



October 22, 2015

The Moody Foundation  
2302 Post Office St. #704  
Galveston, TX 77550

RE: Letter of Support for the Museum of Magnetic Sound Recording

Dear Members of the Grants Committee:

I am pleased to write a letter of support for the Museum of Magnetic Sound Recording (MOMSR). I was contacted in the summer of 2014 by an enthusiastic Martin Theophilus, the MOMSR's Board President, about the prospect of engaging UT's Interior Design program in generating museum design concepts. Upon learning more, it became apparent that this would be a valuable and rewarding opportunity for both the MOMSR founders and the students, who grew up surrounded by digital recording. We proceeded to dedicate an entire 5-credit design studio for the third year interior design students to the cause. All together, eleven Bachelor of Interior Design students invested over 2,000 in-class hours (not to mention outside working time) focused on providing a contemporary perspective on experiential interiors and exhibition design for the MOMSR. One student even won a national competition with her design work, receiving a \$30,000 scholarship.

Over the course of the Spring 2015 semester, we worked closely with Martin and Chris Theophilus, Board Secretary, and Lloyd Cates, Board Architect. We visited the Theophilus' home where the extensive magnetic sound recording collection is currently stored and displayed – a personal collection that has grown and evolved to the point that it should be shared and made available to the public. The MOMSR board members joined us in our studio on a number of occasions to review and provide feedback on the students' work. Their extensive knowledge combined with an absolute passion for the topic is infectious. In my career, I do not believe I have worked with a group that is as open-minded and willing to listen and be inspired by the millennial generation as the MOMSR board. They truly are attempting to create a multi-generational experience that will preserve this important time in history that impacted everything from music to broadcasting, film, video, and science.

Martin Theophilus and the MOMSR board are dedicated and tireless in their efforts. The Moody Foundation's grant writing services would support a group with significant ambition and spirit. I have no doubt they will succeed in creating a future venue that will educate and entertain the public on the history of magnetic sound recording.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

Best regards,

Tamie Glass, ASID, IIDA, RID  
Associate Professor in Interior Design  
Fellow of the Gene Edward Mikeska Endowed Chair  
Interior Design Program Director  
(512) 529-9351 cell



October 19, 2015

Martin Theophilus  
MOMSR

Dear Martin,

I am pleased to offer this letter of support for the Museum of Magnetic Sound Recording for the Moody Foundation grant process. Since we first connected two years ago, I have been very impressed with the systematic approach you and the Board of Directors at MOMSR have taken to realize your goals. The consultations with other museum professionals, creation of an on-line presence, and social media outreach have been very thoughtful and exciting. The most recent partnership with the University of Texas design department to create exhibition concepts was creative and inspiring.

As you continue to move forward with planning, the addition of a grant writer to the team will be extremely beneficial. And, as you've targeted specific projects for which to raise funding, you have clear direction of purpose. I'll be happy to continue to consult or advise in any capacity that seems fitting, and I look forward to seeing this project come to fruition.

Sincerely,

Margaret Koch  
Deputy Director

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THE RECORDING ACADEMY®  
TEXAS CHAPTER

October 19, 2015

I'm writing in support of the mission and awarding of a grant to the Museum of Magnetic Sound Recording.

With the evolution of technology and changes in the ways sound is being transmitted, it is more important than ever to ensure that the history, documentation and restoration of sound recordings are not lost. The Museum of Magnetic Sound works tirelessly to engage the community and to educate about the importance of recorded sound to not only music, but film, broadcasting and science. Furthermore, this is the only museum in the country dedicated to the development and display of devices of acoustic and magnetic sound recordings.

I applaud the museum for the great work they've been able to do with limited resources. They have been able to collect 215 reel tape recorders, plus over 100 mics, acoustic recorders, magnetic film recorders to which most are working and available for demonstration. They've also captured interviews with some of the most relevant sound recording professionals in the industry.

The awarding of a grant would be instrumental in providing additional research, acquisition of sound devices, staffing, and development of a program that could travel and educate a larger community about the important of sound recordings. This work in sound recording is relevant, important and essential. We must understand our past in order to appreciate our future.

