



# SENATE STATE OF LOUISIANA

**PATRICK PAGE CORTEZ**  
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

101 W. FARREL ROAD  
BLDG. 5, SUITE 100  
LAFAYETTE, LA 70508  
OFFICE: (337) 993-7430  
FAX: (337) 993-7432  
CORTEZP@LEGIS.LA.GOV

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Division of Administration  
Facility Planning and Control  
State Capitol Annex, Room B-31  
P.O. Box 94095  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9095

RE: FY2022-2023  
Performing Arts Center, New Construction

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am writing this letter in support of the above-mentioned project for consideration for funding in the FY2022-2023 Capital Outlay Budget. This project will design, engineer and construct a new state of art performing center.

In 2022, Lafayette's Heymann Performing Arts Center (HPAC) will celebrate 62 years of operation. HPAC has been a regional treasure for arts and culture throughout Acadiana since it opened in 1960. The facility is responsible for 175 FTE jobs in Acadiana, and during a normal year it has a direct economic impact of \$5.2 million with attendance at more than 100,000 per year. The HPAC's auditorium, which has featured performances from around the world, has a seating capacity of 2,168. With the population of Lafayette Parish sitting at nearly 250,000, the demand is growing for a modernized, state-of-the-art facility with increased capacity. In recent years, Ochsner Lafayette General, directly adjacent to the HPAC, has rapidly expanded and now occupies most of the available land in the surrounding area. The current HPAC location is a critical part of Ochsner Lafayette General's future growth. Relocating the performing art center would have a significant impact on Lafayette's economy. In 2011, Conventions, Sports & Leisure International (CSL) was commissioned to produce a feasibility report regarding replacement of the HPAC. CSL estimated in 2010 dollars, by replacing the HPAC, \$13.1 million would be added to direct spending by consumers in Lafayette, resulting in \$20.2 million in new net output within the community. CSL estimated 190 FTE jobs resulting in \$7.9 million in new earnings, or \$809,000 in new income tax earnings. In 2021 dollars those amounts would be significantly higher. In addition, a larger, more modern facility would attract more events and visitors from throughout the Acadiana region and the state. This will have a positive impact on our retail, hospitality, dining, and lodging industry and produce increased revenue for the city, parish, and state. It will also enable Ochsner Lafayette General's continued expansion and also solidify Lafayette's standing as a key location for healthcare investment and innovation.

As a state legislator for Lafayette Parish, I fully support this project, and the state's support of this effort would be appreciated. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patrick Page Cortez".

Patrick Page Cortez