

RESOLUTION NUMBER R- 300917

ADOPTED ON OCT 10 2005

WHEREAS, a partnership between the City of San Diego, developer Bud Fischer, and Lyric Opera San Diego has resulted in the renovation of an architectural gem in the heart of one of San Diego's oldest communities, itself in the process of being revitalized; and

WHEREAS, the North Park Theatre, built in 1928, has been transformed from an unused, out-of-date venue to an entertainment destination with high-tech, state-of-the-art staging and lighting systems, projection equipment, and a multi-channel theater sound system, all while restoring or reproducing as much of the original décor as possible; and

WHEREAS, the rebirth of the STEPHEN AND MARY BIRCH NORTH PARK THEATRE fills a real need for a theater of this size in San Diego, with a proscenium arch, orchestra pit, and fly space-all vital for properly producing opera and musical theater; and

WHEREAS, the STEPHEN AND MARY BIRCH NORTH PARK THEATRE is acoustically magnificent and will provide a performance venue for live music and theatre unmatched in the San Diego area; and

WHEREAS, with the completion of the theater restoration, Lyric Opera San Diego joins an elite group of 12 opera companies in the United States who own or operate their own theaters; and

WHEREAS, Lyric Opera San Diego has completed this project while faced with the challenge of funding such a major undertaking in the current economic climate, and it is a reflection of the depth of commitment of Lyric Opera's supporters and donors and the faith the community places in the organization that this dream has been brought to life; and

WHEREAS, with the North Park Theater restoration, Lyric Opera will be able to fulfill the vision of its directors, Leon Natker and J. Sherwood Montgomery, to become San Diego's English-language opera company, establish itself as a leading regional opera company, and fill a niche in San Diego no other performing arts organization does; and

WHEREAS, the North Park Theatre restoration represents a major step in the revitalization of the North Park area, as well as an affordable, modern venue for a variety of other performing arts organizations, schools, and more; and

WHEREAS, the STEPHEN AND MARY BIRCH NORTH PARK THEATRE will be officially dedicated in an on-stage ceremony on Friday, September 30, 2005; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of San Diego, that this Council, for and on behalf of the people of San Diego, hereby joins with the North Park community to celebrate the grand reopening of the newly restored STEPHEN AND MARY BIRCH NORTH PARK THEATRE and commend all who were involved in bringing about the revitalization of this community treasure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that September 30, 2005, be and is hereby proclaimed to be "STEPHEN AND MARY BIRCH NORTH PARK THEATRE DAY" in the City of San Diego.

APPROVED: MICHAEL J. AGUIRRE, City Attorney

By Stephanie Rahlfs  
Stephanie Rahlfs  
Deputy City Attorney

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09/27/2005  
Or.Dept:Deputy Mayor Atkins  
R-2006-308