



Ann Arbor's Historic Center for  
Fine Film & Performing Arts

July 19, 2022

Building Board of Appeals  
BUILDING DEPARTMENT  
CITY OF ANN ARBOR  
301 East Huron St.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Dear Ann Arbor Building Board of Appeals:

Please be advised that The Michigan Theater Foundation is in full support of the request made to the Building Board of Appeals to allow a maximum occupancy limit of 49 occupants for our 'Screening Room' theater for a limited time (with a single exit and an exit discharge greater than 75'). This is necessitated due to constraints imposed by the adjacent construction of the 616 E. Washington Street project.

The Michigan Theater highly respects and values the health and safety of its staff and patrons. The Foundation believes the occupant limit and use of the existing 3-hour exit corridor, coupled with the attention and supervision of our on-site staff, will do what we can to ensure the ability of our patrons to safely reach an exit in the event of an emergency. This is especially true given the limited amount of time being requested for these modifications.

Once construction of the fifth floor of the 616 E. Washington project (poured concrete construction) has been completed, an exterior secondary exit from the Screening Room will be incorporated across that site to Public Rights of Way, allowing for additional exiting from the Screening Room during the completion of construction. The Michigan Theater will then request to run the Screening Room at a greater degree of occupancy, potentially full capacity (currently the capacity is 200). Ultimately, when the 616 E. Washington Street Building is completed, there will be 2 exits for the Michigan Theater's Screening Room which will fully meet modern building codes.

We respectfully ask the Building Board of Appeals to carefully consider and approve the request to temporarily limit the Screening Room total occupancy to 49 occupants with a single exit discharge greater than 75'. The Screening Room is a very important venue for the viability and vitality of the Michigan Theater Foundation, and we believe the proposed exiting strategy codified in the requested variance is sound and safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russell B. Collins".

Russell B. Collins, Executive Director

 STATE THEATRE

cinetopia  
FILM FESTIVAL

ART HOUSE  
CONVERGENCE

Tel (734) 668-8397  
Fax (734) 668-7136

603 East Liberty Street  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

[www.michtheater.org](http://www.michtheater.org)