



# INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Gary D. Greer  
City Manager

DATE: April 7, 2015

SUBJECT: Firehouse Theatre Facade Grant Application

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## BACKGROUND:

In 2012, The Firehouse Theatre began with a mission of providing Farmers Branch a cross section of the finest traditional theatrical works suitable and affordable for all ages, while providing educational enrichment and opportunities for children and adults to develop talents in all aspects of theatre arts.

For the past several years The Firehouse Theatre has been holding performances at venues such as the Manske Library, Victoria's Restaurant and Downtown Carrollton while attempting to renovate their home location at the old central fire station which they lease from the City. For the 2015 season opener The Firehouse Theatre hosted their first musical in the fire station and experienced 3 sold out shows and a 55% increase in attendance.

## DISCUSSION:

There are significant repairs and renovations to the former Central Fire Station that need to be completed in order to operate long term and in warmer months, namely HVAC replacement, seating risers, restroom renovations, and facade work. Based on estimates provided by The Firehouse Theatre, these costs total approximately \$103,710. According to the contract with the Firehouse Theatre, they are responsible for any updates or repairs to the building.

## REQUEST BY APPLICANT:

Given the fact that the improvements are being made to a City owned facility, the facility is strategically located in Mustang Station, and The Firehouse Theatre is providing significant cultural enrichment opportunities for citizens and visitors alike, The Firehouse Theatre is

requesting the above mentioned repairs be made by the City. City Administration originally recommended a Facade Grant to address these concerns, however since that time there have been a number of options suggested by Council, including:

- Enforcing the agreement.
- Modifying the agreement to shift the facility burden to the City and addressing the repair cost in the mid-year budget.
- Creating a supplement to the agreement providing for a loan instrument to allow the Theatre to make the repairs in advance of their upcoming shows while reimbursing the City over an agreed amount of time.

City Administration seeks direction on addressing these needed repairs.

Possible Council Action:

1. I move to not amend the contract.
2. I move to authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute an amendment to the existing agreement with Farmers Branch Community Theatre, Inc. providing the City shall be responsible for repairs, maintenance and improvements to the facility.
3. I move to authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute a loan agreement with Farmers Branch Community Theatre, Inc. to provide a loan not to exceed \$105,000 for facility repairs and improvements as approved by the City Manager and any related instruments thereto.