



## The Funk Center in Trotwood

### Anchor Tenant of a Key Development

The Funk Center is working with the City of Trotwood and the Trotwood Community Improvement Corporation to join as an anchor tenant of the **redevelopment of the Former Sears building**, the only remaining building of the former Salem Mall. Combining these projects will result in greater impact for both projects and a stronger outcome for the region.



### WHY TROTWOOD/DAYTON?

Dayton, Ohio is the Funk capital of the world. Between the peak years of 1975 and the early 1980s, there were 11 acts from the city on major labels, including the Ohio Players, Lakeside, Heatwave, Faze-O, Slave, Sun, and ZAPP just to name a few. This unique sound can still be heard today, re-recorded and sampled by bands spanning the genres of Pop to Hip Hop.

### VISION

To establish a home in Trotwood/Dayton for the legacy of Funk music by celebrating the artists who brought this art form to life while showcasing the rich culture of Funk Music.

### MISSION

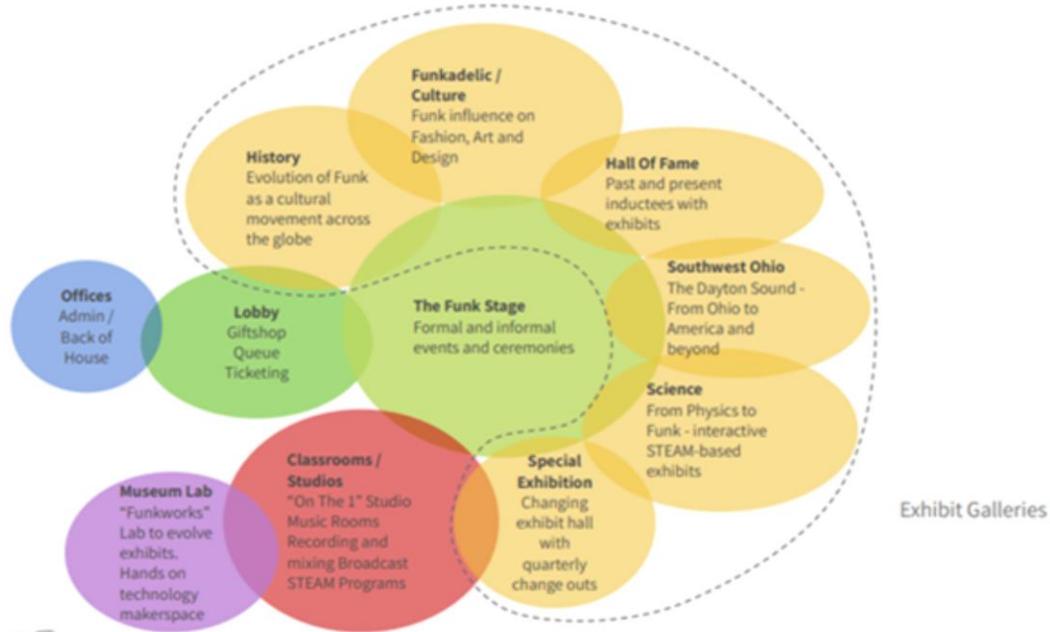
Our Mission is to create an immersive Funk Experience and provide a place where the community, especially children, will be inspired by the history and evolution of Funk music in greater Dayton, across Ohio and the world.

### GOALS

- Build the foundation for the future home of Funk Music
- Provide a place for the world to celebrate the legacy of Funk music
- Create a place to house the living story of Funk music
- Educate and inspire future generations through STEAM based educational experiences



# CONTENT / PROGRAMMING DIAGRAM



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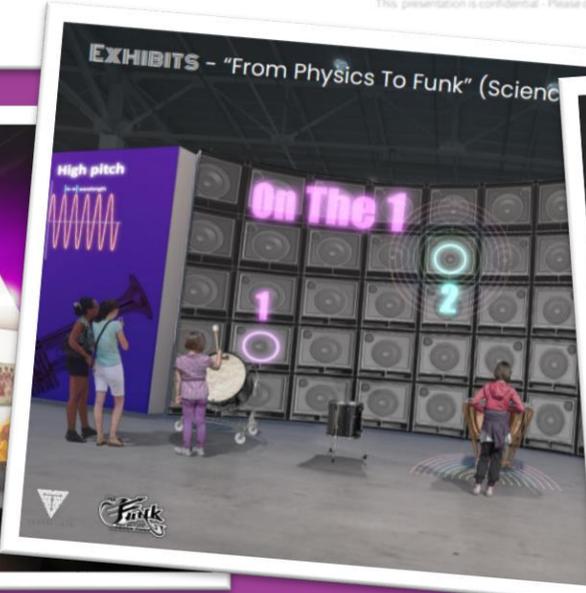
EXHIBITS - "The Mothership" (Culture)



