



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Regina
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
Weiss
3. The cosponsoring representatives' names. All cosponsors must be listed. If none, please type 'n/a.' A signed letter from the sponsor approving the co-sponsorship and a signed letter from the member wishing to co-sponsor are required. Attach letters at question #9 below.
Representatives Helena Scott, Laurie Pohutsky, and Stephanie Young.
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
Detroit Opera House
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
1526 Broadway St, Detroit, MI 48226
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
Detroit Opera House
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
Representative Joe Tate District 9
8. Purpose of the legislatively directed spending item. Please include how it provides a public benefit and why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funding. Please also demonstrate that the item does not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution. These improvements will make the opera house more accessible for all to experience the culture and programs it has to offer.
9. Attach documents here if needed:
Attachments added to the end of this file.
10. The amount of state funding requested for the legislatively directed spending item.
1000000

11. Has the legislatively directed spending item previously received any of the following types of funding? Check all that apply.

["State"]

12. Please select one of the following groups that describes the entity requesting the legislatively directed spending item:

Non-profit organization

13. For a non-profit organization, has the organization been operating within Michigan for the preceding 36 months?

Yes

14. For a non-profit organization, has the entity had a physical office within Michigan for the preceding 12 months?

Yes

15. For a non-profit organization, does the organization have a board of directors?

Yes

16. For a non-profit organization, list all the active members on the organization's board of directors and any other officers. If this question is not applicable, please type 'n/a.'

Chair Ethan D. Davidson Vice Chair Mary Kramer Vice Chair Denise J. Lewis Vice Chair Don Manvel President/CEO Patty Isacson Sabee Secretary Gene P. Bowen Treasurer Bharat C. Gandhi Immediate Past Chair R. Jamison Williams

17. "I certify that neither the sponsoring representative nor the sponsoring representative's staff or immediate family has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the legislatively directed spending item."

Yes, this is correct

18. Anticipated start and end dates for the legislatively directed spending item:

October, 1 2025-September, 30 2026

19. "I hereby certify that all information provided in this request is true and accurate."

Yes



THE DETROIT OPERA HOUSE

The Heart of the Cultural Landscape of Downtown Detroit

BACKGROUND

The Detroit Opera House anchors downtown Detroit’s historic theater district as its preeminent entertainment venue – welcoming over 250,000 visitors annually. Originally a movie palace built in 1922 and modernized in 1989, the Opera House is a six-story complex with one of the largest stages in the Midwest and seating 2,700. The Opera House has played a leading role in the revitalization of Detroit’s downtown corridor since its opening.

Today the Opera House requires the same improvements that most major historic urban landmarks require – improved ADA facilities, new seating layouts supporting Covid and ADA needs, improved air handling, and more efficient access.



Serena Williams at the Forbes Under 30 Summit at the Detroit Opera Theatre.

AT THE OPERA HOUSE

The New York Times Magazine in a feature article in July 2021 described the Opera House as our “radically elevated...status in the larger cultural ecosystem.”

The Opera House presents a full program of operas each year, plus a national dance season – the only dance season presented by an opera company in the United States.

The Opera House is renowned internationally for its opera productions, with special focus on contemporary opera under the direction of Yuval Sharon, one of the most significant directors on the stage today. Artistic and educational programs at the Opera House provide invaluable education to over 40,000 K-12 students each year. The Opera House also has long-term contracts to present touring Broadway shows in partnership with London-based Ambassador Theatre Group, drawing more than 75,000 families regionally and statewide for award-winning presentations each year. In addition, the Opera House also brings Award-winning Broadway shows, major public figures and insightful community events that expand civic engagement within the downtown corridor.



Misty Copland at the Detroit Opera House in 2016

CAPITAL PROJECT REQUEST

The Opera House requests **\$1,000,000.00** in the 2026 state capital budget to modernize, better serve users requiring special access, support the health of Michigan citizens, and ensure the cultural landmark remains an active civic center in a city with a growing recognition as an epicenter for art and design.

Funding will:

- **Improve air quality and energy management** with new heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems (HVAC);
- **Improve accessibility** with a full seat replacement in the auditorium, including tripling of wheelchair accessible seat options; and
- Renovate the auditorium floor to **comply with ADA 2010**.

To date, The Opera House has invested approximately \$9.5 million to fund initial improvements that included construction of a new, state-of-the-art elevator tower (completed); and expansion of ADA-compliant restrooms on the main floor of the lobby (completed). This investment included a \$750,000 commitment from the National Endowment for the Humanities. All proposed capital improvements are components of a \$25,000,000 master facilities plan commissioned and completed by Albert Kahn Associates in 2018.

Capital improvements will enhance the physical space, improve public health measures, and ensure key multicultural events are available to all who wish to engage with the building as a community and arts education resource. The proposed appropriation request will stimulate local economic impact and draw increased visitors to explore Grand Circus Park and the revitalized downtown Detroit. And it will contribute vitally to the development of Detroit as a major cultural center.