



Brett Stanciu, Zoning Administrator

October 20, 2021

Dear Brett,

On behalf of the staff and board of directors of Highland Center for the Arts, I am writing to request an amendment to Condition #5 from HCA's conditional use permit, to allow for amplified sound for events on December 4, 2021 and during the weekends of February 11, 12 and February 18, 19 and 20. Condition #5 provides that "performances and events conducted on the site will not utilize amplified sound outside of the structure."

HCA is seeking an amendment on December 4, 2021 for limited amplification for a performance of traditional holiday carols performed in 20 -30 minute increments between 11AM and 3PM in conjunction with a holiday market featuring local artisans. On February 11, 12, 18, 19, and 20, 2022, HCA is seeking approval for outside sound from 5:30 PM to 8PM in 30 minute increments for live music to be performed to coincide with HCA's winter festival Snowlights.

A dedicated staff member will be monitoring and recording decibel levels for each event. HCA will pay particular attention to the sound levels at the edge of HCA's property, with a goal of not exceeding an average of 10 decibels above the average ambient sound of Greensboro at the edge of our property (a sound level comparable to a conversation at home). Performances will be concentrated on a smaller area of space in relation to outside summer performances, with the result that our winter performances will require less amplification. Typical snow conditions in February would create additional sound absorption. HCA will feature Vermont and New England artists in ensembles typically six or less in size. Based on our previous experience and research, we believe these plans would be responsive to the needs of the community and would not cause undue or adverse levels of noise or any undue effect on the character of the area while pandemic restrictions persist.

The DRB previously granted a reprieve of Condition #5 for HCA's summer season in light of the circumstances surrounding HCA's limitation on operations due to the pandemic. We believe that no grievances in connection with HCA performances were filed with the Town of Greensboro. The circumstances surrounding Covid-19 infections continue to concern and impact operations at HCA. In response, HCA will be planning outdoor art experiences for the community and would like to include musicians who have been negatively affected by Covid-19 restrictions.

This winter HCA aims to provide immersive art experiences for people of all ages, foster a renewed sense of community during this difficult time, and provide vital support to artists from the region.

I understand that this request will be forwarded to the Development Review Board for a hearing.

Thank you,

Keisha Luce
Executive Director

