



The following are responses to some of the most frequently asked questions regarding this project. All responses are from Mark Giannetto, Board President of the Cultural Center of Henry County.

***What is the latest legal update – Is demolition a done deal?***

MG: We filed an emergency motion for a stay on February 18<sup>th</sup> pending appeal as part of the ongoing legal process regarding the future of the building.

***What is "saving these buildings" costing us taxpayers?***

MG: Nothing. Taxpayers have already paid for this land and these buildings. They did so for 150 years, and now they are paid off. Our legal expenses are being paid by donors specifying this (not general donations). However, the legal expenses for the city and school board are probably being paid by taxes somewhere along the line.

***Where is the money for this project coming from?***

MG: The money comes from supporters and revenues. This campus no longer gets any tax moneys.

***Are you, or is anyone, making any money off of this?***

MG: No. We are a non-profit 501-c3. No one in this organization gets paid at all. None of the Board, supporters, or volunteers.

***Then why do you do this?***

MG: We do this for the people of this area, past present, and future. This Board of Trustees is entrusted with a paid-off historic treasure.

***Isn't the building falling down?***

MG: No, this building wouldn't fall down in an earthquake.

***Isn't the building a danger to the community - the city says so?***

MG: No. We will be glad to discuss this.

### ***How close are you to occupancy?***

MG: Going from east to west...

- The 1921 Old East Central School - we have always been looking at housing or Condos in the Old High School. That will take some time, and it won't start until this legal stuff is over.
- The 1936 central area, with the three arches, Snake Pit, and JLJ Auditorium, and the east-west elementary wing with the cafeteria and upper gym. We have been working on this area for almost 2 years now. We are now going through our initial fire and safety inspections to-do-list and will soon be ready for the next. How long depends on volunteer hours and funds frankly. In a phased plan, partial occupancy sometime later this year for the venue areas is a reasonable expectation.
- The 1955 Elementary north-south, which is the classroom wing that goes back to Loose Field. I've talked to people who would be glad for build-to-suit leases in that 30,000 sq ft wing. No need to return those rooms to classroom quality in this scenario.

### ***How can you assure anyone that this project is sustainable?***

MG: That's the grand question, isn't it? What we do know:

- The building and land is paid off.
- There are plenty of examples of successes of these types of projects when local entities work together. Win-win culturally and economically. For example, there are grants we cannot get when we are at odds with local government. Cooperation beats confrontation and will be necessary in the long run.
- This place could easily facilitate the all-day, every-day stuff we can imagine, and lucratively be there as a venue for events, talent, performances, athletics, conferences, weddings etc.