

**CITY OF BILOXI
AGENDA ITEM
FACT SHEET**

Item No.: 5E

Council Meeting Date: August 18, 2026

ITEM TITLE: RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED BY: Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich

CONTACT PERSON: Richard Weaver, Chief Administrative Officer

Christy LeBatard, Director of Public Works

SUMMARY EXPLANATION:

Resolution supplementing Resolution No. 484-26 authorizing submission of a Gulf Coast Restoration Fund grant application to the Mississippi Development Authority for funding to be utilized in connection with Capital Project No. 1107: Saenger Theatre Interior Repairs

Resolution ☒ Ordinance _____ Public Hearing _____ Routine Agenda _____

Exhibits for Review

Contract ☒ Minutes _____ Plans/Maps _____ Deed _____ Lease _____

Other (Specify): Exhibit A: Grant Application

Submittal Authorization: Council President _____ Mayor ☒

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval

COUNCIL ACTION: Motion By: _____ Second By: _____

Vote:	Councilmember	Yes	No	AFR	ABST	Councilmember	Yes	No	AFR	ABST
	Gray	_____	_____	_____	_____	Tisdale	_____	_____	_____	_____
	Marshall	_____	_____	_____	_____	Glavan	_____	_____	_____	_____
	Nail	_____	_____	_____	_____	Shoemaker	_____	_____	_____	_____
	Creel	_____	_____	_____	_____					

ACTION TAKEN:

081826bcon

Resolution No.

RESOLUTION SUPPLEMENTING RESOLUTION NO. 484-26 AUTHORIZING
SUBMISSION OF A GULF COAST RESTORATION FUND GRANT APPLICATION TO
THE MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR FUNDING TO BE UTILIZED IN
CONNECTION WITH CAPITAL PROJECT NO. 1107: SAENGER THEATRE INTERIOR
REPAIRS

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 484-26, the governing authorities of the City of Biloxi (the “City”) authorized the submission of Gulf Coast Restoration Fund grant application to the Mississippi Development Authority for funding to be utilized in connection with Capital Project No. 1107: Saenger Theatre Interior Repairs;

WHEREAS, the Gulf Coast Restoration Fund grant application was not yet completed and available at the time Resolution No. 484-26 was adopted;

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 484-26 should be supplemented by inclusion of the Gulf Coast Restoration Fund grant application, attached hereto as Exhibit “A.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI, THAT:

SECTION ONE: The statements, findings, determinations and conclusions contained in the preamble of this resolution are hereby adopted, ratified and incorporated herein.

SECTION TWO: Resolution No. 484-26 should be, and hereby is, supplemented by inclusion of the Gulf Coast Restoration Fund grant application, attached hereto as Exhibit “A.”

SECTION THREE: This resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after adoption.

Gulf Coast Restoration Fund Funding Request

Applicant: City of Biloxi

Project Name: Saenger Theatre Improvements

**EXHIBIT
A**

Project Information

Project Year: 2027
Project Name: Saenger Theatre Improvements
Project Location: Saenger Theatre, 170 Reynoir, Biloxi, MS
County: Harrison

Applicant

Name: City of Biloxi
Contact: Christy LeBatard
Address 1: 140 Lameuse Street
Address 2:
City: BILOXI
State: MS
Zip: 39530
Phone: 2284356271
Email: clebatard@biloxi.ms.us

Mailing Address

Address 1: P.o. Box 429
Address 2:
City: Biloxi
State: Mississippi
Zip: 39533

Gulf Coast Restoration Fund Funding Request

Applicant: City of Biloxi

Project Name: Saenger Theatre Improvements

Project Description/Overview

The proposed project will focus on interior renovations and installation of an audio/visual system. With the prior assistance of a Gulf Coast Restoration Fund grant, the City completed \$5.1 million of exterior repairs, stabilization, and improvements to the exterior of the historic Saenger Theatre. Since then, the City has invested an additional \$450,000 to renovate the interior of the building, maximizing the impact of this limited funding by utilizing City employees whenever possible to perform the repairs. On June 6, 2026, the Saenger re-opened after having been closed to the public for almost nine years.

