

November 5, 2013

Lyric Hot Dogs, Birmingham Landmarks Joint Statement

Today Lyric Hot Dogs owner Andrew Collins and Brant Beene, Executive Director of Birmingham Landmarks, Inc., the non-profit renovating the historic Lyric Theatre, met to discuss options for the future of Lyric Hot Dogs within the footprint of the restored theater.

After looking at floor plans with the renovation design team and discussing options for fitting a version of Lyric Hot Dogs into the space, owner Andrew has decided that if he were to open another Lyric Hot Dogs & Grill, the Lyric Fine Arts Theatre space would not be best suited for his needs.

"It is bittersweet for the family business," said Collins. "We understand that code issues and other realities left the Lyric team with no choice for us to stay in our current location. We appreciate the opportunity to look at other options but Lyric Hot Dogs would require more space to be strong going forward. Ultimately, we have decided we would like to focus on our new Collins Bar on 2nd Avenue North." Because of the infrastructure and equipment that would be needed to cook Lyric-style hot dogs at the Collins Bar, Collins says they do not plan on adding them to their new menu, which will be coming out in a few weeks. "Who knows, though, you might just find Lyric Hot Dogs popping up somewhere else downtown one day."

"We're losing a great longtime partner and a popular attraction to the Theatre District," said Birmingham Landmarks Executive Director, Brant Beene. "While I don't know that the outcome would have been any different, we wish we had discussed options with Andrew earlier."

Birmingham Landmarks has offered its support to Collins in any way it is able. Collins said, "I am for the renovation of the Lyric and success of the Alabama Theatre. I am for the future of downtown Birmingham."

For more information, please call Andrew Collins at (205) 251-9952 or Brant Beene at (205) 252-2262.