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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Haddads Donate \$1 Million to Columbus Indiana Philharmonic Building for the Arts Campaign

June 19, 2018 (Columbus, Ind.) – Longtime Columbus supporters and philanthropists Bob and Helen Haddad made a groundbreaking announcement today, sharing their decision to donate \$1 million towards the Philharmonic's *Music Builds Community: A Campaign for Music + Performing Arts* to expand the existing conference room into a Community Events Center. The announcement was made during a press conference at Columbus City Hall.

"The Philharmonic's music education programs have a positive influence in the lives of those living in and around the Columbus community," says Helen Haddad. "Having a venue this size will benefit not only the Philharmonic's music education programs but will offer opportunities for others to enjoy rehearsing and performing in an inviting space."

The gift is being made in two parts: a \$500,000 outright gift and \$500,000 in matching funds, challenging the community to step forward and support the arts in Columbus.

"Once again, Bob and Helen Haddad have demonstrated their exceptional commitment to the arts in Columbus by stepping forward not only to support the Philharmonic but also to provide opportunity to artists of all ages," says Board President Sharon Sung Andrews. "This expansion offers a new community space for musical and other performing arts groups to collaborate, to cultivate the arts, and to enrich our community."

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.



Above: Bob and Helen Haddad

It was the combination of these two gifts that led to the Philharmonic's idea to expand the conference room. "There is not a facility in the community that met both the accessibility desired by Enkei America and the security needed for a piano of this caliber," says Executive Director Margaret Powers. "Expanding the conference room to create a flexible space that can be used as a recital hall for piano students and visiting artists appeared to be a viable option."

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.

Further conversations with members of the community led to the realization that there were other unmet needs for a facility of this size. Dancer's Studio, Mill Race Theatre Company and pop-up performing groups are just a few of those interested in utilizing the facility. Also identified was the need for additional downtown meeting space for both corporate and community organizations.



Above: Rendering of proposed expansion provided by Force Construction Co., Inc.

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.

“Helen and Bob Haddad love the Columbus community and have lived their lives helping to make it better,” says Music Director David Bowden. “The Haddads have also spent the last 30 years supporting music education in many different ways through the Columbus Philharmonic’s extensive education programs. This lead gift is an extension of that support of music education and represents their life-long passion for offering every child the gift of making music.”

This act speaks loudly about the Haddad's legacy of continued support for the arts and showcases the visionaries they are, both in business and civic-minded matters. The Haddad Foundation's mission supports the family's aspiration to inspire others. As a result of the Haddad Foundation's support of CIP and other community organizations, the resources are available to those inspired individuals enabling them to reach their full potential.

The Philharmonic has experienced this leadership and inspiration from Bob and Helen over many years. Beginning in 1987 with the founding of the Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus, the Haddads have participated, supported and provided guidance in evolving the organization. Co-chairing the Philharmonic’s primary endowment drive in the 1990s, the Haddads led the way with a \$500,000 challenge gift that resulted in a successful campaign outcome. They have also supported the organization’s extensive education programs in many ways, including providing an annual grant for many years to fund the Education Director staff position.

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

ABOUT THE HADDAD FOUNDATION

Since 2002, the Haddad Foundation’s charitable contributions have helped numerous organizations serve the needs within our community and have helped to enhance various opportunities for local residents. Bob and Helen Haddad’s giving tradition originated in response to the community’s support of the family business and their desire to improve the community. As a result of Bob and Helen’s passion to continue their philanthropic legacy, they established the Haddad Foundation, managed by four of their children: Tammy Burton, Bob Haddad, Jr., Tracy Haddad, and Hayden Haddad Bishop. They have taken an active philanthropic role in the communities in which they work and live to support the community’s priority areas - youth development, artistic programming, education, medical/health care advancement, and disaster relief.

ABOUT COLUMBUS INDIANA PHILHARMONIC

The Columbus Indiana Philharmonic thrives on a partnership with the best musicians from Columbus and the surrounding region and talented students from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. The Philharmonic Orchestra and David Bowden have received local, state, national and international recognition, winning five ASCAP awards and consistently receiving rave reviews for their performances. With a full complement of concerts, cabarets 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 surrounding communities.

The Columbus Indiana Philharmonic is a public, not-for-profit corporation supported by private donations, the Columbus Area Arts Council, the Indiana Arts Commission, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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