

ANTHONY BYRNES

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**Margaret Genovese, Senior Partner
Genovese, Vanderhoof & Associates**

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RE: Chief Operating Officer, Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

Dear Ms. Genovese and Members of the Selection Committee,

I am pleased to submit this application for the position of Chief Operating Officer at the Wallis Annenberg Center for Performing Arts.

In October 2004, five miles south of the Beverly Hills Post Office, the Kirk Douglas Theatre opened on time, on budget, and to a fully subscribed first season. My involvement with Center Theatre Group's third stage began in 1997 with conceptual budget studies and a schematic design, quite literally, 'on the back of the envelope.' For the next eight years I shepherded the Kirk Douglas Theatre through the strategic planning, design & construction, operational planning, and finally the day-to-day management and production of the inaugural season.

As the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts transitions from being a long held dream of Beverly Hills to becoming a vital cultural landmark for the region, I would relish the opportunity to share my experience, passion and dedication to help those conceptual plans become operational realities.

Having been through the process of opening a new facility, I have tackled many of the challenges that lie ahead for the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts. I have: conceived and managed the infrastructural and operational systems that create the foundation of a sustainable institution; created a welcoming space for both audiences and artists; fostered a staff dedicated to excellence and committed to the larger vision of an institution.

I combine this pragmatic experience with a structural understanding of how a theatre 'works.' I am as comfortable talking to a stagehand as a major donor (and appreciate how the efforts of one affect the other). Like a talented director who through an understanding of underlying structure can bring new, vital life to a play, I understand the work of not only the individual departments but also the logic that allows them to perform together to create a stronger whole.

I have dedicated myself to increasing the capacity and developing the infrastructure of the institutions that I have had the privilege to serve: through my involvement in the creation of new venues (Kirk Douglas Theatre & Ivy Substation for Center Theatre Group); in generating the political momentum to capture all the arts activities of a major University under a single banner (USCArts); in developing a broader audience for the arts in Southern California (Center Theatre Group, USC, KCRW); in nurturing a staff and their capabilities in support of a broader mission (Ivy Substation, Kirk Douglas Theatre). I am committed not only to personal excellence but also to creating sophisticated, sustainable structures that allow institutions to fulfill their promise and grow without constantly 'reinventing the wheel.'

Above all, I have a profound and deep passion for theatre in Southern California. For the last 14 years, I have dedicated myself to transforming the landscape of Los Angeles theatre. The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts promises to be an invigorating addition to that ecosystem and would be, for me, a wonderful continuation of my work and an exciting challenge.

In the fall of 2013, the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts will raise its curtain for the first time. I would be thrilled to be a member of the team that makes that opening a stunning and enduring success.

Sincerely,



Anthony Byrnes

Enclosures (2): Resume and References
Producing Credits