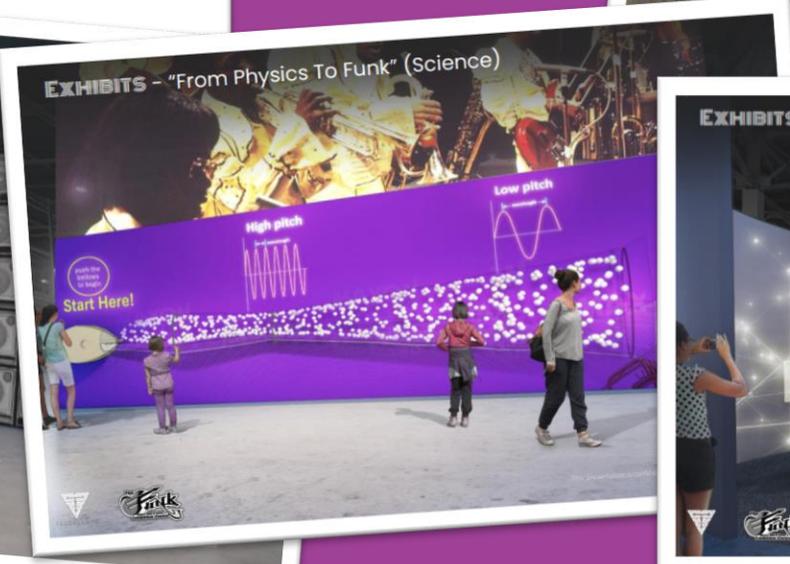
EXHIBITS - Hall Of Fame



EXHIBITS - "From Physics To Funk" (Science)



EXHIBITS - "From Physics To Funk" (Science)



EXHIBITS - "Time Machine" (History)



EXHIBITS - "Connecting The World" (Dayton and Beyond)





# TROTWOOD

◆ GROWING TOGETHER ◆

November 1, 2022

Priority Development & Advocacy Committee (PDAC)  
Dayton Development Coalition  
1401 S. Main Street, Suite 200  
Dayton, Ohio 45409

Dear PDAC Committee,

The City of Trotwood supports this PDAC submission for funding to facilitate the build-out of the “Funk Center” in Trotwood’s biggest and most important redevelopment project. Working with the City and the Trotwood CIC, the Funk Center will become an anchor tenant of the former Sears building redevelopment. This will enhance the scope of this project in its mission to serve as an economic catalyst for the community, to bring more opportunity for residents and to directly increase the quality of life for residents. Now through offering this new amenity and cultural resource, this redevelopment can be home to a museum that has direct historical relevance to Trotwood and West Dayton.

The proposed project of the Funk Center will do more than share the rich history of Funk Music’s origin’s in the region, it will also provide extracurricular activities and provide inspiration to younger generations to pursue the arts and creative industries. The programming and educational classrooms and studios will offer positive outlets to residents of all ages and the community events and concerts will improve the quality of entertainment life in Trotwood.

The City of Trotwood is proud to be a partner of the Funk Center and is looking forward to working to bring the vision of this important cultural and historical asset to fruition in our community and to have it be a critical component of the community into the future.

We appreciate the consideration of this project by the committee. On behalf of the City of Trotwood, I support this project and recommend a priority ranking to garner the support that will be needed to develop this regional asset.

