

State of Maryland

2006 Bond Bill Fact Sheet

1. Senate		House		2. Name of Project
LR #	Bill #	LR #	Bill #	
3039	SB830	3038	HB849	Creation of a State Debt – Charles County - Black Box Theater
3. Senate Bill Sponsors				House Bill Sponsors
Sen. Middleton				Charles County Delegation
4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City)				5. Requested Amount
Charles County				\$55,000
6. Purpose of Bill				
Authorizing the creation of a State Debt not to exceed \$55,000, the proceeds to be used as a grant to the Board of Directors of Chesapeake Bay Floating Theatre, Inc. for the planning, design, construction, repair, renovation, and capital equipping of lighting, sound, seating, and other upgrades at the Black Box Theatre.				
7. Matching Fund Requirements				
This bill requires a matching fund that may consist of funds expended prior to the effective date of the Act. No part of the fund may consist of real property or in-kind contributions.				
8. Special Provisions				
None.				
9. Description and Purpose of Grantee Organization (3000 characters maximum)				
Chesapeake Bay Floating Theatre, Inc (CBFT) operates the "Black Box Theatre," a non-profit professional theater dedicated to the cultural enhancement and education in Southern Maryland, and the revitalization and economic development of the Indian Head community. The CBFT manages the Black Box Theatre at the Indian Head Center for the Arts, in Indian Head (Charles County), Maryland, and serves the Targeted Investment Zone of Indian Head and the Southern Maryland Heritage Area, and a performing arts venue in Southern Maryland and the metropolitan Washington area. CBFT produces live theatre, music, dance, readings, and other artistic performances. With outreach programming such as theater labs, apprenticeship programs and community-centered performances, CBFT is persuing the goal of recreating the experience of the James Adams Floating Theatre, which brought live theater to communities on the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries in the early 1900's.				
10. Description and Purpose of Project (3000 characters maximum)				
The purpose of the project is to complete renovation and equipping of the "Black Box Theatre," which occupies the former municipal garage of the Town of Indian Head. Half of the work has been completed though volunteer effort and donations prior to the effective date of the Act. Examples of the remaining work for which funding is sought include the following: Upgrading the building's electrical system to accommodate theatrical lighting and sound equipment. Theatre risers and seating need to be reinstalled to improve sight-lines. The interior space of the building needs to be reconfigured to create a private Theatre office. The HVAC system needs to be modified to provide efficient cooling and heating, with heating ducts to the office. Insulation needs to be installed in the office. The entire light grid in the Theatre needs to be upgraded and permanently installed.				
<i>Round all amounts to the nearest \$1,000. The totals in Items 11 (Estimated Capital Costs) and 12 (Proposed Funding Sources) must match. The proposed funding sources must not include the value of real property unless an equivalent value is shown under Estimated Capital Costs.</i>				
11. Estimated Capital Costs				

Acquisition			
Design		5,000	
Construction		20,000	
Equipment		30,000	
Total		\$55,000	
12. Proposed Funding Sources – (List all funding sources and amounts.)			
Source		Amount	
Private donations prior to the effective date of the Act		\$55,000	
Total		\$55,000	
13. Project Schedule			
Begin Design	Complete Design	Begin Construction	Complete Construction
March 2006	April 2006	June 2006	August 2006
14. Total Private Funds and Pledges Raised as of January 2006		15. Current Number of People Served Annually at Project Site	16. Number of People to be Served Annually After the Project is Complete
93,000		4,000	8,000
17. Other State Capital Grants to Recipients in Past 15 Years			
Legislative Session	Amount	Purpose	
	None		
18. Legal Name and Address of Grantee		Project Address (If Different)	
Chesapeake Bay Floating Theatre, Inc P. O. Box 1098 Indian Head, Maryland 20640			
19. Contact Name and Title		Contact Phone	Email Address
Peggy Palmer, Executive Director		301-753-4512	peggy@floatingtheatre.org
20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located			
21. Legal Status of Grantee (Please Check one)			
Local Govt.	For Profit	Non Profit	Federal
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22. Grantee Legal Representative		23. If Match Includes Real Property:	
Name:	Peggy Palmer	Has An Appraisal	Yes/No

