Lease of Bill Graham Civic Auditorium to BGCA Management, LLC - 99 Grove Street]

Resolution approving and authorizing a lease of the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium located at 99 Grove Street to BGCA Management, LLC for a term of approximately 20 years, with two five-year extension options, under San Francisco Charter Section 9.118; and making findings that the lease is in conformance with the City's General Plan and is categorically exempt from environmental review under CEQA.

WHEREAS, The City Administrator requested proposals for the rehabilitation, use, and operation of the historic Bill Graham Civic Auditorium owned by the City and County of San Francisco (the "City") and located at 99 Grove Street (between Polk and Larkin Streets) in San Francisco (the "Building"); and,

WHEREAS, As stated in the request for proposals, the City Administrator sought to create a vibrant and active venue for concerts and special events and to optimize the public use and enjoyment of the Building, including the retention of certain City uses during each year; and,

WHEREAS, The City Administrator selected and negotiated a lease with BGCA Management, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company ("Tenant"), an affiliate of Another Planet Entertainment, Inc., to maximize revenues while providing a high-quality concert venue at no cost to the City; and,

WHEREAS, The lease, a copy of which is located in Board File No. 100649 (the "Lease"), includes: (i) an expiration date of December 31, 2030, subject to Tenant's 2 options to extend the term, each for an additional 5 year period, at fair market rent; (ii) Tenant's acceptance of the Building "as-is", without representation or warranty; (iii) base rent of $100,000 per year, increased by 2-1/2% each year, but subject to a rent abatement period of

Mayor Newsom/ Supervisor Dufty, Chiu
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up to 12 months during the construction of the Initial Improvements; and (iv) participation rent equal to the sum of (A) 50% of net naming rights revenue (from naming the internal arena, not the Building) in excess of $500,000, (B) $5 per ticket, increased each year per CPI, for each ticket sold in excess of 337,000 per year, and (C) $2,500, increased each year per CPI, for each corporate event, subject to renegotiation after Lease Year 10; and,

WHEREAS, The Lease also requires Tenant to make improvements to the Building in 3 phases (the “Initial Improvements”), including new staging, lighting, drapery, sound and light systems, and others interior improvements designed to turn the Building into a vibrant concert venue, and to spend at least $10 million on the Initial Improvements. If the Initial Improvements cost more than $10 million, then Tenant will receive a rent credit against participation rent, but not base rent, for the overage up to $2.5 million; and,

WHEREAS, Under the Lease, the City will retain the right to use the Building 50 days per year for civic events and other City purposes. The City is not required to pay rent, but is required to pay for the costs of use, such as cleaning, ushers, and security, during these City events; and,

WHEREAS, The Lease includes specified termination rights for the benefit of the City if the Tenant does not meet certain performance standards, and specified termination rights for the benefit of Tenant if Tenant cannot by the 10th year profitably operate the premises or if City leases or finances a competing venue, all as more particularly described in the Lease; and,

WHEREAS, The Lease also permits the Tenant to sell parking passes and to validate parking at the Civic Center Garage during events at the premises, and to receive credit for 50% of the net revenue to City generated from such parking sales at the City’s “event rate” and from such validated parking tickets (after deducting from Tenant’s share any discounts given by Tenant for parking validation), as more particularly described in the Lease; and,
WHEREAS, During the Lease term, Tenant shall have the right to sell, and shall in fact sell, sponsorships and/or naming rights to the theater or arena located within the Building, to maximize participation rent. But the Building itself shall continue to be named the “Bill Graham Civic Auditorium”; and,

WHEREAS, During the Lease term, Tenant shall maintain and repair the premises at no cost to the City, provided that Tenant shall have the right to a rent credit in the event Tenant performs a “Major Repair” and such rent credit is approved by the City Administrator in his or her sole discretion. A “Major Repair” is a sudden or unexpected repair to or replacement of the plumbing, elevators, electrical wiring, or heating, ventilation or air conditioning systems not caused by Tenant’s failure to maintain such item, the cost of which is expected to cost more than $250,000; and,

WHEREAS, The City shall repair and maintain the exterior and the foundation, load bearing walls and other structural portions of the Building, but if the City repair costs more than $3 million, as adjusted by CPI, then City shall have the right to make the repair or terminate the Lease. If City elects to terminate, then Tenant may prevent such termination by making the repair and receiving a rent credit in the amount of the repair costs; and,

WHEREAS, Tenant shall pay for all utilities in connection with Tenant’s use of the Building. But if Tenant's utility costs exceed $200,000, as adjusted by CPI, in any Lease year, then Tenant shall receive a rent credit for 50% of such excess costs but this rent credit shall not apply during any extension term; and,

WHEREAS, Tenant shall have offered employment to all existing employees at the Building, and such employees shall have the right to either accept such employment with Tenant or remain employees of Moscone Center Joint Venture (“SMG”; the current manager of the Building); and,
WHEREAS, In a Certificate of Determination dated April 7, 2008, the City's Planning Department determined that this Lease is categorically exempt from environmental review under CEQA State Guidelines Section 15301(a), or Class 1; and,

WHEREAS, In a Historic Resource Evaluation Response dated March 28, 2008, the City’s Planning Department determined that the proposed interior changes to the Building are consistent with the Secretary of Interior’s standards for the treatment of historic properties and would not have an adverse effect on off-site historic resources; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco hereby finds that the Lease is consistent with the General Plan and with the Eight Priority Policies of City Planning Code Section 101.1, and is exempt from environmental review for the same reasons as set forth in the Planning Department's Certificate of Determination dated April 7, 2008; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board approves the Lease and authorizes the City Administrator and the Director of Property to execute and deliver the Lease and to perform the City’s obligations under the Lease; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board authorizes the City Administrator and the Director of Property to amend the existing management agreement between the City and SMG dated as of November 6, 1990, as amended, to remove the Building from the management agreement; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That all actions heretofore taken by the officers of the City with respect to the Lease are hereby approved, confirmed and ratified; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors authorizes the City Administrator and the Director of Property to enter into any additional amendments or modifications to the Lease that they determine, in consultation with the City Attorney, are in
the best interest of the City, do not decrease the rent or materially increase the obligations or liabilities of the City, and are in compliance with all applicable laws, including the City Charter.

RECOMMENDED:

By: 
City Administrator

By: 
Director of Property
Resolution approving and authorizing a lease of the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium located at 99 Grove Street to BGCA Management, LLC, for a term of approximately 20 years, with two five-year extension options, under San Francisco Charter Section 9.118; and making findings that the lease is in conformance with the City's General Plan and is categorically exempt from environmental review under CEQA.

June 29, 2010 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Alioto-Pier, Avalos, Campos, Chiu, Chu, Daly, Dufty, Elsbernd, Mar, Maxwell and Mirkarimi

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 6/29/2010 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Mayor Gavin Newsom

Date Approved: July 1, 2010