



# BROWARD CENTER

— *for the* —  
PERFORMING ARTS

May 6, 2020

Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
U.S. Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

## **Re: Fort Lauderdale Downtown Development Authority's 2020 BUILD Application**

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the Performing Arts Center Authority and the Broward Performing Arts Foundation, I am so pleased to support the Fort Lauderdale DDA's BUILD grant application to help fund the design and construction of complete street improvements in Downtown's Flagler Village neighborhood.

Parker Playhouse, located in Holiday Park, is currently undergoing a \$25 million transformation to take the iconic entertainment venue into the 21st century. Renovations include a new lobby, enhanced food/beverage options, lounges and upgraded systems and equipment. We broke ground on the project last summer and construction is anticipated to be completed in time for the 2020-2021 season. With an estimated 1100 attendees to the facility, we are thrilled to be partnering with the DDA to transform NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street as the gateway into Holiday Park. We have participated in initial discussions with the DDA, the City, and other stakeholders on the future of the street to create a seamless experience as patrons travel to/from our facility and other major facilities in proximity.

The DDA's project grant proposal is smart and leverages private investment already being made in the area. It will also provide improved access and mobility to the surrounding neighborhoods, something we continually hear as a need from the community.

I hope you will join us and make this important investment by fully supporting the DDA's grant request.

Sincerely,

Kelley Shanley  
CEO/President

Broward Center for the Performing Arts