Sincerely,

Quincy E. Pope Sr.  
City Manager, City of Trotwood



**MONTGOMERY**  
C O U N T Y

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

451 West Third Street  
P.O. Box 972  
Dayton, Ohio 45422-1326

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Judy Dodge  
Deborah A. Lieberman  
Carolyn Rice

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

Michael Colbert

November 3, 2022

Priority Development and Advocacy Committee  
c/o Dayton Development Coalition  
1401 S. Main St., Suite 200  
Dayton, OH 45409

Re: The Funk Center and the City of Trotwood

Dear Priority Development and Advocacy Committee:

We are submitting this letter in support of the collaborative project between The Funk Center and the City of Trotwood to redevelop the former Sears store site. This location is intended to become the home of The Funk Center that will fulfill one of their goals which is to “create a place to house the living story of Funk music”.

The funk music genre put Dayton on the map as the Land of the Funk in the 1970s and '80s and the music remains a part of modern pop culture today. The rich history of funk music is a vital part of the artistic diversity that exists throughout Montgomery County. The establishment of a permanent location for The Funk Center will allow for achievement of their additional goals which include:

- Build the foundation for the future home of Funk music.
- Provide a place for the world to celebrate the legacy of Funk music.
- Educate and inspire future generations through STEAM based educational experiences.

A permanent location for The Funk Center will also serve as a home for an extensive collection of funk artifacts and pay tribute to Dayton and Montgomery County’s musical heritage. The City of Trotwood and Montgomery County residents will benefit from the addition of The Funk Center facility through potential future tourism and business growth opportunities.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request and we are excited by the prospect of this project in creating a home for The Funk Center.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Rice  
Commission President

Deborah A. Lieberman  
Commissioner

Judy Dodge  
Commissioner



# TROTWOOD-MADISON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Our Mission Is 100% Student Success!*

**Trotwood-Madison  
Board of Education**

**Denise Moore**  
*President*

**Vanessa Jeter-Freeman**  
*Vice President*

**Michael Andrews**

**Sonja Cherry**

**Sidney Davis, Jr.**

**Dr. Reva Cosby**  
*Superintendent*

**Janice D. Allen**  
*Treasurer/CFO*

**Trotwood-Madison  
Early Learning Center**  
4400 North Union Road  
Trotwood, Ohio 45426  
(937) 854-4511

**Madison Park Elementary**  
301 South Broadway  
Trotwood, Ohio 45426  
(937) 854-4456

**Westbrooke Village  
Elementary**  
6500 Westford Road  
Trotwood, Ohio 45426  
(937) 854-3196

**Trotwood-Madison  
Middle School**  
4420 North Union Road  
Trotwood, Ohio 45426  
(937) 854-0017

**Trotwood-Madison  
High School**  
4440 North Union Road  
Trotwood, Ohio 45426  
(937) 854-0878

Dear PDAC Grant Committee:

As a school superintendent, I'm acutely aware of the need to stimulate the development of our children's minds through methods that motivate them outside of the classroom. Studies have shown that the arts, including interactive museums have a profound impact on students' cognitive development.

Music ignites all areas of child development and skills for school readiness, including intellectual, social-emotional, motor, language, and overall literacy. Music helps the body and mind work together in a cohesive manner. The arts give children the freedom to be creative in ways that traditional educational instruction alone does not provide. As an educator, I want children to see more possibilities for their future. Having them visit and engage in this museum will show them their potential.

This is particularly true when students are able to relate to the historical figures being featured. The Funk Museum provides an opportunity for children to learn about legends who have come from their neighborhoods (in Dayton and Trotwood) and look like them.

I support The Funk Museum request for funding to create a museum in our neighborhood. I believe this project is important because of the real difference it can make in the lives of the children of Trotwood and the Dayton region.

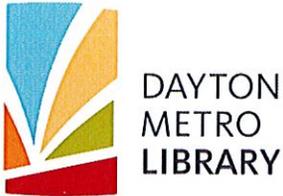
I believe that creating a museum where students can learn about legendary groups like ZAPP, Sun, Dayton, Lakeside, and other artists that originated from the Dayton-Trotwood region will create a sense of pride in our kids. It may also spark a desire to be as innovative as Rodger and ZAPP were when they created the talk box, still used in music today. Having experienced the Funk Box with students, I know intrigued they were. Having this museum available for all students would be fantastic.