While the Saenger is once again alive with activity, additional improvements are vital to its success. Attraction of top-tier entertainment requires certain improvements to the backstage areas and the installation of an audio/visual system that meets the expectations of the current day.

The additional assistance of Gulf Coast Restoration Fund will allow the City to renovate the dressing rooms, green room, and back stage bathrooms; repaint the theatre space with historically appropriate treatments; install a state-of-the-art audio/visual system which includes an LED video wall, theatrical lighting and sound equipment; and necessary electrical upgrades to operate as a modern theater.

The Saenger Theatre is a cornerstone to Biloxi's Downtown Howard Avenue District. Over the past decade, the City has worked to revitalize the area, restoring two-way traffic, repaving with historic bricks, improving lighting and other infrastructure and providing facade grants to businesses. These efforts are yielding results, with Ground Zero, The Bella, 902 Howard, the Toasted Yolk and other business opening and renovation of the Barq's building as a multi-use property under way.

The proposed improvements to the Saenger Theatre not only benefit the Saenger but help ensure the success of the other businesses in the area. Currently, the entertainment at the Seanger is limited by antiquated facilities, limited sound system and lack of a visual system. Transforming the Saenger into a modern venue will draw the crowds necessary for all businesses in the area to flourish.

Gulf Coast Restoration Fund Funding Request

Applicant: City of Biloxi

Project Name: Saenger Theatre Improvements

Project Timetable/Milestones

Estimated Start Date: 07/01/2027

Estimated Completion Date: 07/31/2028

Milestones

Design – the City intends to award a design contract within 1 month of grant award. Design itself is anticipated to require 6 months, including coordination with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Bid - the City anticipates advertising for bids for construction and equipment within 6 months of award and expects the process to require 2 months to complete and award both contracts.

Construction - could begin as early as 1 month from award and is anticipated to require 3 months to complete.

Total Project time is expected to be 12-13 months from grant award.

Gulf Coast Restoration Fund Funding Request

Applicant: City of Biloxi

Project Name: Saenger Theatre Improvements

Funding Section	
GCRF Funds Requested	\$800,000
Total Matching Funds	\$450,000
Overall Total Funds	\$1,250,000
Applied For Matching Sources	N/A
Secured Matching Sources	The City is requesting that the \$450,000 of funds expended by the City of Biloxi on this project prior to this application be considered as leverage to the \$800,000.00 requested by this application.
Previously Funded With GCRF Funds	Yes
Legislative Session	2020

Gulf Coast Restoration Fund Funding Request

Applicant: City of Biloxi

Project Name: Saenger Theatre Improvements

Multi-Phase Project/Employment	
Multi-Phase Project	Yes
Total Number of Phases	2
Which Phase Is This	2
Description of all phases	Phase I included exterior renovation to restore and stabilize the exterior. The Fly Tower was repaired and brick on the south, north and east elevations was repointed and sealed. Roof and HVAC repairs were also made. Restoration of the west façade and entrance were completed and included some cast stone restoration and/or replacement, repointing and repairing brick, removal of stucco and restoration of brick beneath canopy, replacement of canopy, replacement of doors and hardware and replacement of ticket booth. Incidental additional work includes electrical provisions needed for canopy lights, metal trim, coatings of canopy steel and canopy wood framing. Phase 2 has so far included restoration of the interior plaster, carpet replacement, reconfiguration of some back stage areas, electrical upgrades, HVAC repairs and installation of a rudimentary sound system. Additional fundign is sought to complete backstage renovation and install modern audio visual system
Current Full-Time Employment	0
Increase in Full-Time Employ From Proj	0
Total Full-Time Employment	0
Total Indirect Jobs	0

