

Milwaukee Bucks officials apparently want the Wisconsin Center District to tear down the Miller High Life Theatre, formerly known as the Milwaukee Theatre and, before that, the Milwaukee Auditorium. Sources say that after the Bradley Center is demolished the Bucks want a clean entry way from the west to the new entertainment complex being built across the street from the new Bucks arena. The Theatre, which is rarely used, is located between Kilbourn Avenue and State Street and Sixth and Fifth Streets. Bucks President Peter Feigin isn't responding to my questions about this but both he and team Vice President Alex Lasry have told people they want the Theatre gone.

The Center District, under former leadership, spent \$50 million to renovate the old Auditorium, a pet project of former board chair Franklyn Gimbel. But the Theatre has been a white elephant with virtually no shows ever held there. The current Center District board is chaired by Governor Walker's Secretary of Administration Scott Neitzel. That board is currently looking for a new director for the entire district to replace Russ Staerke. The Business Journal has reported that one of the three finalists for that position is Marty Brooks, a former colleague of Feigin in New York and current head of the stadium and convention district in St. Louis. The other finalists are former Summerfest executive John Boler and Paul Jansen, the current number two person at the BMO Harris Bradley Center. The Wisconsin Center District will oversee everything from the current convention center to the UW-Milwaukee Panther Arena to the new Bucks arena. The entertainment district, however, is owned by an investment group assembled by the Bucks.

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