

ENVISION

The Next to Last Act! -2017 Update from Board Member Michael Davis

It has been just about a year since our last update and lots has changed. First, we presented the Design Development documents to the “Historic and Architectural Review Commission” (HARC). This commission is responsible to review and approve new construction and remodel projects in the historic district of Georgetown. Our presentation took a little more than an hour and a large crowd attended. About 12 people spoke in favor of the project. In the end, the commission approved the project as designed.

From that point, we moved onto the final design stage: Construction Documents. The general contractor and the sub-contractors will use these documents to calculate final bids and to build the project. As you can imagine, these are very detailed documents. They include exact details on steel components, foundation specs, electrical, plumbing and all the host of things that constitute a 14,500 square foot building. We are currently about 50% of the way through the review and finalizing of these documents.

As things have firmed up, this is what we expect the new building will accommodate:

- 200+ seat performance space
- 7 class rooms
- 8 bathrooms across all three floors
- Storage/wardrobe spaces
- Teachers’ lounge
- Lobby
- Meets all fire and safety codes
- Dance studio with a professional dance floor
- Rehearsal space
- Outdoor terrace for events and special classes
- Elevator and 2 staircases
- Storage and custodial spaces
- Office space

At the beginning of this summer, we added a 4th suite to our education campus so we could try to accommodate all the kids who wanted to register. Today, we use these rented spaces, plus the rehearsal stage and main stage. The new building is about 30% larger than the combination of spaces we use today, so we are building-in growth potential.

As you may remember, we have engaged a “construction manager at risk” (CMR) which means we are getting regular updates on the projected price of the project. We have used these updates to fine tune the design to reduce cost. Once we have completed the construction documents, the CMR will need about 30 days to give us a final “guaranteed maximum price”. This price will be good for 90 days.

At the corner of West 2nd St and Rock Ave, we have erected two signs to show the proposed building. It is fun to watch people walking up from Blue Hole who take notice of what we have planned.

We are getting close. Our goal is to have 'green lighted' the building by the end of the year. We are more than 50% of the way to reaching our fund raising goal for the new building. If you would like more information on the project or would like to donate to the building fund, please call 512-786-7469.