Chateau Theater-Liquor License Streamlining

Issue

To sell liquor on-site, establishments must obtain a license from the local government. This can often be prohibitively expensive for non-traditional business models that are not restaurants or bars if the non-traditional entity is eligible for licensure at all under State Statute. The state grants full liquor licenses to certain types of businesses, such as theaters, convention centers, and town ballparks.

Alternatively, venues can apply for a temporary on-sale license; however, this option can also be costly and limits the sale of liquor to just 12 special events per year.

Rochester's historic Chateau Theater serves as a theater, an event space, and a community asset in the heart of downtown. The venue hosts various events, including weddings, graduations, ceremonies, cultural celebrations, art exhibitions, limited theater performances, craft fairs, and more.

In other cities, similar establishments, such as museums, cultural entertainment venues, and concessionaires within art museums and sports venues, have recently received special legislation (see Minn. Stat. 340A.404, subd. 2) to provide additional support.

Problem

Chateau Theater does not meet the common definition of a theater per Minn. Stat. 340A.404 (Subd 1, 8b).



Solution

State special legislation that would grant a full liquor license to the the building of Chateau Theater (located at 15 1st Street SW Rochester, MN 55902).

Impact

A liquor license would allow it to fully utilize the space and maximize its potential uses for the community, visitors, community events, cultural groups, celebrations, and other uses. It's ability to produce revenue will be improved with an additional amenity to offer its events and those of age that are interested in participating.