Phone:	301-246-4961	Been Done?	no
Address:		If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value	
4610 Friendship Acres Nanjemoy, MD 20662			
24. Impact of Project on Staffing and Operating Cost at Project Site			
Current # of Employees	Projected # of Employees	Current Operating Budget	Projected Operating Budget
1	3	\$40,000	\$60,000
25. Ownership of Property (Info Requested by Treasurer's Office for bond issuance purposes)			
A. Will the grantee <u>own</u> or <u>lease</u> (pick one) the property to be improved?			lease
B. If owned, does the grantee plan to sell within 15 years?			
C. Does the grantee intend to lease any portion of the property to others?			no
D. If property is owned by grantee and any space is to be leased, provide the following:			
Lessee	Terms of Lease	Cost Covered by Lease	Square Footage Leased
E. If property is leased by grantee – Provide the following:			
Name of Leaser	Length of Lease	Options to Renew	
Town of Indian Head	15 years	yes	
26. Building Square Footage:			
Current Space GSF	3,000		
Space to Be Renovated GSF	3,000		
New GSF	3,000		
27. Year of Construction of Any Structures Proposed for Renovation, Restoration or Conversion			1950
28. Comments: (3000 characters maximum)			

With mostly volunteer support, the Black Box Theatre has made dramatic progress since it opened to the public in June of 2004. The former municipal garage, vacated by the Town of Indian Head, has been converted into Southern Maryland's first professional theater. With the assistance of private contributors and volunteers, the Black Box Theatre has become a key component of the revitalization of Indian Head. The vision is to develop Indian Head into an arts-friendly cultural community and tourist destination with the theater as a magnet for quality of life improvements. As proof of the positive impact it's having, in less than a year three new restaurants have opened near the theater.

In its community outreach efforts, the Black Box Theater launched the "Stage Training Apprentice Mentor Program (STAMP)" on January 10, 2006. This is an innovative after-school program for at-risk youth between the ages of 14 and 17. The pilot program will be launched at Smallwood Middle School in Indian Head. The mission of the theater apprentice program is to improve grades as well as interpersonal relationships with peers, teachers, other adults, and family members.

As Southern Maryland's first professional theater (all actors are paid a stipend), the Black Box Theatre is drawing actors and stage professionals from the entire Washington area market to Charles County. Spider Duncan Christopher, a noted director from New York, is coming to the Black Box Theatre on a quarterly basis to teach acting classes. Our resident company, Nobleheart, takes on the full spectrum of dramatic arts, from classics and comedy to cutting edge drama. This is a truly unique venue which is drawing wide regional attention. Evidence of this is recent coverage on WAMU's "Metro Connection," featuring one of the Black Box Theatre's music directors, who wrote an original score for the production of *Frankenstein*, a first-time a WAMU interview has featured the arts in Southern Maryland.

The long-range goal is the creation of the Chesapeake Bay Floating Theatre, a replica of the James Adams Floating Theatre which plied the waters of the Chesapeake from 1914 to 1941 and inspired Edna Ferber's classic, "Show Boat." Plans are underway with the Town of Indian Head to develop a "home port" facility for the Floating Theatre. Market studies have shown that 61 towns and communities along the Chesapeake and its tributaries would be interested in having the Floating Theatre bring performances to their "ports-of-call." The CBFT is working with a marine architect begin developing a preliminary study of costs.

The near-term goal is sustaining the Black Box Theatre as a premier performance venue. Ticket revenues only cover the cost of productions, and donations must be raised to cover operating costs. The State's assistance will help cover renovation and capital costs, in order to sustain this quality of life asset for the people of Charles County and Southern Maryland.