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P.O. Box 3336, Vancouver, BC, V6B 3Y3, (604) 254-9411

April 1, 2009

Mayor Gregor Robertson and Vancouver City Council  
Vancouver City Hall  
453 W. 12<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Vancouver, BC, V5Y 1V4

Dear Mayor Robertson and City Council Members;  
**Re: The Historic Pantages Theatre**

On behalf of the membership of Heritage Vancouver, I am writing to express our most urgent concerns about the potential fate of the historic Pantages Theatre. It is our understanding that the current owner has entered into serious negotiations to sell the Pantages Theatre and the adjoining properties to a buyer who would demolish this historic landmark.

We are all running out of time and options that will ensure the survival of the historic Pantages. We strongly urge that the City purchase this site to ensure that this important landmark remains as the historic heart and soul of the community well into the future. The purchase of the theatre would give the City adequate time to carry out the proposed feasibility study that has been committed to. This study will allow for open public consultation on the Theatre's future, give the City a better understanding of the cost implications of restoring the Pantages, and provide options for funding and carrying out its rehabilitation. Heritage Vancouver welcomes the opportunity to work collaboratively with the city during the course of the feasibility study. In the meantime the city could mothball the theatre until a preferred option for rehabilitation becomes available.

In current challenging economic times, it is understandable that Council is concerned about potential cost implications. However, this is exactly the time to take bold and decisive action. We count on our elected representatives to make decisions that are best in the long, not the short, term. Over the past four years, the community has expressed overwhelming support for the current owner's plans to restore the Pantages. By purchasing this theatre, Council could make a significant long-term contribution to the community, connect us to our historic roots and create a valuable legacy for future generations. We only need to consider the invaluable contribution of our other historic theatres – the Orpheum, the Stanley, the Vancouver East Cultural Centre, the Vogue and soon the York - to our cultural life, our tourism industry and our economy to see the wisdom of this investment.

We thank you in advance for your immediate attention to this most urgent matter.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "don luxton", written in a cursive style.

Donald Luxton, President

cc. Penny Ballem, City Manager  
Marco D'Agostini, Senior Planner, Heritage Group  
Sue Harvey, Managing Director of Cultural Services  
Brent Toderian, Director of Planning