I urge you to approve this application for grant funding to develop the Funk Museum in the city of Trotwood, Ohio. It would mean a great deal to this minority community, the students in the area, and be a catalyst for sustainability as the city continues its renaissance of economic redevelopment.

Please give this proposal your full consideration. If you have any questions I can answer, feel free to contact me at 937-854-3050.

Thank you,

**Dr. Reva Cosby**  
Superintendent, Trotwood-Madison City Schools



October 24, 2022

Mr. Tyler Clogg  
Priority Development & Advocacy Committee Manager  
Dayton Development Coalition  
1401 S. Main St. Ste. 200  
Dayton, OH 45409

Dear Mr. Clogg:

Dayton Metro Library heartily supports the partnership between the City of Trotwood and The Funk Center to redevelop the former Sears store as a top priority for Dayton Region PDAC funding.

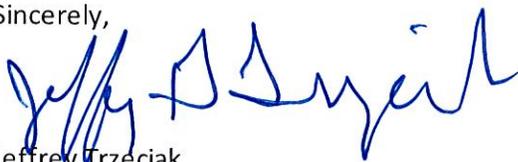
Dayton Metro Library opened a new Trotwood Branch in 2020 and was impressed with the commitment of the Trotwood officials to our project and the overall development of their city. We know that they are a team that can deliver results.

We have worked with the Funk Center since 2016 to help them achieve their mission of inspiring local youth and the entire community through the preservation and education of the history and evolution of Funk music. We hosted their first physical exhibit at our Northwest Branch for nearly a year and can attest to its being not just a local but also national and even international destination.

We are excited by the prospect of this unique and important cultural and historical asset finally finding a permanent home in the region where Funk music has deep roots. The City of Trotwood, Montgomery County, and the State of Ohio will all benefit from future tourism, entertainment, and education that this partnership will achieve

Thank you for giving your utmost consideration to this worthy project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey Trzeciak". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Jeffrey Trzeciak  
Executive Director

DAYTON  
*Philharmonic*

Neal Gittleman  
CONDUCTOR & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

26 October 2022

Mr Tyler Clogg  
Priority Development & Advocacy Committee  
Dayton Development Coalition  
1401 S. Main Street, #200  
Dayton, OH 45409

Dear Mr. Clogg:

I am happy to write to you in support of the proposal by the Dayton Funk Center and the City of Trotwood to make the old Sears site in Trotwood the new and permanent home of the Funk Music Hall of Fame and Exhibition Center.

Funk Music is one of the Dayton region's greatest cultural legacies. The amazing Dayton Funk artists of the 1970s had a lasting impact on American popular music, an impact that still echoes half a century later. The Funk Center has been tireless in its efforts to preserve and make available to the public artifacts and documentation of Dayton Funk Music, and in efforts to keep the music alive. I've been to the Motown Museum in Detroit and several of the soul-music-focused exhibition centers in Memphis, and I've seen the powerful impact that such collections can have, providing educational and historical service to area residents and drawing in music-lovers from around the country. We should have something similar for Dayton Funk. And we do... It's the Funk Center. But the Funk Center needs a home.

The Funk Center needs a home and the Trotwood Sears site needs someone to call it home. Sound to me like a perfect opportunity and a perfect partnership!

I thoroughly endorse this project and I hope that PDAC will consider it a top priority for funding and support.

Sincerely,



Neal Gittleman

# Trinity Presbyterian Church

3211 Lakeview Avenue ☩ Dayton, OH 45417

PH: (937) 268-4111 FAX: (937) 268-2007

E-Mail: [daytontrinity@yahoo.com](mailto:daytontrinity@yahoo.com)