Sincerely,

Theresa Jenkins  
Sr. Executive Director  
The Recording Academy Texas Chapter



LLOYD DOGGETT  
35TH DISTRICT, TEXAS



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## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Allan Matthews  
Director of Grants, The Moody Foundation  
2302 Post Office St # 704  
Galveston, TX 77550

RE: The Museum of Magnetic Sound Recording's Application for the Professional Museum Development Services Grant

Mr. Matthews,

I wish to express my support for the Museum of Magnetic Sound Recording's grant application. Mr. Martin Theophilus and his associates want to bring to life America's heyday of scientific and artistic development: the post-war years when magnetic sound recording became the industry standard in broadcasting, theaters and sound studios around the world. This grant would allow the museum to display the important work of this era.

In addition to the obvious contributions to those areas, magnetic recording's leap forward in the quality, editing and preservation of sound recording brought with it hundreds of tangential benefits in research, consumer products and other areas.

This amazing segment of our national story has suffered from a distinct lack of recognition. Mr. Theophilus' current Museum of Magnetic Sound Recording stands as an indisputable proof of concept that his vision of a permanent, expanded home for the Museum is not only within reach, but is also essential to a lasting memory of the work done by the forefathers of modern sound recording.

The numbers of those of us who lived during the early days of magnetic recording are quickly diminishing. But through Martin's leadership, and with sufficient funding, the permanent Museum of Magnetic Sound Recording will allow future generations to study and relive an important segment of America's past.

Thank you in advance for your full and fair consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Doggett

From: "**Denise Barnes**" <[dbarnes188@nc.rr.com](mailto:dbarnes188@nc.rr.com)>  
Date: Mon, Oct 19, 2015 at 9:55 AM -0700  
Subject: Letter of Support to the Moody Foundation  
To: "Eric Porter" <[phytoport@msn.com](mailto:phytoport@msn.com)>

This letter is to support the development and on-going maintenance of the Museum of Magnetic Sound Recording in Austin, Texas. We are happy to donate a significant and sizable portion of our collection built over several decades. We do this with the hope that the equipment can be properly researched and preserved. Therefore, we support the Museum's efforts to be adequately staffed and to acquire the appropriate storage facilities for these delicate vintage recording devices.

As founding donors of the Museum of Magnetic Sound Recording we are excited to hear of this news of a grant to contract for grant development services. MOMSR will be one of a kind!

Please let us know how we can help.

Sincerely,  
Drs. Eric Porter and Denise Barnes

Sent from my iPad

October 18, 2015  
Plain City, Ohio

To Whom it May Concern:

I wish to express my strong support for the important work being done by Mr. Martin Theophilus and his associates as they bring to life America's heyday of scientific and artistic development: the post-war years when magnetic sound recording became the industry standard in broadcasting, theaters and sound studios around the world.

In addition to the obvious contributions to those areas, magnetic recording's leap forward in the quality, editing and preservation of sound recording brought with it hundreds of tangential benefits in military, research, consumer products and other areas as well.

Sadly, this amazing segment of our national story has suffered from a distinct lack of recognition, often ignored or eclipsed by pop culture or more fleeting interests.

Fortuitously, Mr. Theophilus' current Museum of Magnetic Sound Recording stands as an indisputable *proof of concept* that his vision of a permanent, expanded home for the Museum is not only within reach, but is also essential to a lasting memory of the work done by the forefathers of modern sound recording.

The numbers of those of us who lived during the early days of magnetic recording are quickly diminishing. But through Martin's leadership, and with sufficient funding, the permanent Museum of Magnetic Sound Recording will allow future generations to study and relive an important segment of America's path to greatness.

John D. Boyers,  
Son of John S. Boyers,  
A founder of Magnecord, Inc.

