

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	Liberty Theatre, State of Georgia Department of Community Affairs OneGeorgia Grant
AGENDA SUMMARY:	Approval is requested to accept a grant from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), OneGeorgia Special Purpose Award, for \$150,000 to provide for building capital improvements to the historic Liberty Theatre.
INITIATED BY:	Community Reinvestment

Recommendation: Approval is requested to accept a grant from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), OneGeorgia Special Purpose Award, for \$150,000 to provide for building capital improvements to the historic Liberty Theatre.

Background: The OneGeorgia Authority Board has approved \$150,000 for the City of Columbus to provide building improvements to the historic Liberty Theatre. This grant was secured in 2018 but the City did not accept the Liberty Theatre until January 18, 2023 when the city was deeded ownership of the Liberty Theatre.

Analysis: The revitalization of the Liberty Theatre will preserve this historic structure in the Liberty District. This grant opportunity is available to the Liberty Theatre if the facility is owned by a municipality for capital improvements. There are roof issues, severe water damage, fire alarm and fire protection systems not in working condition, HVAC units at the end of their useful life, electrical system repairs needed, replacement of theater lighting and A/V, kitchen renovation needed, interior and exterior improvements needed, and other items. This grant is beneficial to helping improve the building so that the theatre can continue to provide services to the community.

Financial Considerations: The grant amount is \$150,000 and does not require any matching funds.

Legal Considerations: The City Attorney will review the grant agreement.

Recommendation/Action: Approval is requested to accept a grant from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), OneGeorgia Special Purpose Award, for \$150,000 to provide for building capital improvements to the historic Liberty Theatre.

A RESOLUTION

NO.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A ONEGEORGIA GRANT FROM THE STATE OF GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS FOR \$150,000 AND TO AMEND THE MULTI-GOVERNMENTAL FUND BY THE AMOUNT OF THE AWARD.

WHEREAS, the Liberty Theatre first opened its doors in 1924 as a segregated theatre where music legends performed; and,

WHEREAS, the Liberty Theatre closed in the 1970’s due to decline and reopened after renovations in 1996; and,

WHEREAS, the Liberty Theatre had fallen into disrepair and deeded to the City of Columbus on; and,

WHEREAS, the Liberty Theatre is in need of revitalization, and,

WHEREAS, grant funding is available to make capital improvements to the Liberty Theatre.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA HEREBY RESOLVES:

That the Columbus Consolidated Government is hereby authorized to accept the State of Georgia, Department of Community Affairs OneGeorgia grant in the amount of \$150,000, or otherwise awarded, with no local match for capital improvements to the Liberty Theatre and to amend the Multi-Governmental Fund by the amount awarded.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held on the _____ day of _____ 2023 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of ten members of said Council.

Councilor Allen voting	_____.
Councilor Barnes voting	_____.
Councilor Crabb voting	_____.
Councilor Cogle voting	_____.
Councilor Davis voting	_____.
Councilor Garrett voting	_____.
Councilor House voting	_____.
Councilor Huff voting	_____.
Councilor Tucker voting	_____.
Councilor Thompson voting	_____.

Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council

B.H. “Skip” Henderson, Mayor