

## Renaissance Brandon Continues to Support the Strand Project

**For Immediate Release** – December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Renaissance Brandon has prepared a new funding agreement with the Brandon Folk Music and Arts Society (BFMAS), which gives the BFMAS until January 31, 2013 to formally submit a revised proposal for the Strand Performance Theatre to the federal government. The previous agreement with the BFMAS was set to expire on December 7, 2012.

Renaissance Brandon felt its ongoing support for the Strand Project sends a clear message to potential funders and Brandon residents that the organization is committed to developing an Arts and Entertainment district in the HUB.

“Renaissance Brandon listened to a recent BFMAS presentation and held several internal meetings to discuss the Strand project in detail, explains Shaun Cameron, Chairman of Renaissance Brandon. “At the end of the day, the vision for the Strand put forth by BFMAS remains perfectly aligned with the Renaissance Brandon’s vision of creating an Arts and Entertainment District within the HUB. A project of this nature supports many of the themes set forth in Renaissance Brandon’s vision plan.”

In addition to the deadline for submitting a federal application, Renaissance Brandon is sharing some additional terms and conditions set forth in the agreement:

1. Renaissance Brandon will commit an additional \$374,000 (\$100,000 was previously spent on stabilizing the Strand Theatre during the Brown Block Demolition) to the Strand project payable over two years based on the following conditions:
  - The pending funding applications to the Federal and Provincial Governments are successful at the requested funding amounts.
  - The \$374,000 is to be paid in two concurrent fiscal years, commencing in the year in which redevelopment commences. The first payment will flow at a timeline approved by the Board, but not before a development permit has been issued for the Strand project.
  - BFMAS will provide Renaissance Brandon with a written progress update by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, commencing upon signing of the funding agreement.
  - Renaissance Brandon’s funding commitment is contingent upon:
    - Renaissance Brandon being in receipt of funding from the City of Brandon in an amount not less than \$238,000 in each year that payment as per the funding agreement will be issued.
    - Renaissance Brandon being in receipt of funding from the Province of Manitoba is an amount not less than \$238,000 in each year that payment as per the funding agreement will be issued.

“Given the demand the BFMAS is identifying in their proposal for a mid-size performance theatre in Brandon supported by approximately 30 local, user groups the Strand could be the anchor arts and entertainment venue envisioned for the area and would create a substantial influx of visitors to the HUB, especially after 5:00 p.m.”, states Mr. Cameron. “It would also give local artists and musicians more of an opportunity to develop and showcase their skills and abilities in a professional setting and inspire others to get involved.”

“Any significant, development project or making positive change happen takes time, especially when you are doing it for the first time”, states Braden Pilling, Downtown Development Specialist for Renaissance Brandon. “However, by working together as a community towards a common vision we can accelerate the progress and achieve greater success.”

You can follow all Downtown **HUB** announcements at [www.downtownhub.ca](http://www.downtownhub.ca).

--30--

For More Information Contact:

Shaun Cameron  
Chairman Renaissance Brandon  
204.724.0334

Braden Pilling  
Downtown Development Specialist  
204.720.2583