

Z00L
Miscellaneous Grant Programs

Lyric Opera House (Baltimore City)

GO Bonds **\$1,500,000** **Recommendation: Disapprove**
Nonbudgeted **\$2,600,000**

Bill Text: Provide a grant to the Board of Trustees of the Lyric Foundation, Inc. to assist in the expansion of the stage house area of the Lyric Opera House and improvements to the back stage rigging system and support areas, subject to the requirement that the grantee provide an equal and matching fund for this purpose, and subject to the requirement that the grantee grant and convey an historic easement to the Maryland Historical Trust.

Program Description: The proposed funds would assist in renovating the stage area and rigging system of the Lyric Opera House as well as making small improvements to the auditorium.

Prior Authorization and Capital Improvement Program

Authorization Uses
(\$ in Millions)

| <i>Description</i> | <i>Prior Authorization</i> | <i>2010 Request</i> | <i>2011 Estimate</i> | <i>2012 Estimate</i> | <i>2013 Estimate</i> | <i>2014 Estimate</i> |
|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Planning | \$0.750 | \$0.000 | \$0.000 | \$0.000 | \$0.000 | \$0.000 |
| Construction | 2.650 | 3.600 | 3.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Equipment | 0.000 | 0.500 | 0.500 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Total | \$3.400 | \$4.100 | \$3.500 | \$0.000 | \$0.000 | \$0.000 |

Authorization Sources
(\$ in Millions)

| <i>Fund Source</i> | <i>Prior Approp.</i> | <i>2010 Allowance</i> | <i>2011 Estimate</i> | <i>2012 Estimate</i> | <i>2013 Estimate</i> | <i>2014 Estimate</i> |
|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| GO Bonds | \$1.700 | \$1.500 | \$1.500 | \$0.000 | \$0.000 | \$0.000 |
| Nonbudgeted | 1.700 | 2.600 | 2.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Total | \$3.400 | \$4.100 | \$3.500 | \$0.000 | \$0.000 | \$0.000 |

For further information contact: Jody J. Sprinkle

Phone: (410) 946-5530

Program Analysis and Performance

The plans for renovation of the Lyric Opera House include the construction of a new exterior section to the stage house around the original stage house. The original back wall of the stage house will be removed, and a renovated fire curtain will be installed. The end result will be an expansion of the size of the stage to attract a wider range of events to the theater.

The rigging system would be replaced with one that can bear heavier loads and modern equipment. Additionally, within the auditorium, the project calls for the reorienting of side balcony seats to face the stage.

The Lyric Opera House has been the recipient of various capital grants from the State. In fiscal 2000, \$500,000 was provided to renovate the facility's restrooms. In fiscal 2004, 2005, and 2006, the State provided a total of \$1.4 million for expansion of the stage house and improvements to the rigging system. Finally, in fiscal 2008, \$300,000 was provided to the Lyric for construction, renovation, and capital equipping of the stage house area and for capital improvements to the back stage area.

The Baltimore Opera Company typically stages four operas each season at the Lyric Opera House. However, in December 2008, the opera company filed for bankruptcy and has subsequently cancelled the two operas previously scheduled to appear at the Lyric in March and May of 2009.

Recommended Actions

ZA00.00 (L) Lyric Opera House \$0

| <u>Allowance</u> | <u>Change</u> | <u>Authorization</u> |
|------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| 1,500,000 | -1,500,000 | 0 |

Explanation: This action deletes funding for the expansion of the stage house area of the Lyric Opera House due to the current fiscal condition of the State. Further, the State has already provided a total of \$2.2 million to renovate the Lyric Opera House since fiscal 2000.