MAYOR APPROVES $82,000 GRANT TO SUPPORT INDYFRINGE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

INDIANAPOLIS – Mayor Greg Ballard surprised IndyFringe Executive Director Pauline Moffat this evening as he kicked off the 2011 IndyFringe Festival by announcing the City of Indianapolis will provide an $82,000 grant to support IndyFringe’s redevelopment project to refurbish its theater building and surrounding property.

IndyFringe offers arts programming throughout the year and puts on the popular 10-day IndyFringe Festival drawing diverse elements of the community together. Entering its seventh year, IndyFringe in 2011 presents seven stages and 336 shows covering comedy, cabaret, dance, drama, magic, music and multimedia.

“The City is proud to support IndyFringe as an important part of Indianapolis' vibrant arts and culture scene and for this redevelopment project that increases accessibility and adds amenities – which in turn has a direct economic impact on the Mass Ave Cultural District,” said Mayor Ballard. “Our community wholeheartedly embraces local performers and artists from around the world who contribute to the City's vision and creativity.”

IndyFringe provides its year-round site for performing arts at the IndyFringe theatre at 719 E. Saint Clair St. IndyFringe launched a capital campaign to buy the building, including the area behind the building plus greenspace. The City’s $82,000 grant from the parking meter fund will be used for right-of-way improvements including rebuilding the nearby alleyway, repairing sidewalks and installing access curbs.

IndyFringe provided an estimated budget of $800,000 for the entire project, which includes sustainability components, public restrooms and adding accessibility for the theater. The City’s contribution to the project complements millions of dollars in RebuildIndy funds being invested in area projects that include road resurfacing; ramps, sidewalk and curb replacements; crosswalk installations; electrical conduits and improved lighting.

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