

# Commodore John Barry Arts and Cultural Center

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May 21, 2019

Dear Friend,

As a supporter of the Commodore John Barry Arts & Cultural Center (the “Irish Center”), you are aware that the mission of the Irish Center is to teach, celebrate and promote Irish art, culture and heritage. Our mission is in action daily - - **there is always something happening at the Irish Center!**

As President of the Irish Center, a (somewhat newly formed) 501(c)(3) entity, I am committed, along with the Board of Directors, to communicate directly to you, our donors, on an annual basis to share news about the Irish Center.

Let’s start with the “T” word – taxes. We continue to sort through all the tax implications of becoming a 501(c)(3) and the transfer of the property. We are making progress, but the process is slow and costly. Hopefully, we will have good news to report on this issue later in 2019.

Since my last President’s letter, the Board of the Irish Center has been focused on broadening the use of its facility and programs by multiple generations – families with young children, teenagers, young adults and seniors. During this past year, the Irish Center hosted small, intimate music sessions, as well as huge, big-name performances. The Board organized the Center’s first Middle School Dance and a family-friendly Kentucky Derby Party, as well as several Irish language events. The Irish Center started its very own education garden to teach children and interested community members about Irish crops and the farming industry. In addition, under the leadership of Jimmy Boyce, on behalf of the AOH Danny Browne, the Irish Center’s library is undergoing a renovation and will soon be a place where you can browse and borrow books about Ireland and the Irish American community in Philadelphia.

The Board has also focused on upgrades to the building itself. Some improvements are visible - like the painting and wallpaper. Some improvements, like the electrical upgrades, gas heat conversion and certain code improvements can’t be seen but are equally important to the viability of the Irish Center.

The Irish Center’s capital improvement plan spans 10 years and includes a new roof, painting and pointing of exterior of building, HVAC system upgrades, sprinkler system, renovations to ballroom, kitchen, Fireside Room, Barry Room and lobby, stage area improvement, lighting and sound upgrades – to name just a few!

The Board can not do it alone – we need your help. Please talk to any Board member if you are willing to volunteer to help with the capital improvement plan - your time and expertise are always appreciated.

Please also consider making a generous tax deductible donation to the Irish Center either by mail at the above address or through our Go Fund Me page at <https://www.gofundme.com/Irish-Center-nonprofit>.

This is an exciting time to be a volunteer and a financial supporter of the Irish Center. Please know we are deeply grateful for you! If you have any questions or would like additional information please contact me.

Very truly yours,

Sean McMenamin  
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President