

# McCook YCR's Cars Under the Stars Summary



## Overview

The McCook Drive-In Movie Theater (later called Cars Under the Stars for legal purposes) was proposed by Youth Change Reaction, the youth group for the McCook Community Foundation Fund, to allow for more activities for young people in the community.

- While the idea was conceived by and funds raised by YCR, the theater equipment was given to the Red Willow County Fairboard, which now owns the property. Operation of the outdoor theater is a collaboration between YCR and the fairground's manager and staff.
- The equipment is available for use to community members and organizations for a rental fee of \$100 plus licensing fee for the movie (varies).
- The theater has the potential to be used as a social event, viewing party or a fundraiser for community or high school groups.
- All films have to be approved by the fairboard manager to ensure that no indecent contest is being publicly displayed.

## Location and Parking

The screen is located on the west edge of the mid-way of the Red Willow County Fairgrounds. Cars enter from the south or the east entrance to the fairgrounds and park facing the west. To help with parking, cones are set up to establish parking lines. YCR members help set up cones and direct traffic when available.

## Screen

The screen has panels of 4'x10' plywood at a dimension of 20'x36' and was constructed by Mayhew Signs, located in Grand Island, Nebraska. The sign is raised 8' off the ground and painted with a matte white projection paint designed for drive-in theaters.

Wooden poles were donated by Southwest Public Power District, using eight 40' poles. The power company dug the holes for the project.

## Projector

The project uses a Barco DP-2K-9S laser digital projector. The projector is secured inside a custom-built shed attached on top of a movable trailer to allow for safer storage in all weather conditions.

The projector is placed 40-45 feet away from the movie screen and needs the following power to run: 20 amp 100-volt circuit and 30 amp 220-volt circuit. The projector is powered by a heavy-duty extension cord connected to a RV hookup directly below the movie screen.

The projector cannot be used below 50 degrees so that needs to be taken into consideration when scheduling a movie. Sunset times need to be considered when selecting a start time.

## Trailer

Wooden building (24'x36'x12') constructed by McCook High School wood's class attached to a garden trailer. The stand must be at least 8 feet high for the projector to project correctly onto the screen. The projector remains inside the wooden building to minimize movement of the equipment and must be stored in a controlled environment. McCook's equipment/trailer is stored in-doors at fairgrounds.

## Sound

Sound for the movie is provided using a Skymaster FM Stereo broadcaster. Patrons will be able to receive sound within their vehicles when near the projector on a predetermined frequency. A bluetooth speaker is also used near the front of the parking area for patrons sitting in lawn chairs to still be able to hear the movie.

### Other items needed/purchased:

Extension cords for technology

Cones for parking

Yard signs for promotion of event around the community

External bluetooth speaker for patrons sitting in chairs at front of parking lot

## Prices

|                                    |  |                    |
|------------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| <b>Screen</b>                      | <b>\$14,000</b>                            | <b>\$14,000</b>    |
| Projector                          | \$37,139.40                                |                    |
| Pedestal for Projector             | \$1,200.00                                 |                    |
| Digital to Analog Converter        | \$865.70                                   |                    |
| 6 Channel to 2 Channel Mixer       | \$575.00                                   |                    |
| FM Transmitter                     | \$2,486.50                                 |                    |
| Blu Ray Player                     | \$225.00                                   |                    |
| Installation of Projector          | \$2,500.00                                 |                    |
| Shipping of Projector              | \$850.00                                   |                    |
| Tax on Projection Supplies         | -\$3,149.41 (no tax, owned by govt entity) |                    |
| <b>Total Cost for Projector</b>    |  | <b>\$60,180.61</b> |
| Local lumber yard (trailer)        | \$726.11                                   |                    |
| Glass company (trailer)            | \$105.67                                   |                    |
| Trailer                            | \$1,819.90                                 |                    |
| Misc. (speaker, cords, electrical) | \$2,506.77                                 |                    |
| <b>Supply totals</b>               |  | <b>\$5,158.45</b>  |
| <b>Total:</b>                      |  | <b>\$79,339.06</b> |

## Contacts:

Location: Jiles Bowman, Red Willow County Fairgrounds Manager, 308-345-4650, [rwcfairmanager@gmail.com](mailto:rwcfairmanager@gmail.com)

Screen: Mayhew Signs, Carl Mayhew, 308-382-7230, [carl@mayhewsigns.com](mailto:carl@mayhewsigns.com)

Poles: Southwest Public Power District (contact local PPD)

Projector: Heartland Theater Services, Roger Bockert, [rogerhts.rb@gmail.com](mailto:rogerhts.rb@gmail.com)

Trailer/Stand: Enclosed structure built by high school woods class on low, four-wheeled garden wheel trailer (jacks on the corners) to house projector and technology

YCR Sponsor: Shelly Sehnert, [msehnert@mccookbison.org](mailto:msehnert@mccookbison.org)

MCFF coordinator: Ronda Graff, [mcffund@gmail.com](mailto:mcffund@gmail.com)

## **McCook Cars Under the Stars Timeline**

**Fall 2021** - Idea conceived by Youth Change Reaction

November 2021-March 2022 - YCR students, YCR sponsors and MCFF coordinator contact companies for quotes for project to develop budget for capital campaign

**May 2022** - MCFF pledges \$25,000 matching grant; MCFF creates Drive-In Sub-account with NCF to hold funds during fund-raising

**June 2022** - MCFF/YCR "make-the-ask" training and first ask by YCR of a FAC member; YCR members begin "asks" of parents and friends, accompanied by a FAC member; Created info and pledge form for donations

**July 2022** - Public announcement about project and fund-raising at McCook's Freedom Fest (Fourth of July Celebration) before concerts; news release about project to local media; goal is to have money (\$70,000) raised by the start of school in mid-August

**August 2022** - With donations from individuals, businesses and organizations, \$70,000 raised, including \$25,000 matching funds from MCFF and \$7,500 from NCF Youth Engagement Grant

December 2022 - First funds transferred to Red Willow County Fairgrounds

**April 2023** - Students are working with Tri-State Signs for quotes and include Roger for specifics needed

**April 2023** - Roger (Heartland) called and emailed with Jiles (fairgrounds) on details such as technology and trailer/stand needs.

**May 2023** - Projector was purchased from Heartland Theater Services in Council Bluffs, Iowa, which will deliver, install and teach group how to use it when all necessary equipment in place.

**July 2023** - Contacted Mayhew Signs in Grand Island for a 35'x'20' screen/sign using 40' wooden poles

**Fall 2023** - Continue to work with construction businesses and fairgrounds to get screen installed; working with McCook High School woods class to build a structure around the projector

**September 2023** - Final funds transferred to fairgrounds to complete the project. \$5,000 remained to help with cost of licensing for movies if needed

**April 2024** - With screen installed and projector housed in the trailer, YCR tests the project for the first time; schedules first movie through Swank Movies Licensing; creates poster using Swank guidelines, training with projector company takes place, system developed for setting up, powering up, running and closing down with storage plans of projector

**May 2024** - First official showing of Cars Under the Stars - Stars Wars movie for May 4th

**Summer 2024** - Contract and guidelines developed. Available on MCFF website, [mccookfoundation.org](http://mccookfoundation.org). Reservations made through Red Willow County Fairgrounds.

### **Hurdles throughout the project:**

- Companies going out of business, starting over with a new company
- Businesses not taking students seriously; necessitated adults calling on their behalf
- Students are busy, so worked around their schedules a lot of the time
- The process was not linear from A to B. Nearly a year was spent on just getting contacts at businesses. Persistence by the sponsors helped complete the project.
- Students that initially had the vision graduated and those following through are later cohorts of students so it needs stable continuity in some form

- February 2026

Cars Under the Stars Pledge Form

# Youth Change Reaction Drive-In Theater Project

This pledge agreement is entered into by and between the individual(s) or entity whose name(s) appears below ("donor") and the Youth Change Reaction (YCR) account with McCook Community Foundation Fund ("Fund").

MCFF has created a challenge grant for YCR to raised funds for a Drive-In Theater at the Red Willow County Fairgrounds. For every two dollars contributed to the YCR project, the Fund will match one dollar. Funds will be matched 2:1 up to \$40,000.

I would like to support YCR in the following way:

- One contribution in full: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Monthly by ACH withdrawal from my bank account: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month for \_\_\_\_\_ months beginning \_\_\_\_\_. Please attached completed Donor ACH Authorization form.
- I would like to fulfill my pledge with: \_\_\_ Cash    \_\_\_ Marketable securities  
\_\_\_ Ag Commodities    \_\_\_ IRA Distribution    \_\_\_ Other  
If your gift includes marketable securities or ag commodities, please specify timing of fulfilling that pledge so we can provide the proper paperwork: \_\_\_\_\_

**Donor Information**

Please provide the donor printed name(s) as you would like it to appear for recognition:

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: YCR/MCFF

*YCR is an account of the McCook Community Foundation Fund, which is an affiliated fund of the Nebraska Community Foundation.*



## Cars Under the Stars Information Sheet (Front)

# Youth Change Reaction Drive-In Theater Project

The McCook Drive-In Theater project is proposed by the Youth Change Reaction (YCR) group to encourage more activities for youth in the community.

The theater will be operated by the Red Willow County Fairgrounds and be available for use to community members and organizations for a rental fee of \$50.

The theater has the potential to be used as a social event, viewing party or a fundraiser for a community or high school group. All films will have to be approved by the fair board manager to ensure that the appropriate content is being displayed publicly. Movie royalties, free will donations and concessions are the responsibility of the renting party.

---

### **Location:**

The theater would be located on the west edge of the midway of the Red Willow County Fairgrounds. Cars would be able to enter from the south or the east entrance of the fairgrounds and park facing the west.

### **Screen:**

The screen will be a poly metal billboard with dimensions of 16' by 36' constructed by Swanson Signs of McCook. The sign will be raised 8' off the ground and painted with a matte white projection paint designed for drive-in theaters.



### **Projector:**

The theater will use a Barco DP-2K-9S laser digital projector. It will be stored in an enclosed unit on a movable trailer to allow for safer storage in all weather conditions. The projector will be placed 40-45 feet away from the movie screen and requires 220v power to run. It will be powered by a heavy-duty extension cord connected to a RV hookup directly below the movie screen.

### **Sound:**

Sound for the movie will be provided by a Skymaster FM Stereo broadcaster. Patrons will be able to receive sound within their vehicles when onsite.

**Total Cost:** \$65,000

---

McCook Community Foundation Fund created YCR in 2009 to:

- Give youth the opportunity to raise funds and make grants to youth-oriented projects
- Provide interaction between MCFF and YCR members to better understand what youth want to accomplish and build relationships
- Invite YCR members to come back to McCook
- Involve YCR in community service
- Create their own organization and set their own goals



# Youth Change Reaction Drive-In Theater Project

## Why this project?

### Benefits Community Organizations

Community and high school groups will be able to lease the theater and show movies as a fundraising opportunity. These same organizations may also provide free movie showings as a community activity.

### Provides Another Community Attraction

Drive-in theaters are becoming a nostalgic glimpse into the past. Adding a theater in McCook would be a distinct addition to our small-town atmosphere.

### Youth Activity

Youth in our community have been requesting more weekend and evening activities. The drive-in would be unique and is not available in many communities.

### Ability to Gather Safely

The pandemic has educated us on the importance of being able to conduct activities at a safe distance. Drive-in movies would be an activity where people can gather but remain safely in their cars.

### A Legacy for Youth Change Reaction

YCR has been around for more than 10 years and wants to inspire YCR members to Dream Big!