Gulf Coast Restoration Fund Funding Request

Applicant: City of Biloxi

Project Name: Saenger Theatre Improvements

Legislative Priorities Met Section		
Priority	Description	Met By
1	Will impact the long-term competitiveness of the region and may result in a significant positive impact on tax base, private sector job creation and private sector investment in the region	Operation of the Saenger as a top-tier entertainment venue will benefit Biloxi's Downtown Howard Avenue District and support the newly re-developing area. While not as a direct result of the proposed project, the re-development of Downtown increases the tax base and creates private sector jobs, not only sustaining the current businesses, but creating an environment which encourages new business to locate in the Downtown.
3	Demonstrates long-term financial sustainability, including clear performance metrics, over the duration of the project	The costs of operating a historic theatre are such that financial sustainability can only be achieved by attracting both top-tier entertainment and larger audiences. The goal proposed project to put the Saenger Theatre in a position to be self-sustaining and a benefit to the local economy.
4	Leverages or encourages leveraging of other private sector, local, state and federal funding sources with preference to projects that can demonstrate contributions from sources other than BP settlement funds	The City has invested approximately \$450,000 to-date, along with many man-hours performing renovations in the Saenger. In addition, Saenger Encore is actively engaged in private fund raising to provide additional funds to maintain the theatre.
5	Supported by multiple government or private sector entities	Please see attached letters of support.
6	Can move quickly and efficiently to the design, engineering, and permitting phase	Yes. Total project time is anticipated to by 12-13 months from award.
7	Enhances the quality of life/place and business environment of the region, including tourism and recreational opportunities	By definition, a theatre provides recreational opportunities. In the case of the Saenger, the entire downtown benefits as Saenger patrons coming for a show will also visit other hospitality businesses in the area.
8	Expands the region's ability to attract high-growth industries or establishes new high-growth industries in the region	The draw of the Seanger increases the desirability of the City's downtown area, encouraging further business development, specifically hospitality industry businesses.

