

From: John Gordon Hill <jghill@hillfilm.com>
Subject: Mercer Island Performing Arts Center
Date: November 2, 2013 at 8:20:29 AM PDT
To: info@mercerislandpac.org
Cc: John Gordon Hill <jghill@hillfilm.com>

I would like to invite you to be a member of a very important task force that will be at the heart of creating a new cultural center for Mercer Island. Our vision is to build the Mercer Island Performing Arts Center, a year-round venue for theatre, dance, music, and all other performance art, by both Mercer Island-based artists and the best talent that our region has to offer. The MIPAC would also be the permanent home of Youth Theatre Northwest, the 30-year-old institution that currently serves 2,000 children a year, and sells over 15,000 tickets.

We envision a facility with at least three theaters of different sizes, classrooms, rehearsal spaces, and exhibition areas for the visual arts. In addition to YTN's season and classes, this would be an ideal location for dance and music recitals for all of the island's teachers, choirs, and dance studios, as well as visiting artists and theatrical companies. We see this as a cultural focal point for the island, and a destination attracting life and economic energy to our business district.

We currently have been given the green light by the City of Mercer Island to develop a proposal for the MIPAC on city-owned land at the former location of the recycling center and Bicentennial Park adjacent to Mercerdale Park. This location would allow the MIPAC to open out on the park and create a free flow between the park and the facility year round. It becomes an opportunity to continue the energy and participation of Mostly Music in the Park throughout the year and enhance our already outstanding Mercer Island Farmer's Market. We are also exploring numerous opportunities for parking that this site presents. The task force will take this vision to a more comprehensive level, resulting in a proposal for City Council's review and blessing.

We are reaching out to you, as an important member of this community, to help shape what MIPAC will become. We will be including ideas developed in previous meetings on the future of Youth Theatre, but many key questions remain to be answered. In these very early stages we need vision and expertise in all fundraising, legal, design, and administrative aspects. This is an opportunity to be involved in the creation of what will likely be the most significant cultural facility in the history of Mercer Island.

We are holding an inaugural meeting of the Mercer Island Performing Arts Center Task Force at **7:30pm on Monday, November 11, 2013** in the public meeting room at **Aljoia**, 2430 76th Ave. SE.

Please RSVP by November 9th to info@mercerislandpac.org.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,

John Gordon Hill
Chair, Mercer Island Performing Arts Center Task Force