EHNC
EAST HOLLYWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning
201 N Figueroa St, Los Angeles, CA 90012

November 11, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

The Executive Committee of the East Hollywood Neighborhood Council is writing to express our support of the Fountain Theatre's application for Long Term Temporary Use approval to assemble a modular open-air stage outdoors in its parking lot.

The requested project is the organization's survival response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The Fountain Theatre's doors have been closed since March 14th, 2020, due to the ongoing global pandemic. The Fountain Theatre has received zero earned income for more than seven months. Even when citywide COVID cases drop to a permissible level and the Fountain Theatre's doors are allowed to reopen, six-foot social distancing restrictions will reduce the already-small seating capacity to 12. No addition to any existing structure is proposed. The proposed outdoor stage will have minimal negative impact on neighborhood residents and businesses. Fortunately for this project, the parking lot is surrounded by tall trees (light and sound barriers) and by buildings either vacant or not in use at the time of performances. The Fountain Theatre has taken all reasonable steps to communicate with surrounding neighbors to ensure minimal disruption and plan to end programming at or before 10pm each night to avoid any sort of noise disturbance to adjacent properties.

The Fountain Theatre is of cultural significance in Los Angeles and East Hollywood in particular. Furthermore, The Fountain Theatre has been an invaluable partner to the EHNC and its Arts & Culture Committee, hosting committee meetings and offering vital technical expertise when our programming shifted from in person to online in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis. They are a community resource and over the past 30 years, they have produced award-winning plays, cultivated a national profile, produced world-class Flamenco, and run community engagement, and educational outreach programs.

As a Neighborhood Council, we consider it our honor and responsibility to support the work of local arts nonprofits that contribute so much to the colorful culture of East Hollywood. The Fountain Theatre is the perfect example of this sort of community cultural gem and we heartily endorse their application.

Sincerely,

Nina Suarez
President, East Hollywood Neighborhood Council on behalf of the EHNC Executive Committee