## 2:1 Challenge

McCook Community Foundation Fund is offering a 2:1 challenge. For every donation to the drive-in project, it will be matched up to \$40,000.



### YCR Members

|                            |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Tucker Gillespie, Co-Chair | Tesa Nelson, Co-Chair |
| Abby Boner                 | Grace Wilhelmson      |
| Grant Cappel               | Josiah Wilkinson      |
| Carsyn Craig               | Shawna Wilkinson      |
| Sydney Hodgson             | James Neel            |
| Rebecca Koenig             | Natalie Roberts       |

**Advisors:** Shelly Sehnert, Pam Wolford,  
Mark Graff, Gavin Harsh

*McCook Foundation Fund Advisory Committee: Cindy Huff, Matt Sehnert, Gavin Harsh, Peggy Been Dennis Berry, Kyle Dellevoet, Dale Dueland, Dr. Bill Graves, Jeff Gross, Linda Taylor, Tricia Wagner, Pam Wolford; McCook Coordinator Ronda Graff*

P.O. Box 525 \* McCook, Nebraska 69001 \* [mcfund@gmail.com](mailto:mcfund@gmail.com) \*  
[www.mccookfoundation.org](http://www.mccookfoundation.org)



**HEARTLAND THEATRE SERVICES LLC**

8 Aspen Court  
 Council Bluffs, IA 51503 US  
 402-690-7970  
 rogerhts.rb@gmail.com

**Estimate**

|                |
|----------------|
| <b>ADDRESS</b> |
| MCCOOK NEBR    |

|                |
|----------------|
| <b>SHIP TO</b> |
| MCCOOK NEBR    |

|                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| <b>ESTIMATE #</b> | <b>DATE</b> |
| 1097              | 01/07/2022  |

| ACTIVITY   | QTY | RATE      | AMOUNT     |
|--|-----|-----------|------------|
| <b>SALES</b><br>BARCO DP-2K-9S laser digital projector with lens. Will include ICMP server                           | 1   | 37,139.30 | 37,139.30T |
| <b>SALES</b><br>Pedestal for above   | 1   | 1,200.00  | 1,200.00T  |
| <b>SALES</b><br>DAX 602 digital to analog converter  | 1   | 865.70    | 865.70T    |
| <b>SALES</b><br>DI-6 6 channel to 2 channel mixer  | 1   | 575.00    | 575.00T    |
| <b>SALES</b><br>SKYMASTER FM STEREO broadcaster complete with Mic, preshow inputs and inputs for alternative content | 1   | 2,486.50  | 2,486.50T  |
| <b>SALES</b><br>BLU Ray player including D to A converter  | 1   | 225.00    | 225.00T    |
| <b>SERVICE</b><br>Installation of above including training   | 1   | 2,500.00  | 2,500.00T  |
| <b>SHIPPING</b><br>SHIPPING on all above items. Note: Barco would have to ship at same time.                         | 1   | 850.00    | 850.00     |
| <b>NOTE</b><br>Above setup would allow for all playback including Bluray or other alternative content                | 1   | 0.00      | 0.00T      |

|              |                    |
|--------------|--------------------|
| SUBTOTAL     | 45,841.50          |
| TAX (7%)     | 3,149.41           |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>\$48,990.91</b> |

Accepted By

Accepted Date



**Mayhew Signs Inc**  
 4413 E US Hwy 30 STE 2  
 Grand Island NE 68801-9401  
 1-308-382-7230 • FAX 1-308-382-7100  
[www.mayhewsigns.com](http://www.mayhewsigns.com)

