

Encore Board Supports Performing Arts Center



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(Rochester, N.Y.) - Some local business people are getting behind the controversial performing arts center which is planned for Renaissance Square.

Thursday, Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks (R) announced a new fundraising team for the project.

The board is a Who's Who of Rochester area business leaders. Top executives from companies like Paychex, Constellation Brands and the Rochester Business Alliance say they will spend the next three years raising dollars for a new performing arts center.



[Slideshow](#)

Brooks says this "Encore Board" will raise more than \$15 million toward the \$45 million still needed. The rest of the money, she says, will come from state and federal sources. Brooks says the caliber of the board speaks to the viability of the project.

"The people on this list, they're business people, they're numbers people...and I think that's the strong message we are sharing today. These people have looked at the numbers and they are saying yeah... I think it works," Brooks said.

Recently Mayor Duffy and others came out against building a performing arts center... saying the federal money should be redirected toward a high speed rail. They also said that numbers predict that performing arts centers repeatedly lose money.

Next month the city council will have a critical vote. It will decide whether federal dollars already set aside for the performing arts center can be used before they expire.

The team includes:

- Chairman Tom Bonadio, CEO of Bonadio Group
- Maggie Brooks, Monroe County Executive
- Dan Burns, President of M&T Bank Rochester Division
- Brian Hickey, Executive Vice President and Upstate New York Area Executive, M&T Bank
- Robert Hurlbut, CEO of ROHM Services
- Howard Jacobson, Senior Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer of Dixon Schwabl Advertising
- Jon Judge, President and CEO of Paychex, Inc.
- Richard Kaplan, President and CEO of Pictometry International Corp.
- Sandra Parker, President and CEO of Rochester Business Alliance
- Arnie Rothschild, President of Normal Communications

- Richard Sands, Chairman of Constellation Brands, Inc.
- Ken Warner, Executive Director of Unicom, Inc.