



Underground Railroad Center Project

The Oberlin Underground Railroad Center Project Update

The City of Oberlin's plan to preserve and reuse the historic Gasholder building/property as an Underground Railroad Center and Multi-Modal Transportation hub is progressing well! Approximately \$400,000 of the approved NOACA (Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency) grant funds (\$1.14 million in Federal transportation enhancement dollars) have been spent on Phase I (exterior stabilization and rehabilitation), which is now complete (~\$90,000 was raised in this effort). The project still needs to raise approximately \$140,000 in matching funds to utilize the remaining \$700,000+. Phase II will consist of establishing the multi-modal Park-N-Ride facility and developing the site, and Phase III will consist of interior renovations and establishing the Underground Railroad Center.

Please continue to watch for upcoming Oberlin Underground Railroad Center (OURC) Project newsletters as a way to keep up with the regular Underground Railroad Center Implementation Team (URCIT) meetings. It is via this newsletter, as well as published committee minutes, and our Facebook™ page that we will continue to communicate the project's progress to those who may be unable to attend and participate in URCIT meetings and related events.

As the person coordinating efforts on this monumental and vital community project, I continue to invite and encourage you to contact me with any suggestions, questions, or concerns regarding the project (440-775-7217).

Warmest Regards,

Darlene Colaso (Assistant City Mgr/Project Coordinator)

More OURC Project Info? Visit CityofOberlin.com or Oberlin Underground Railroad Center Project Facebook page!

Timeline of Events from 01/12 - 07/12

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| Jan '12 | Roof replacement progressing and roof ventilation system & copper snow guards approved to keep roof gutters from being damaged by heavy snowfall. Oberlin High School art students present 3 large oil murals to OURCIT. | Jun '12 | OURCIT Chair, George Abram, and members, Jessie Reeder and Barbara Mehwald, participated in the Oberlin Underground Railroad Center video project, which is now finished! This video will be used for future project marketing/information efforts. |
| Feb '12 | OURCIT members agreed to have a brief video of the project produced by local Director and to hold an open house again this year during Oberlin College's commencement weekend. | Jul '12 | The exterior renovation work on the Gasholder Building is finally complete! The building now has a new conical roof complete with copper gutters, cap and downspouts. The masonry work is completed and a new door and windows/sashes were manufactured to original specifications, per the approval of the Historic Preservation Commission. The second floor was removed, and the wood rafters were repaired and rehabilitated. In the first level, a hole was cut into the floor and stairs were built to allow access to the basement. The exterior basement access was eliminated (it was not original to the building) and masonry work was performed to close that opening. |
| Mar '12 | Roof tile installation is complete! Copper gutters, cone (for top of conical roof), & downspouts are being manufactured. Demolition of the second floor is substantially complete. Mortar prep work for the tuck-pointing is being finished. | | |
| Apr '12 | Concrete in first floor opened up to allow basement access. Masonry work continues. Organizational sub-team visits Allen Memorial Art Museum to get ideas for interior spaces. | | |
| May '12 | Memorial Day weekend open house brought more than 60 visitors to the site to tour the property and the building. JVS students fabricated and installed an informational kiosk thanks to a Bill Long Foundation Grant. | | |
- OURC Project Phase I is complete! The OURCIT now finalizes plans for Phase II (site development) and explores options for Phase III (interior renovation and operations).