



Joe Cacaci
Jim Frangione
Matthew Penn
Artistic Directors

Ann Garner
General Manager

Board of Directors

November 1, 2014

Christopher Blair
Joe Cacaci
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(chair)

Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund Grant Program
Massachusetts Cultural Council
10 St. James Avenue, 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02116-3803

To Whom It May Concern:

We write in enthusiastic support for the development of St. James Place. Fred Harris is a valued member of the Berkshire Playwrights Lab's Board of Directors and has shared his plans with us. St. James Place will uniquely fill a critical need for more, and more varied, performance, rehearsal and office spaces in downtown Great Barrington..

Advisory Board

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Berkshire Playwrights Lab is entering its 8th year as a theater company dedicated to the development and production of new plays. Since our inception in 2007, we have staged over 30 full-length and 36 short plays. We have brought the work of many superior artists to the Berkshire community, among them Tony Shahloub, David Mamet, Treat Williams, Elaine May, Wendie Malick, and Dan Lauria. As we strive to produce more and larger shows, we are keenly aware of the need for more performance spaces, especially ones in walking distance to the many restaurants and shops that line Great Barrington's streets.

St. James Place will fill that need by offering two new spaces unique to the area – a midsize, approximately 200-seat theater, ideal for smaller productions, and a flexible Great Hall that could be used for performances, receptions and other events. There is literally nothing like it in town.

Moreover, these will be quality spaces with history and character that will only add to the specialness of events there. Fred recently took us on a tour of St. James Place under construction, and we were very impressed, not only by the progress being made, but also by the feel of the spaces. It was easy to imagine intimate, moving productions in the refashioned nave, while around the corner in the Great Hall a lively, cheerful reception might be taking place.

We look forward to potential future collaborations with St. James Place, and we urge the Massachusetts Cultural Council to support this important and beautiful project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ann Garner".

on behalf of Joe Cacaci, Jim Frangione and Matthew Penn