Date: 10-19-2015  
To: The Moody Foundation  
From: Jerry Tubb, Terra Nova Digital Audio  
Re: Letter of support for MOMSR

To whom it may concern,  
I want to express my support for Chris & Martin Theophilus of the Museum of Modern Sound Recording!

The MOMSR has an amazing and comprehensive historical collection of vintage tape recorders, and most, if not all of them are actually in working condition. Martin has a very thorough knowledge of the recording equipment, and loves to discuss the collection at length.

This is a great resource for those of us in the professional music recording industry.

The MOMSR also does a definitive series of video documentaries in support of the recording industry, and they are two of the nicest people you'll ever meet.

It's a great facility and resource, we'd love to see MOMSR receive a supportive grant to continue offering this collection for public display.

Thank You, Jerry Tubb, CEO Terra Nova Digital Audio  
Terra Nova Mastering  
Celebrating 25 years of Mastering!  
Using analog, digital, tape, tubes, transformers, plug-ins, hardware, etc... whatever best serves the project.

To whom it may concern,

I have known Martin Theophilus for a number of years, and am familiar with his work; particularly for his passion and efforts to preserve and protect the rich historical record of tape recorders and recording. His excellent DVD set of historical examples, his exclusive interviews with tape recording entrepreneurs and practitioners, and his hardware collecting efforts are all representative of his dedication.

As a fellow tape recorder collector and historian, with my own "*Evolution of the Audio Recorder*" book and many years of work in this field, I can unequivocally voice my support for his knowledge of tape recorders and recording, and his efforts toward the creation of a lasting physical presence of all manner of items within the tape recording field.

Philip Van Praag 10/18/15

[xkevpv@gmail.com](mailto:xkevpv@gmail.com)

520.820.0076



October 18, 2015

John in Houston PR LLC

To: Museum of Sound Recording

Martin,

As you know I wrote a piece about the museum. What you don't know is that numerous people either called or wrote me well after the piece was written and disseminated to the music industry. For most it was a welcome stroll down memory lane and they commented on items that were analog in their day and how much times have changed since then. However for every person that I talked to that visited the site they have all commented one way or another that the visit was educational. That spells home run in any language.

After all the entire music industry has evolved due to technology and it is still evolving today due to changes, upgrades, and new products entering the scene. Personally, I remember going from 78 rpm records to 33 1/3 then 45s which evolved into four track tape then to eight track tape then cassette, MP3 players, and now today mobile devices.

It isn't only myself or a handful of people that remember those changes it is virtually millions upon millions that were affected by those changes and today smile when their memories are rekindled while they also learn how they were used in their day. To have a museum that brings all of that and much more to life again by way of the museum's exhibits and cataloging is simply marvelous.

You and Chris are to be commended and my hope is that the museum will continue to expand. Austin Texas is the perfect place to host such an eclectic collection of nostalgic sound machines and historical facts. Combine that with the power of the internet and you are now sharing valuable information with the world. Bravo! Home Run!

Peace and prosperity to you and yours,

John

John McNerney



Publicist

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**THE AMERICANA MUSIC ASSOCIATION**

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MEMBER

From: Jamie Hilboldt <jamie.hilboldt@gmail.com>  
Date: October 20, 2015 at 9:40:34 AM CDT  
To: Martin Theophilus <martin@momsr.org>  
Subject: Re: Letter of support for the Moody Foundation

I cannot express enough my excitement about the Museum of Magnetic Sound Recording . This is a fantastic idea that Martin has brought to reality. Musicians, radio and tape enthusiasts, and any one who grew up during this time will be amazed by the condition and care of this collection.

The first time I saw it, I spent the day reliving every recording project of my past.

Please support this project any way you can!

thank you,  
Jamie Hilboldt  
Gary Puckett and the Union Gap

# Susan C. Floyd

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512-788-8890 | sfloyd@utexas.edu | texarchivist.com

Martin Theophilus  
Board President  
Museum of Magnetic Sound Recording  
Austin, TX

October 20, 2015

Dear Mr. Theophilus and Board,

I am delighted to write in support your research proposal with the Moody Foundation for the Museum of Magnetic Sound Recording (MOMSR).