Gulf Coast Restoration Fund Application Budget

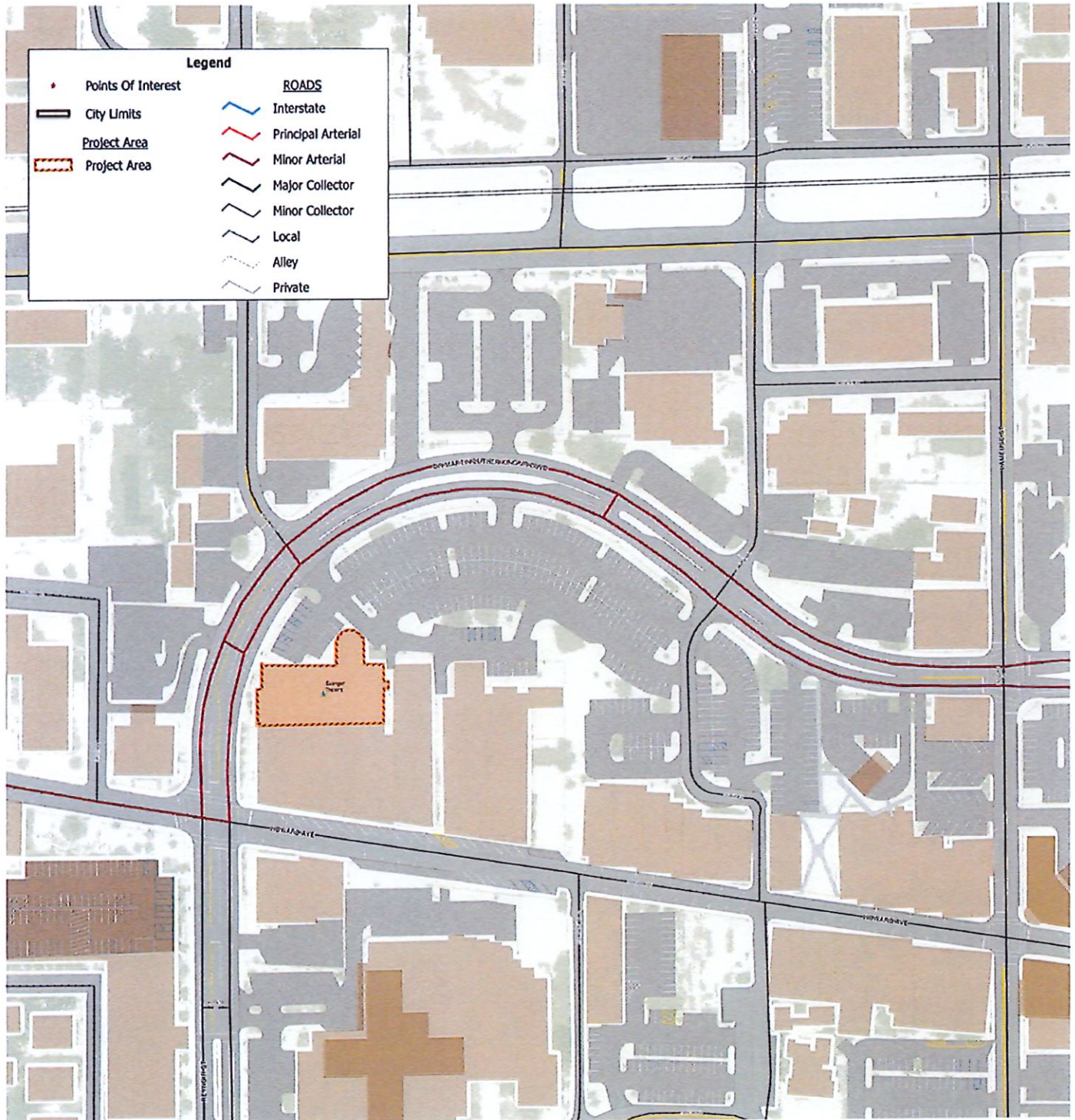
Applicant: City of Biloxi

Project: Saenger Theatre Improvements

Type	Application Budget											Total
	SWF	Travel	Arch/Eng	Legal	Consult	Construct	Site Work	Equip	Land Acq	Other 1	Other 2	
GCRF	0	0	30,000	0	0	370,000	0	400,000	0	0	0	800,000
City of Biloxi	0	0	0	0	2,500	440,000	0	7,500	0	0	0	450,000
Total	0	0	30,000	0	2,500	810,000	0	407,500	0	0	0	1,250,000

SWF = Salaries, Wages, Fringe
Arch/Eng = Architecture & Engineering
Consult = Consulting
Construct = Construction
Equip = Equipment
Land Acq = Land Acquisition

City of Biloxi Saenger Theatre Project Area



DISCLAIMER: For Reference ONLY. This map is a representation of information held by the City of Biloxi, while every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the product, the City of Biloxi accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions nor for any loss or damage alleged to be suffered by anyone as a result of the use or misuse of the information provided herein.

PCN: 1910 2163 Saenger Theatre East FDS 2161.pdf
Project File: 1910 2163 Saenger Theatre, Biloxi Georgia
Production: 2024-07-26 10:28

July 30, 2026

Gulf Coast Restoration Fund Advisory Board

c/o Mississippi Development Authority

P.O. Box 849

Jackson, MS 39205-0849

RE: Saenger Theatre, Biloxi, Mississippi

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of **Encore Saenger, LLC**, I am honored to express our full support for the City of Biloxi's application to the Gulf Coast Restoration Fund for continued improvements to the historic Saenger Theatre. This funding will help provide modern audio and visual equipment, updated stage curtains, and essential backstage improvements that are critical to the theatre's continued success.

As the organization entrusted with operating and programming the Saenger Theatre, Encore Saenger has a unique understanding of the venue's needs and its importance to our community. Since reopening, the theatre has quickly reestablished itself as one of the Mississippi Gulf Coast's premier gathering places, welcoming live performances, educational programs, community events, and visitors from throughout the region.

