

EXCLUSIVE: Operator Of Pabst Theater, Owned By Millionaire Foundation, Seeks “Donations” For Laid Off Employees

By Mark Belling, WISN-AM

The operator of the Pabst Theater, which is owned by a foundation with \$4 million in assets and founded by mega-millionaire Michael Cudahy, is nonetheless asking the public to donate to a fund for employees who have lost jobs because of cancellations caused by COVID-19.

The Pabst Theater Group, led by Gary Witt, has started a fundraising page to raise money for employees of his company which manages not only the Pabst Theater, but the Riverside, Turner Hall and other venues. Witt’s group is separate from the Foundation as the two split off several years ago. But The Foundation still owns the Pabst Theater building itself and its tax filings list million in assets.

I emailed Witt to ask why he didn’t seek to tap into those millions to pay his employees or why they even needed to be laid off in the first place. I’ve gotten no response. Michael Cudahy himself is 96 and isn’t seen much anymore and it is unclear if he still controls the Foundation. What is clear is that the Foundation still owns the Pabst Theater and has a lot more money than some of the people donating money to the employee fund.

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