I first learned of MOMSR's work through a graduate course I took with sound archivist Sarah Cunningham at the University of Texas at Austin School of Information in 2013 in pursuit of my Master of Science in Information Studies and concurrent Graduate Portfolio in Museum Studies. Since then, I have been closely following the impressive development of the museum's concept, collections, outreach, and continuing fundraising efforts in the Central Texas museum and preservation communities. My research into MOMSR's mission specifically focused on its unique and historically important collection of magnetic tape recorders, including several developed for and used by Bing Crosby during his pioneering work in radio broadcasting. The abbreviated version of the paper I wrote, "Forward Thinking to the Past: Preservation of Sound Memory and the Museum of Magnetic Sound Recording," can be read on my blog, here:

<http://texarchivist.com/2013/12/03/momsr-the-museum-of-magnetic-sound-recording/>.

I am thrilled that MOMSR is being considered as a grant recipient by the Moody Foundation. As I argued in my paper, MOMSR's vision, once implemented, will represent a uniquely contextualized museum. Initial exhibition plans include demonstrations of the basic mechanical aspects of the reel tape recorders and some comparisons of the various electronic configurations, such as sound demonstrations similar to those at the Grammy Museum, which takes a Beyoncé song and lets the visitor hear how she would have sounded on cylinder, disc, cassette and digital. Making multiple recorders from the various decades of magnetic tapes' heyday available to "play" with will effectively demonstrate the variety of mechanisms and their recording qualities. Inherent in this, key museum staff will include maintenance experts who can restore and maintain the equipment, as well as be available for questions and demonstrations. Preliminary plans also include incorporating on-site conservation, with recorders that are being restored available in an open or an accessible area so visitors can observe conservationists at work, much like aviation open restoration projects like those at the Museum of Flight in Seattle, Washington.

The MOMSR project is of special interest to professional archivists and museum professionals because of its emphasis on the recording and playback devices themselves; MOMSR's insistence that they are objects of value goes beyond the usual museum displays of "outdated" devices as mere artifacts as well as beyond stop-gap attempts made to mass digitize audio and store it in searchable database retrieval systems online. To say this is not to imply that audio digitization is a less worthy project; in fact it is extremely important, which is why it gets so much attention. However, there is also value to be found, preserved, and appreciated, in MOMSR's view that retaining a cultural understanding of how these recordings were made, by whom, where, in what conditions, using what equipment is also very important.

Thus MOMSR's project is a unique attempt to preserve and share an impressively broad and historically important collection of outdated magnetic audio recording technologies that would otherwise be destroyed. MOMSR's work toward building a brick-and-mortar museum represents a forward-thinking preservation plan incorporating both current trends regarding digitization and web-based user access alongside the traditional specificity of the object-based museum. This can be applied beyond audio archives and media museums to the libraries, archives, and museums disciplines more broadly. When MOMSR is funded and inhabits a physical space, it will represent the cutting-edge of both audio preservation and museum theory, forward thinking to the past. A MOMSR-type approach to collecting and curating would provide much-needed context for future generations to better understand the history of sound, and thus, of memory. Housing this incredible collection in Austin, Texas, the Live Music Capital of the World, gives the museum an unusually rich historical and cultural context.

To this end, outside funding is crucial to support the writing of component project-specific grants for the acquisition and preservation of additional pieces of invaluable recording technology, hiring of dedicated part-time staff, web development to improve both the museum's web site and associated social media reach, a traveling exhibition to educate Texans about the history of sound and increase awareness of MOMSR's mission and collections, and relevant original research to further the scholarly of the MOMSR project. All these aspects of MOMSR's development plans are necessary and of serious historical import; your research proposal has my enthusiastic support, and I look forward to continuing to follow and assist, wherever possible, the board's progress, especially through collaborative work in the areas of museum theory, archival concerns, exhibition development, and outreach.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Floyd". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a large, stylized 'S' and 'F'.

Susan Floyd, MSIS, MA - Archivist at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission