

**Thank you, Seth.**

**I have the good fortune to serve as the President of Ball State University, and it's a pleasure to be here with you this evening.**

**[PAUSE]**

**This is an exciting moment for our University as we welcome the community to join us in celebrating the completion of our Brown Family Amphitheater. Our evening began with backstage tours of this performance venue. And after our ribbon-cutting, we will enjoy a performance by the Ball State Jazz Ensemble and Tatum Langley.**

**This evening, I am reminded of all the dedicated people who worked hard over the past few years to complete this new facility.**

**This project was approved by our Board of Trustees in December 2020. As you can imagine, no small amount of patience and flexibility was required to navigate the impacts of a pandemic on our ability to construct this amphitheater. But our team persevered and overcame those challenges, and tonight we celebrate the result of all of that hard work and planning.**

**I am grateful to our Board of Trustees who endorsed our plans for the amphitheater as well as our decision to name the facility in honor of Charlie Brown and his family. Charlie graduated from Ball State in 1971, and he provided the lead gift for this beautiful venue.**

**Charlie, his wife, Louise, and members of their family are here with us this evening. We are fortunate that you all could join us. Thank you for coming.**

**In a moment, Charlie will share remarks of his own about what this evening means to him.**

**But before he does, I also want to express my gratitude to members of our Foundation Board who have joined us, as well as my colleagues from the University leadership team and from the College of Fine Arts.**

**I also want to express my gratitude to our contractor—Pridemark Construction—and to our employees from facilities planning and management for their guidance and leadership throughout this project.**

**[PAUSE]**

**Most of you know that, in addition to this new amphitheater, Charlie Brown provided the lead gift for the construction of our beautiful, state-of-the-art planetarium.**

**In all my conversations with Charlie over the years, he has always insisted that his gifts enrich the lives of our faculty, our staff, and our students—and also the lives of our friends and neighbors in the community.**

**Because Charlie understands that, at its best, a University can be a source of enrichment for a community. That is what Ball State strives to be—for the**

**members of our University community and for all of our friends and neighbors in East Central Indiana.**

**Our hope now is that this amphitheater becomes a destination venue that draws people to our campus to enjoy arts and culture together.**

**They will come to hear music, to watch live theater, to attend recitals, and to appreciate so many other different types of events and public performances.**

**And they will do so because of the extraordinary generosity of Charlie Brown and his family.**

**Charlie and Louise, I know this dedication ceremony is a special event for you and your family. I am inspired by how your philanthropy continues to enhance our vibrant campus for the better. All of us here tonight are grateful for this new venue—a venue that will allow for shared community experiences and lifelong memories for years to come.**

**I'd now like to invite Charlie to say a few words about the significance of this moment.**