

# The Columbus Dispatch

## Letter: Protect investment with the user fee

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Thank you to the Greater Columbus Arts Council for its in-depth research and community outreach resulting in a smart proposal to invest in our cultural and public facilities, arts organizations of all sizes, festivals and artists. We know the vitality of the cultural sector is key to Columbus' economic development and we know we need increased public investment in that sector to keep Columbus competitive.

As a restaurant owner, I depend on arts and entertainment events for my success and I want to keep them strong and growing. I know we also must safeguard our investment in public facilities like Nationwide Arena. While I understand some people don't like the history of the arena's funding, since 2012 it has been the people's arena. The residents of Columbus own this facility. It is upon us to take care of it, along with all our major cultural facilities, and to protect our city's investment and our future.

The 7 percent user fee is an excellent recommendation that builds on the public-private-partnership funding model that has kept Columbus in the forefront economically and culturally.

Jeff Mathes, Columbus

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