

Albany County, New York
Department of Management & Budget
Attn: Mr. Martin Dolan
112 State Street
Albany, NY 12207

May 6, 2025

Dear Mr. Dolan,

I am writing regarding the possibility of securing additional American Rescue Plan Act funds from Albany County to support the operations of Park Playhouse, Inc. (DBA Playhouse Stage Company). As Producing Artistic Director of the organization, I am chiefly responsible for not only the company's community programming, but also the fundraising to support it. That fundraising task is proving more challenging this year than in any other of my seventeen seasons in this position. Moreover, as you have no doubt read recently, the City of Albany has recently had to pull back funding for Park Playhouse that we'd only just secured again last year after fifteen years without direct municipal support.

The upshot of all of this is that we face a significant funding need ahead of our upcoming summer season of theatre and youth arts education programming. We are slated to produce three public productions at Cohoes Music Hall, each of which involves and features students studying in our programs. We will also present a family-oriented musical to be produced entirely for free for audiences at Park Playhouse in Albany's Washington Park.

If we were able to access an additional \$100,000 in ARPA support through Albany County, it would be a tremendous boon to our organization. This amount would, without doubt, be spent prior to August 31, 2026, with all funds dedicated to the teaching artists, technicians, and creative staff employed across these productions and programs. The Community Development ARPA funds the County previously provided to Park Playhouse Inc. were spent in a timely and compliant fashion, and the County can count on us to meet that same standard should funding be made available to the Playhouse once again.

As a time when regional professional nonprofit theatres are facing tremendous challenges, I am so grateful for the opportunity to explore the possibility of securing additional ARPA funds for our vitally important community programs. I am happy to answer any questions or provide further information that you might need in considering this request. I appreciate the consideration very much, indeed.

Respectfully,

Owen Smith
Producing Artistic Director