



December 13, 2016

Dr. Steven Wiley
Arts Center Task Force
P.O. Box 2131
Richland, WA 99352

Dear Dr. Wiley,

The Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors is pleased to unanimously endorse the Arts Center Task Force's efforts to build a performing arts center for our community. As the largest business organization in the Tri-Cities, the Chamber strives to promote regional prosperity and new economic development opportunities. The performing arts center would have a tremendous impact on economic growth, while enhancing quality of life to not only attract new talent, but also retain young professionals that already call the Tri-Cities home.

Many communities across the country have experienced the economic benefit of performing arts centers. Shows, programs and other events at these facilities draw thousands of attendees each year, creating a domino effect for local businesses. Attendees stay at local hotels, visit local retailers and dine at local restaurants. This not only stimulates economic development for the economy, but generates significant revenues for local government. We believe the Vista Arts Center would have this impact for the Tri-Cities as an anchor of the newly developed Vista Field.

In addition, the performing arts center would address the critical need for our community to create more entertainment and nightlife amenities. For years, public feedback and regional studies have noted this deficiency. This also follows recent trends that show quality of life and place making are major drivers for community development. The new generation of workers wish to work in communities they want to live in and in a region with dynamic cities like Seattle, Portland and Spokane, the Tri-Cities must do all they can to maintain a competitive edge.

We appreciate the dedication and leadership of the Vista Arts Center Task Force to help make this facility a reality for the Tri-Cities. The performing arts center will benefit chamber members and the greater economy. If there is any way the Chamber can assist this effort, please contact us anytime. We are eager to work with our local partners to promote community development opportunities across our region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori Mattson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Lori Mattson, IOM
President & CEO, Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce