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## **First Annual Palace Theatre Block Party Attracts Over 1500 Attendees**

ALBANY, N.Y. — On Saturday, August 18, 2018 the Palace Performing Arts Center in cooperation with M&T Bank, MVP Health Care, Hot 99.1FM and local neighborhood associations held the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Palace Theatre Community Block Party. Despite a rainy afternoon the event was a notable success with over 1,500 neighbors and community members coming out for an afternoon of family friendly local entertainment: live music (The Ill Funk Ensemble and Hot 99.1's DJ Supreme), face painters, balloon artists, bounce houses and Food Trucks.

Our partners at the United Way of the Greater Capital Region and the Albany Capital Center handed out books and over 700 backpacks and pencil cases filled with school supplies to local children. Dozens of our community partners (Including 518 SNUG, YWCA of the Greater Capital Region, Black Nurses Coalition, African American Cultural Center and The Albany Police TRaC program just to name a few) were on hand to provide guests with giveaways and information about important programs and initiatives in the surrounding neighborhoods.

Events such as this are critical to the Palace Theatre's mission and our place as a community resource for the surrounding neighborhoods. Opening our doors to the public for these programs provides our neighbors with the positive effects that music and the arts can have on a community.

As a 501c3 non-profit arts organization the Palace Performing Arts Center is incredibly grateful to this event's sponsors - M&T Bank, MVP Health Care and Hot 99.1fm – and all of the community partners, staff and volunteers that helped this event take shape.

“The Community Block Party shows that partnerships work and can bring good things to our community. We will be even better next year! The Palace is the Gem of Arbor Hill and we all shine together.”

***Dr. Brenda Robinson, Arbor Hill Neighborhood Association, President***

“We were thrilled to have been able to present our summer block party in the neighborhood that we love. At the Palace, we are extremely proud to be a vibrant part our local community and welcome all our friends and neighbors. It was great day filled with family fun, great food, and terrific music. It was a joy to see all our friends and neighbors and so many smiling young faces fill the Palace Theatre.”

***Susan Rosko Fogarty, Palace Performing Arts Center, Executive Director***

“Albany is a vibrant, creative community—thanks in large part to our wonderful arts culture,” ***said Beth Beshaw, Market President for M&T Bank.*** “ At M&T, we are dedicated to fostering the arts in all of the communities in which we operate and we are proud to play a role in bringing the first annual Palace Theatre Community Block Party to life for all our neighbors to enjoy.”

“There’s nothing quite like a block party to get people out, and also bring them together. MVP Health Care is proud to be a sponsor of this fun new event, to show our support for the Palace Theatre and also the local community.”

***Ted Herman, MVP Health Care, Senior Leader, Marketing & Communications***

#### **About the Palace Theatre:**

The Palace has been Albany’s iconic downtown landmark for the past eight decades, bringing the biggest names in entertainment to the Capital Region. The history and programming of the Palace is a unique and often untold story with roots dating back to the period of the Great Depression. The Palace Theatre, built in 1931, originally presented vaudeville acts, feature films and became a civic auditorium before closing its doors in 1969. The theatre maintains its original beauty and design and is a historical landmark in the City of Albany. The Palace Performing Arts Center was established in 1984 and incorporated as a nonprofit organization in 1989, created to operate the Palace Theatre. The mission of the Palace is to bring world-class arts and entertainment to New York’s Capital Region, greatly enhancing the area’s cultural and economic development. Our mission is carried out through core programming and community initiatives that include performing arts entertainment, free arts education, family-friendly performances, free summer movies and a classic movie program series. The Palace has a significant economic footprint with over \$3.5 million in ticket sales and 180,000 patrons.

#### **About M&T BANK:**

M&T Bank Corporation is a financial holding company headquartered in Buffalo, New York. M&T’s principal banking subsidiary, M&T Bank, operates banking offices in New York, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Connecticut, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. Trust-related services are provided by M&T’s Wilmington Trust-affiliated companies and by M&T Bank. Equal Housing Lender. Member FDIC.

#### **About MVP Health Care:**

MVP Health Care is a nationally recognized, not-for-profit health insurer caring for more than 700,000 members in New York and Vermont. Committed to the complete well being of our members & the communities we serve, MVP makes health insurance more convenient, more supportive and more personal.