

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cultural Center of Henry County Files Emergency Motion for Stay Pending Appeal

Napoleon, OH -- The Cultural Center of Henry County has filed an emergency motion for a stay pending appeal as part of the ongoing legal process regarding the future of the former school building on Main Street in Napoleon, Ohio. As part of the ongoing legal process, this filing supports the organization's commitment to repurposing the former school into a much-needed community hub that will provide spaces for arts, education, athletics, wellness, and event rentals.

Board President Mark Giannetto reaffirmed the organization's commitment to its mission, stating, "Our position has not changed. We believe reopening the former school as a community center offers tremendous benefits and will serve all generations. We've made significant progress over the last few years. Both gyms, the cafeteria, the JLI auditorium, and several classrooms are nearly ready for occupancy."

Despite misconceptions about the building's condition, the Cultural Center of Henry County has worked diligently to maintain and restore the space. Visitors are often surprised by how well the facility has been preserved, particularly in the middle section of the school, where substantial improvements have been made.

"There's a reason why buildings like ours are being repurposed across the state—it's responsible community development and an economic driver," explained Giannetto. The project's potential is grounded in good research. A [Tourism Ohio Economic Impact Report](#) recently reported a record \$56 billion in statewide tourism revenue, with revitalized spaces, like the one proposed in Napoleon, contributing to local economic growth. Additionally, [The Ohio Newsroom](#) has highlighted how community spaces, arts, and cultural programming help make rural areas more appealing to young adults.

The community's continued support has been instrumental in advancing the project. To date, board members and volunteers have donated over 15,000 hours toward the vision of transforming the former school into a community gathering place.

"This is about more than preserving a historic building—it's about creating opportunities for this generation and the next," Giannetto said. "We are incredibly grateful for our volunteers, donors, and neighbors who believe in this project and the possibilities it holds for the community we all love."

The former school is architecturally unique and remains a community landmark. Its grand facade, marked by three large arches, reflects the Neo-Collegiate design style, which was popular in academic institutions for its sense of tradition, prestige, and longevity.

For more information on getting involved, visit CulturalCenterHC.org or ThreeArchesOhio.com
For additional press materials and updates, visit [Cultural CenterHC.org/press](http://CulturalCenterHC.org/press)

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