2023-8-2

# SALES ORDER

Sales Rep Carl Mayhew  
 Email: [carl@mayhewsigns.com](mailto:carl@mayhewsigns.com)

|  |              |  |              |
|--|--------------|--|--------------|
| <b>Location of Project</b>                                 | 308 345 4560 | <b>Buyer</b>   | 308 345 4560 |
| Shelly Sehnert/Jiles Bowman                                |              | Shelly Sehnert/ Jiles Bowman   |              |
| <b>Red River County Fair - Yrc Drive Inn</b>               |              | <b>Red River County Fair - Yrc Drive Inn</b>                           |              |
| 1412 W 5th Street  |              | 1412 W 5th Street  |              |
| McCook, NE 69001   |              | McCook, NE 69001   |              |
| <a href="mailto:ssehnert@gmail.com">ssehnert@gmail.com</a> |              | <a href="mailto:rwcfairmanager@gmail.com">rwcfairmanager@gmail.com</a> |              |
| Sales Order Number: CM 20230802-112124-3                   |              | Design Number: 8-2-2023  |              |

Furnish materials to install one single side movie screen according to our drawing dated 8-2-2023  
 Materials included are 18 4x10 1/2" thick MDO white 4'x10' panels, 9-2x6 treated stringers, 12 2x4 treated stringers and 8 yds of 3,000 psi concrete. 24 1/2" x 19" threaded rods hardware and 220 panel screws. 6,000.00

Customer is to provide 8- 35' or longer wood poles and augered holes by power company.

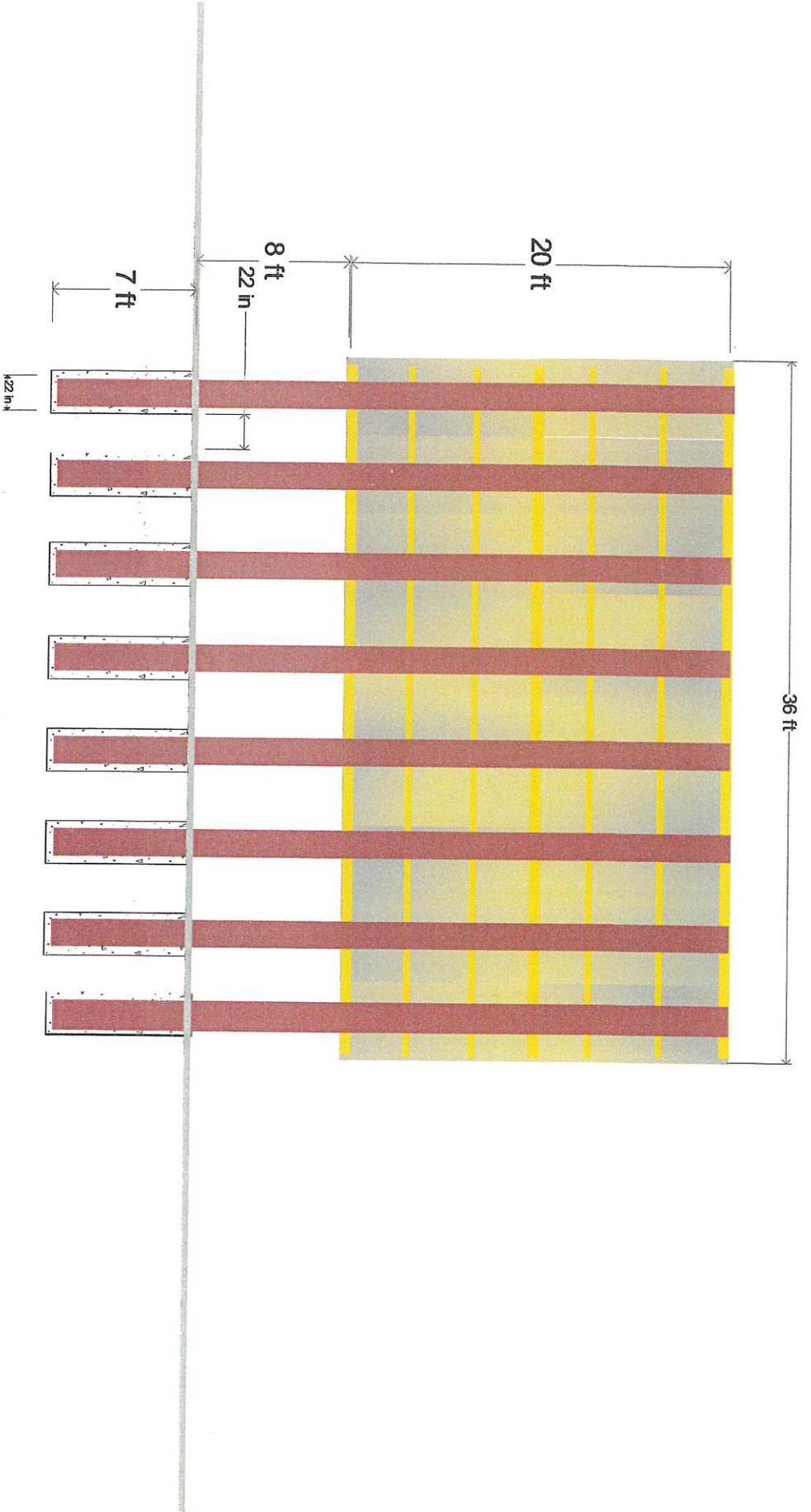
Crane, aerial lift and equipment. Labor. 22,000.00