While significant progress has been made in restoring this historic landmark, additional investments are necessary to ensure the theatre can meet the technical and operational expectations of today's performers and audiences. Modern audiovisual systems, updated stage infrastructure, and functional backstage spaces will improve production quality, enhance the overall guest experience, and allow the Saenger to attract a broader variety of performances and events.

These improvements will benefit far more than the theatre itself. A thriving performing arts venue drives activity throughout downtown Biloxi, supporting nearby restaurants, retailers, hotels, and local businesses while contributing to the city's ongoing revitalization efforts. Continued investment in the Saenger Theatre represents an investment in the economic vitality and cultural future of our entire community.

Encore Saenger, LLC is committed to preserving the historic character of this iconic venue while ensuring it remains relevant and competitive for generations to come. We believe this project aligns directly with the Gulf Coast Restoration Fund's mission of strengthening Mississippi communities through investments that create lasting cultural and economic impact.

We respectfully urge the Gulf Coast Restoration Fund Advisory Board to give this

application its highest consideration. Thank you for your dedication to preserving our state's historic assets and supporting projects that enrich the lives of Mississippi residents and visitors alike.

Sincerely,
Andrea Deaton
President
Encore Saenger, LLC

July 30, 2026

Gulf Coast Restoration Fund Advisory Board
c/o Mississippi Development Authority
P. O. Box 849
Jackson, MS 39205-0849

RE: Saenger Theatre, Biloxi, Mississippi

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Ground Zero Blues Club & Restaurant, I am pleased to write this letter in strong support of the City of Biloxi's Saenger Theatre and its grant application to purchase new audio/visual equipment and renovate its backstage area. I have seen firsthand the positive impact that a thriving local arts community has on our town, our local economy, and the quality of life for residents and visitors alike.

Local theater is much more than entertainment—it brings people together, inspires creativity, supports education, and creates opportunities for artists, volunteers, and young people to develop their talents. Productions presented by the Saenger Theatre attract audiences who also visit nearby restaurants, shops, and other local businesses, creating a ripple effect that benefits our entire community.

Investing in updated audio/visual equipment and improvements to the backstage area will significantly enhance the theater's ability to produce high-quality performances, host community events, and provide a safe, functional environment for performers, technicians, and volunteers. These upgrades will allow the organization to expand its programming, improve the audience experience, and continue serving as an important cultural destination for years to come.

As a business owner, I recognize the value of organizations that create vibrant downtowns and encourage people to gather, dine, and experience all our community has to offer. The new management of the Saenger Theatre have demonstrated its commitment to enriching our community through the arts, and I am confident that this investment will yield lasting cultural and economic benefits.

I wholeheartedly support this grant application and respectfully encourage you to give it your highest consideration. Thank you for your commitment to strengthening communities through investments in the arts.

Sincerely,



July 30, 2026

Gulf Coast Restoration Fund Advisory Board
c/o Mississippi Development Authority
P. O. Box 849
Jackson, MS 39205-0849

RE: Saenger Theatre, Biloxi, Mississippi

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of JDLE, LLC, I am pleased to offer our strong support for the Saenger Theater's application to the Gulf Coast Restoration Fund for funding to purchase and install of new audio-visual equipment.

As the developers of the historic Barq's building, immediately adjacent to the Saenger Theatre, we recognize that successful communities are built on more than quality buildings—they depend on vibrant cultural institutions that attract residents, visitors, businesses, and investment. The Saenger Theater is one of those essential assets.

Our investment in downtown has been guided by the belief that economic development and the arts are closely connected. A thriving performing arts venue creates activity that benefits nearby restaurants, retailers, lodging providers, and other local businesses while enhancing the quality of life that attracts new residents and employers. Continued investment in the Saenger Theater strengthens the entire downtown ecosystem and supports long-term revitalization.

