

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Columbus Indiana Philharmonic Announces \$50,000 Matching Grant

March 4, 2019 (Columbus, Ind.) – The Columbus Indiana Philharmonic is excited to announce a public campaign for the Helen Haddad Music, Arts & Event Center with a \$50,000 matching grant opportunity through the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority’s CreatINg Places program. Using a crowdfunding approach, the goal is to raise \$50,000 by May 31 to be eligible for the matching funds.

In addition to expanding the opportunities for music lessons and performances, the Helen Haddad Music, Arts & Event Center will be available for use by local organizations. Over the past year, the Philharmonic has talked with individuals and organizations throughout the Columbus community about the proposed building project. As a result of those conversations, several ideas surfaced about other unmet needs for which the space will be appropriate including performances by Dancer’s Studio, small productions by Mill Race Theatre, pop-up performing groups, additional meeting space and lunchtime recitals and presentations within walking distance for those who work in the downtown Columbus area.



Above rendering of proposed expansion provided by Force Construction Co.. Inc.

By raising \$50,000 from donors in the south central Indiana area served by the Philharmonic, the CreatINg Places matching grant will double that amount so that a total of \$100,000 is raised. CreatINg Places uses a crowdfunding platform to raise funds by engaging the public in support for improvements within and accessible to the community. The Linden Project and improvements to the Jolie Crider Skate Park are other projects in Columbus that have been funded in this manner.

In June 2018, longtime Columbus supporters and philanthropists Bob and Helen Haddad announced their decision to donate \$1 million towards the Philharmonic’s *Building for the Arts* Capital Campaign to expand the existing conference room into a Community Events Center. Their gift, made in two parts, included an outright gift of \$500,000 and \$500,000 in matching funds. Members of the community stepped up and met that challenge within a short 6 weeks. With those funds as well as contributions by the Heritage Fund of Bartholomew County, the Custer and Nugent Foundations and other foundations that support the arts, the Philharmonic has raised more than \$2.3 million toward the capital campaign goal.

“I continue to be inspired and humbled by the generosity of Bob and Helen Haddad,” says Board President Barry Turner. “Their support of the arts over the years, and specifically this new performance venue, will be a community builder that will touch people for generations to come.”

The Haddads donated the building at 315 Franklin Street to the Philharmonic in early 2016, providing a home base for offices and music education programs. In the same year, Enkei America donated a Shigeru Kawai Concert Grand Piano to the Philharmonic, with the intent that it be made available to piano students as well as being available for the enjoyment of others throughout the community. Since that time, the piano is being used for concerts, for the Brown Scholarship Competition just recently completed, and for student lessons at the Philharmonic office.

It was the combination of these two gifts that led to the Philharmonic’s idea to expand the conference room. “We are truly excited about how far we’ve come in raising the funds needed to bring this project to the community,” says Executive Director Margaret Powers. “With the CreatINg Places matching grant opportunity that doubles every donation, we’ll reach the point that we can break ground in the very near future.”

A committee explored the possibility of expanding the conference room, visiting other recital halls around the state for ideas about sizing and outfitting needed for an acoustically balanced performance venue. Working with Force Construction Co., Inc., plans were created showing how the space might be developed. As envisioned, the expansion will incorporate a stage, auditorium-style seating for up to 100 people, an audio-visual booth to support high-quality recording of performances, and a small kitchen to facilitate receptions. The original plans have been modified to incorporate suggestions made by other community performing arts organizations to better meet their needs.

Donations can be made several ways: by check made out to Columbus Indiana Philharmonic with the word "Patronicity" in the memo line (mail to Columbus Indiana Philharmonic, 315 Franklin St., Columbus, IN 47201), by cash at the Philharmonic office, or by credit card using the CreatINg Places crowdfunding platform managed by Patronicity (www.patronicity.com), search for "Music" and select the Music, Arts & Event Center project in Columbus or go directly to the project's website: https://www.patronicity.com/project/music_arts_event_center#!/.

The Philharmonic has occupied the building on Franklin Street since 2003 after vacating its offices at The Commons Mall.

ABOUT COLUMBUS INDIANA PHILHARMONIC

Founded in 1987 under the auspices of Columbus Pro Musica, Inc., the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic and David Bowden have received local, state, national and international recognition, winning five ASCAP awards for Creative Programming and consistently receiving rave reviews for their performances. With a full complement of concerts and music education programs, the Philharmonic is proud to be one of the arts organizations that contribute to the rich quality of life enjoyed by residents of Columbus and South-Central Indiana.

The Columbus Indiana Philharmonic is a public, not-for-profit organization supported by private donations and the Columbus Area Arts Council. This project is made possible by the support of the Indiana Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.