



July 29, 2026

TO: SPACE NEEDLE LLC

FROM: SEATTLE FILM COMMISSION

To Space Needle LLC Leadership,

Christopher Nolan's *The Odyssey* opened to more than \$124 million domestically and \$264 million worldwide. On its opening weekend, IMAX alone contributed \$51.8 million – nearly a quarter of global ticket sales. With record pre-sales and sold-out screenings around the world for the next few weeks, the film is projected to not only be a huge commercial success, but a cultural event. Not just because many people want to watch it – they want to watch it together, on the biggest screen around.

And "IMAX at the Center," formerly Boeing IMAX - the largest screen in Washington state - sits empty.

The Seattle Film Commission is saddened by yet another beloved theater being lost – in this case, new ownership by Space Needle prioritizing IMAX documentary films over features. Locals and tourists alike have traveled further afield to be part of the cinematic experience Boeing IMAX had served 5.5 million guests since 1998.

We recognize that new ownership brings new opportunities and new priorities. We also recognize the significant investment Space Needle has made in the facility through renovations. We strongly encourage Space Needle to consider the value of the screen beyond documentary shorts. A value proven by the filmgoers of Seattle, the visitors to the Seattle Center, and people around the world have put into the moments made by watching a film at an epic scale. We hope Space Needle considers the role they have in that cultural conversation, as stewards of one of the region's most prized venues.

The Seattle Film Commission respectfully encourages the Space Needle to:

1. Commit to maintaining regular theatrical film programming that includes feature films presented in the IMAX format.
2. Hire or partner with experienced film programmers who can build a dynamic calendar that serves both residents and visitors.



3. Engage with Seattle's film community, educational institutions, distributors, and cultural organizations to develop a sustainable vision for the theater's future.

Seattle should be participating in culture, not watching it happen somewhere else. We believe Seattle can be both a world class tourist destination and a city that supports exceptional film exhibition. These are not mutually exclusive goals. A thriving IMAX theater can serve visitors while continuing to be a vital cultural resource for the people who call this region home.

Respectfully,
The Seattle Film Commission

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