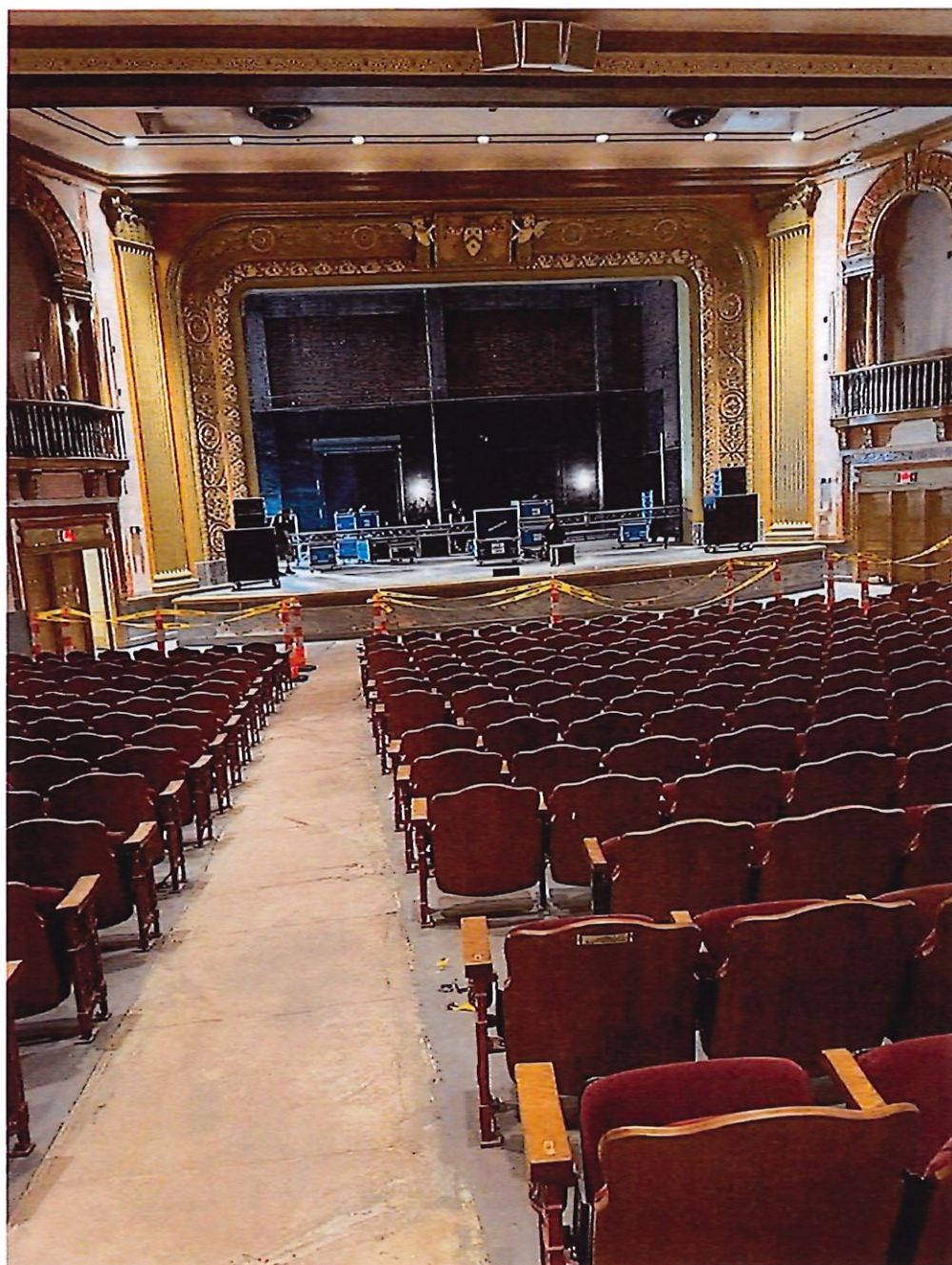
Modern audiovisual equipment will enable the theater to expand programming opportunities, improve the experience for audiences and performers, and attract a wider range of events. These improvements will increase visitation, generate additional economic activity, and reinforce the theater's role as a regional destination for arts, entertainment, and community gatherings.

