



County of Sonoma

State of California

Date: May 21, 2024

Item Number: _____

Resolution Number: _____

☐ 4/5 Vote Required

**Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma, State of California,
Congratulating Sebastiani Theater on their 90th anniversary and recognizing their many
contributions to Sonoma Valley.**

Whereas, Samuele Sebastiani built the Sebastiani Theatre in 1933 along the well-known theater architect James W. Reid and opened its doors on April 7, 1934 with the showing of “Fugitive Lovers” starring Robert Montgomery, admission was 30 cents; and

Whereas, in 1941, a parade of celebrities embarked on Sonoma for the premier showing of “Sea Wolf”, a Jack London story; Charmian London, Ronald Reagan, Jane Wyman, Edward G Robinson, and John Garfield all attended, a historic moment in Sonoma; and

Whereas, in 1986, Roger Rhoten began his association with the theater and in 1991, he took over the theatre business through a lease agreement with the City of Sonoma and began his long stewardship; and

Whereas, Rhoten and his wife, Diana, have worked tirelessly to keep the theatre open while preserving its historic value and have contributed much of their own time and money to upgrading the facility and building a center for young people and families that lies not only in the center of town, but in the center of the hearts of the community at large; and

Whereas, some family favorites movies premiered at the Sebastiani Theatre, in 1995, the World Premier of John Lasseter and Pixar’s “Toy Story”, and the Premier of “A Bug’s Life” showed in 1998; and

Whereas, the Sonoma International Film Festival started in 1997 and 27 years later, continues to bring in enthusiastic crowds each year; and

Whereas, for 40 years the Sebastiani Theatre has been instrumental in the development and education of the youth of the Sonoma Valley, through any different children's programs and productions, including Performing Arts Camps, Sonoma Conservatory of Dance ballet, Backyard Kid's Theatre, Witchie Poo Halloween shows and many more; and

Whereas, for its entire 90-year history the Theatre has provided an eclectic blend of film, live productions, and a place for the community to come together for weddings, private events and more; and

Whereas, preserving this historic treasure for future generations to enjoy has been and continues to be the goal; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma do hereby congratulate the Sebastiani Theatre on their 90th anniversary and recognize their many contributions and the impact they have made on the residents of the Valley of Sonoma.

Supervisors:

Gorin:	Coursey:	Gore:	Hopkins:	Rabbitt:
Ayes:	Noes:	Absent:	Abstain:	

So Ordered.