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February 15, 2014

Mr. Todd Hensley, ASTC
American Society of Theatre Consultants
P.O. Box 22
La Luz, New Mexico, 88337

Dear Todd:

Re: Nomination of Len Auerbach for Fellow of the American Society of Theatre Consultants (ASTC).

I am both pleased and honored to provide a letter in support of Len Auerbach's nomination for Fellow of the Society. I'm not saying either Len or I are getting older, but we both founded our respective firms in 1974. I have known and have formed a deeper and deeper respect for Len Auerbach during our 40 year journeys.

Len not only founded Auerbach Pollock Friedlander and Auerbach Glasow French, he was one of the people who founded ASTC and served as the Society's first President. As a founder of ASTC he has steadfastly supported the Society financially, donated volunteer time by his staff as well as himself, and actively served as a contributor to ASTC's involvement in professional and product standards and in promoting the role of Theatre Consultants.

I respect Len's innovative work as a Consultant and the quality and attention to detail that has become a hallmark of his firm's professional work. From my observation Len is the Theatre Consultant I respect the most. I so firmly felt this way, that when Purdue was in the initial stages of planning a new facility, and I could not be the Consultant as I was still part of the Theatre program, I made sure that Len was the Consultant they would work with. The successful work that was done by Len and Auerbach Pollock Friedlander is clear to everyone who works in and attends events in the Pao Visual and Performing Arts Center at Purdue University.

Len and I are both Fellows of USITT and we are the only two USITT Fellows that are Theatre Consultants. I supported Len as a USITT Fellow because we share a belief that

ASTC Professionals should be taking an active role in the training of the next generation of Theatre Consultants well before they find employment in a Consulting office. It is not the role or the expertise of university Technical Directors to train people for our profession and I applaud the work Len has done with the Theater Architecture Program at Carnegie at Carnegie Mellon University.

Finally I need to relay an action by Len that elevated my opinion of him from respected ASTC Professional colleague, to defining the classiness of the members of ASTC.

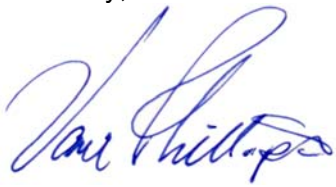
Eight years ago this past Halloween (2005) I was involved in a terrible one vehicle rollover accident on Interstate 94 when one of the rear wheels came off of my SUV as I was driving to the first meeting on the renovation of Kellogg Auditorium in Battle Creek. I survived but my pelvis was broken in three places and my left femur and knee were badly damaged. By the time Len got word about my accident the surgeries had been completed and I had been moved to the occupational therapy section of the Kalamazoo hospital. Len tracked me down and called my room from an airport during his travels. I will never forget what he said and what he offered.

He said, "Van your accident represents my worst nightmare as a Consultant. Having the founder, the recognized person in a firm that brings in the projects have a health issue that takes them out of action for a long time. I'm not a doctor and I can't help you get better. And, I'm sure you have heard enough people tell you – if there is anything I can do. So, I want you to know that my firm will help your firm with drawings, specifications or whatever it takes to keep your projects moving ... for free ... until you can get back to work."

My firm never had to take Len up on his offer. But as I recovered his offer and stated fear became a driving force as I worked to come back. In the end, Len's generous offer represents who ASTC is. Yes, we are competitors, but ultimately it is our respect for our profession and each other that makes us a very classy Professional Society.

I can think of no one who better represents an ASTC "Fellow" than Len Auerbach.

Sincerely,



Van Phillips, ASTC
President, Jones and Phillips Associates, Incorporated

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