Buyer agrees to buy and Seller agrees to sell the signage described above based on the terms and conditions set forth on Page 1, 2, and 3.  
 The Purchaser is to provide adequate electrical power feeder and final hook-up to the sign unless included above.  
 Installation prices are based upon normal conditions, obstructions are extra.

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
|   | Sales Price         |
| Total Manufactured Price  | 6,000.00            |
| Total Installation  | 22,000.00           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Estimated Sign Permit Services.        | -                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Freight, Shipping & Handling, Delivery | -                   |
| Estimated Sales Tax Rate 7.0%                                   | 420.00              |
| <b>Todays Total Sales Price</b>                                 | <b>\$ 28,420.00</b> |
| Amount Required to Place Order                                  | 14,210.00           |

**Terms: 50% down w/order. Balance due before shipping or installaton.**

|                                  |                  |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Seller: <b>Mayhew Signs Inc.</b> | Buyers Signature |
| Corporate Acceptance             | Title            |
| Date                             | Date             |



18-4X10 WHITE MDO 1/2" THICK PANELS 9-2X6 TREATED HORIZONTAL STRINGERS  
 THRU BOLT INTO WOOD SUPPORTS 16-2X4 STRINGERS  
 3000 PSI CONCRETE FOOTINGS. 8 YRDS. CUSTOMER IS TO PROVIDE 8 35' CLASS WOOD POLES

It is the intent and purpose of this order rendering to provide a basic order representation of your sign, fabric and color. However, digital media and printed colors will vary from actual print finish and color. Existing finished materials will have a proprietary appearance. It is your responsibility to obtain and obtain from your sign fabricator. Providing a sample of the panel you wish to match or a Mathew sign order form will minimize the differences.

tele: 308 382 7230 fax: 308 383 3025 www.mathewsigns.com

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  |  |
| 4413 East Hwy 30<br>Grand Island, Ne 68801<br>308 382 7230                                 |  |
| PROJECT TITLE:<br>MCCOOK RVC DRIVE ANNOUNCE SIGNAGE<br>sssseidm@gmail.com<br>MCCOOK NE, NE | CONTACT:<br>Shelly Schmitt/Julie Bowman<br>Julie Bowman 308 340 3898<br>Cell: 308 383 3025<br>carl@mathewsigns.com |
| DESIGNER:<br>C. Mathew   | REVIEWER:<br>C. Mathew   |
| DATE:<br>8/21/2023   | PROJECT NO:<br>2023  |

© 2022 MATHIEW SIGNS, INC. This design is an original work by Mathew Signs, Inc. (Mathew) which owns the copyright protection by the copyright law of the United States (Title 17). All rights are reserved by Mathew and until the release of this design is authorized by Mathew in writing. Mathew owns exclusive rights to: a) reproduce this design in copies or in graphic form or prepare derivative works based upon the design.

UL # E186193  
 page # 1 of 1