Rev. Joe N. Whitt, Interim Pastor



## Elders

Mary Jean Blackmon  
Clerk of Session  
(937) 901-2294

Cassandra Easterly  
(937) 898-5143

Eliot Heflin  
(937) 657-3209

Alice O. McCollum  
(937) 898-3393

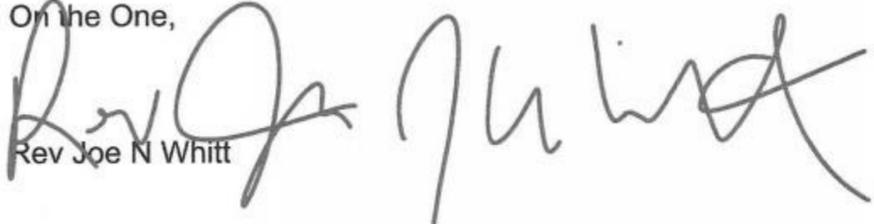
Patricia Meadows  
(937) 276-5818

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the David Webb and the Funk Exhibition Center. As a long time resident of Trotwood and the former pastor of Mt Olive United Church of Christ I whole heartedly endorse the centers movement into the Trotwood area. This community and surrounding areas were instrumental in the historical growth of funk music and deserves a stationary home that educates and allows the music to be enjoy by future generations.

David Webb has devoted his time talent and extensive knowledge to this project this is one of his ministries the first being his church. I truly would welcome the Funk Education and Exhibition Center to our comunity.

On the One,

  
Rev Joe N Whitt

*"Our Church doors are always on welcome hinges."*

# Dayton Daily News

PDAC Endorsement Letter

October 28, 2022

Tyler Clogg  
Dayton Development Coalition

Dear Ms. Clogg,

As a music journalist residing and working in Dayton for three decades, I have seen how the homegrown funk scene that flourished internationally in the 1970s and 1980s continuously resonates with music fans of all ages. Songs by the Ohio Players, Lakeside and other acts are still used frequently in commercials, television programs and films.

The mass commercial success of Heatwave, Zapp and the aforementioned groups is rare for any city and has certainly never been duplicated here since. It is a musical and cultural legacy that should be celebrated, which David R. Webb and his team are doing with the Funk Music Hall of Fame and Exhibition Center, also known as the Funk Center.

During the time the Funk Center had a physical location in Dayton, it was becoming a destination spot for traveling R&B fans much like Motown Museum in Detroit and Stax Museum in Memphis. When Mr. Webb lost the brick and mortar facility, he didn't give up. He doubled down on his efforts to spread the history of funk from this region through the long-running cable access program "The Funk Chronicles" and more recently with the syndicated "The Dayton Scene Radio Show." The Funk Center team also bolstered its educational offerings with the state-of-the-art, hands-on Funk Box Experience.

I most recently wrote a piece on Mr. Webb and his efforts in a Dayton.com story published on October 11 and walked away once again impressed with his selfless dedication to this mission. When I learned there was a possibility of the Funk Center finding a permanent home in Trotwood, I had to write in to share my enthusiastic support for just such an endeavor. Opening the Funk Music Hall of Fame and Exhibition Center on the site of the old Salem Mall would help revitalize that area. It would bring in tourism dollars that could help create jobs and prompt the opening of other businesses.

A physical Funk Center would also allow Mr. Webb and his team to expand its educational offerings beyond the Funk Box Experience to other hand-on projects, lecture series and special programming. It would be enriching for the community, musically, educationally, culturally and economically.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Don Thrasher  
Contributing writer  
Dayton Daily News / Dayton.com

P.O Box 37  
Tipp City, Ohio 45371  
(937)-581-8771

October 27, 2022

Mr. Tyler Clogg  
Priority Development & Advocacy Committee Manager  
Dayton Development Coalition  
1401 S. Main Street, Suite 200  
Dayton, Ohio 45409

Dear Mr. Clogg

I strongly urge the Coalition to assign a top priority to the partnership between the City of Trotwood and the Funk Center and Museum to redevelop portions of the former Salem Mall property.

Having represented Trotwood in the Ohio Senate for eight years, I know how important it is to redevelop areas that were once vital economic centers for communities – and what a struggle it is. I also know the value of the arts to citizens of all ages and backgrounds.

This partnership allows for the Funk Center and Museum to find a permanent home to educate visitors on the important role Dayton played in the incubation and development of Funk music. Well known for its aviation and entrepreneurial heritage, it's important to show the world this community's contribution to an important music form as well.

This project will also benefit a part of the community that is overdue for investment and will drive people back to Trotwood, like Salem Mall used to do. Visitors will come away entertained, educated, and enriched. It's hard to imagine a more worthy project for our tax dollars.

Thanks to you and the Committee for its commitment to our region.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Beagle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bill" being more prominent than the last name "Beagle".

Bill Beagle