



Item: CG: A-1a

COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Date: Wednesday, March 20, 2024

SUBJECT: APPROVE NAMING OF UNIVERSITY ELEMENTS

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

Recommend that the BoT approve the naming of an extensive music library comprised of more than 1,600 titles and music scores – a significant number of which were arranged by the industry’s most prestigious arrangers and from some of the Great American Songbooks’ greatest composers. The music library also includes archival recordings and programming records of all Palm Beach Pops concerts for nearly 30 years, including an album and arrangements produced by Michael Zager, renowned FAU Dorothy F. Schmidt Eminent Scholar in the Performing Arts, and director of the FAU Commercial Music programs and its Hoot/Wisdom Recordings.

The library will be housed in the Arts & Humanities (AH) Building located in the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters on the Boca Raton campus. The proposed name of this space will be the “Bob Lappin and Palm Beach Pops Memorial Music Library.”

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Donation:

Palm Beach Pops, Inc., is a not-for-profit corporation and will be transferring its remaining assets to FAU in order to continue the legacy of the Palm Beach Pops and its founder, the late Bob Lappin. In addition to the music library described above with an appraised value of \$1.7M, the assets include the amount of \$3.5M in cash and/or public securities, for a total donation of \$5.2M. An endowment will be established with the funds to support the purpose more fully detailed below.

Purpose:

The general purpose of the endowment is to enhance music programs within the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters. The endowment will fund scholarships, graduate fellowships, and other student financial aid to recruit and retain top music students. It will provide financial support for students to purchase higher quality instruments, as well as specialized instruments and pianos within the music department. This support will bolster the Department of Music's successful degree programs in commercial music, music education, music performance, and conducting, which have provided Grammy-winning artists and producers, industry-leading music executives, world-class music educators, and top-tier scholars.

The endowment will also fund an annual legacy concert in honor of Bob Lappin and the Palm Beach Pops which may include former musicians performing side-by-side with select FAU student musicians for students and the public.

Additionally, FAU will establish a public tribute to Lappin and the Palm Beach Pops in the University Theatre lobby with artifacts, photos, and other items on permanent display.

Donor's Background:

The Palm Beach Pops, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that was established in 1991. Its founder was William Robert "Bob" Lappin, and its initial directors were Bob Lappin, Kenneth G. Langone, James F. Fitzgerald, John J. Brogan, Patricia L. Cook, Abraham Gosman, Bernard Marcus, Bernard Marden, Richard C. Pietrafesa, Stephen A. Levin, Brian P. Burns, and Jesse D. Newman. Historically, the organization has been a self-financed nonprofit receiving most of its income through ticket sales to Palm Beach Pops concerts, although the organization has also received some private donations.

Bob Lappin's musical interest began as a child. When he moved to Palm Beach County, he rekindled his relationship with music. His desire to share his love of music led to the establishment of the Palm Beach Pops. As the conductor and music director for the Palm Beach Pops orchestra, Bob Lappin's passion was to preserve Great American Songbook music and keep it alive for everyone's enjoyment. The orchestra performed at venues locally and across the state as well as across the country.

In August 2013, Bob Lappin passed away, and the Palm Beach Pops has had to change its focus. The last performance season was in 2012-2013 due to several reasons, including the death of Bob Lappin, an older audience, and increased competition. Palm Beach Pops still retains a commitment to provide music appreciation and entertainment by exposing students to live musical performances. Through Palm Beach Pop's program Legacy Foundation, established in 2014, students who exhibit musical talent can apply for a scholarship that "can be used for instruments, lessons, music school tuition, or other relevant needs."

Since September 2013 the organization has been led by Bob Lappin's son, Jonathan E. "Jon" Lappin, and he is credited with establishing the Legacy Foundation program. Currently, in addition to Jon Lappin, the members of the Board of Directors are Jason Haselkorn, Brian Wolhust, Neil Elliott, Boyd Brackett, and Bruce Franson.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Cost of signage and installation – TBD

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/DATE

Implementation date is to be determined.

Presented by: David Green

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