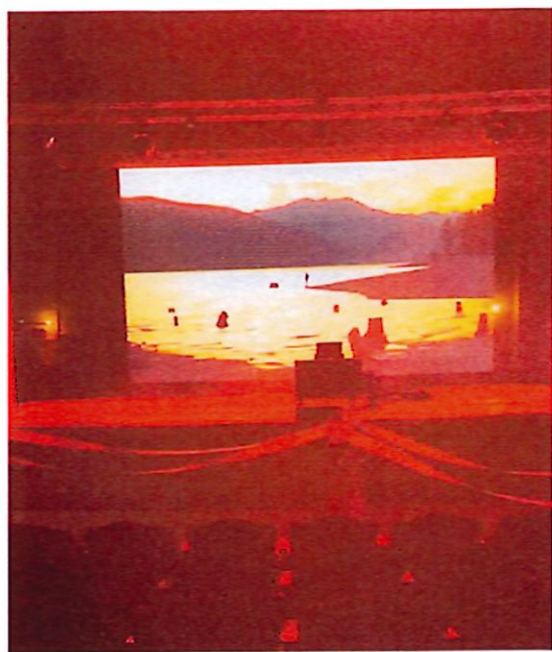
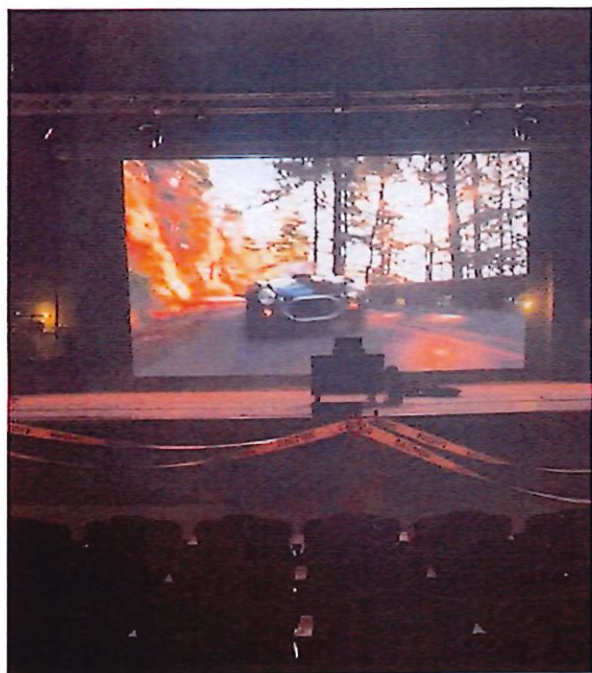
We believe this project aligns well with the Gulf Coast Restoration Fund's commitment to strengthening communities through investments that produce lasting economic and social benefits. We enthusiastically support this grant application and encourage you to give it your full consideration. Thank you for your commitment to investing in projects that enhance the vitality and resilience of Gulf Coast communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "A. S.", is written below the word "Sincerely,".

FROM DEMONSTRATION OF PROPOSED AUDIO/VISUAL SYSTEM





Saenger Theatre Cost Estimate

Renovation of Backstage (including dressing rooms and green room)	\$400,000
Purchase of Audio-Visual System	\$400,000
Total	\$800,000



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Company Information

Company Name CITY OF BILOXI	Doing Business As (DBA) Name ---
Company ID 1342539	Enrollment Date Sep 17, 2018
Employer Identification Number (EIN) 646000153	Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) ---
DUNS Number ---	Total Number of Employees 500 to 999
NAICS Code 923	Sector Public Administration
Subsector Administration of Human Resource Programs	

[Edit Company Information](#)