efforts in historic preservation projects for our State. The canceled debt also compounds decades of neglect on the Huntridge Theatre, including public safety violations, vandalism to the building, and destruction of historical artifacts. The sellers should remain liable and pay for their noncompliance as was determined by Clark County District Court in July 2016.

Second, while we are very happy the buyer agrees with our previous recommendation to apply for the Huntridge Theatre's nomination to the City of Las Vegas Historic Property Register, we are still concerned with the City of Las Vegas Historic Preservation Commission's (HPC) ability to properly monitor and enforce protective covenants with this added responsibility for enforcement and stewardship. With the proposed transfer of responsibility from SHPO to HPC for supervision and monitoring of the rehabilitation of the Huntridge Theatre, without sufficient resources, the City is primed to fail the Huntridge Theatre and Nevada taxpayers yet again.

Since November 2019, the City of Las Vegas is the documented buyer of the Huntridge property with J. Dapper identified as the assignee in the sale. However, since January 2020, there have

been multiple documented violations in and around the Theatre such as trespassing, break-ins, graffiti, abandoned vehicles, and even the removal of historical artifacts. Sadly, the City of Las Vegas took more than one month to address any of these minor issues. How can we expect the City to oversee, enforce, and protect the Huntridge in the future if they do not have the resources to simply paint over graffiti?

It is our recommendation that the State proceed with the Court's judgment and collect the seller's debt in full. The funds can be specifically earmarked, under the State's *Restore Nevada's Treasures* account, for a dedicated staff position at the City to provide enforcement and ongoing oversight over the Huntridge Theatre restoration.

[Assembly Bill 371](#) established *Restore Nevada's Treasures*, a revolving loan fund designed to help preserve and rehabilitate endangered historic buildings across the state of Nevada. At the top of the list for funding was the Huntridge Theatre. The legislation became effective on July 1, 2017. Three state agencies — State Lands, State Public Works and the State Historic Preservation Office-- oversee the loan fund program which is intended for buildings that are, “at least 50-years old, architecturally and culturally significant and in danger of soon becoming too deteriorated to save.”

We want to emphasize our support for the future development, reuse, and reopening of the historic Huntridge Theatre — however, we believe that any deal must honor the architectural, historical, and cultural significance of the property.

The Huntridge Foundation was founded in 2012 as a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit organization and is registered in the State of Nevada. The mission of the Huntridge Foundation is to preserve the architectural integrity, history, and culture of the Huntridge Theatre and surrounding community. The goal is to promote awareness of the theatre's potential as a community and tourist attraction and to ultimately have this nationally registered historic landmark serve as a vibrant hub within the Las Vegas community and provide a backdrop for the presentation of cultural, community and educational programming. To learn more about the Huntridge Foundation, visit www.thehuntridgefoundation.org.

The Huntridge Foundation

P.O. Box 1138, Las Vegas, NV 89125

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