

June 17, 2025

DeKalb County Board of Commissioners
1300 Commerce Drive
Decatur, Georgia 30030

Dear Members of the Board of Commissioners:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Callanwolde Foundation for the Callanwolde Fine Arts Center (“Callanwolde”), I am writing to respectfully request that the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners consider naming the Callanwolde amphitheater in honor of Andrew Keenan, who will retire in December 2026 after nine years of distinguished service as Callanwolde’s Executive Director.

Andrew joined Callanwolde as Executive Director in December 2017, and over the course of nearly a decade, he has transformed the organization in ways that will be felt for generations. Under his leadership, Callanwolde has grown in artistic scope, deepened its roots in the community, and strengthened its standing as one of DeKalb County’s most cherished cultural institutions. Perhaps most importantly, Andrew oversaw Callanwolde’s expansion into providing meaningful arts education to numerous underserved communities, students, and veterans.

Andrew was particularly instrumental in redeveloping Callanwolde’s amphitheater, and he has personally hosted nearly every performance of the Jazz on the Lawn and Spring Concert Series held there since. Those concert series have become some of the most beloved offerings at Callanwolde — the kind of events that keep people coming back year after year. Naming the amphitheater in his honor would be a natural and lasting recognition of his connection to that space.

Andrew has also been an exceptional partner to DeKalb County throughout his tenure. He invested significant time and energy in cultivating the relationship between Callanwolde and county leadership, and that collaboration has yielded real results for the institution and the communities it serves. DeKalb County owns the Callanwolde mansion and grounds, and Andrew always approached that partnership with genuine respect and a shared sense of stewardship.

The Callanwolde Foundation believes that naming the amphitheater in Andrew’s honor would send a meaningful message — to him, to the arts community, and to the public — about what dedicated, principled leadership looks like. It would be a lasting recognition of a career built in service to the arts and to this county.

We are grateful for the Board of Commissioners’ continued support of the Callanwolde Foundation and for your consideration of this request. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss further, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Eric Barton
President, Board of Directors
Callanwolde Foundation