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Theater Renovation takes next step

After completing the first phase of renovations to the historic Washington Theater commission members are ready to take the next step of the renovation process. With the help of Federal and State grants, contractors recently completed tuck pointing and replacement of the roof of the 80-year old historic landmark. Now members are seeking professional input as to the market analysis, feasibility study and business plan for the theater.

The theater development committee will be interviewing two architectural firms on April 11th & 12th. These firms specialize in theater renovation projects and were chosen from a field of 16 who bid on the Washington Theater project. The two firms are, Killis Almond and Associates from San Antonio, Texas and Quinn Evans Architects from Ann Arbor, Michigan. While in Quincy, these firms will tour the Washington Theater and meet with city officials and Commission members to discuss the project. After the meeting the firms will tour the historic downtown area.

Tanya Sparrow, the newly elected Chairman of the Washington Theater Commission says "Now that the theater is stabilized with a new roof and masonry repairs and structural reinforcements, the Washington Theater Redevelopment Commission is continuing their work with a first stage of planning. It is the intention of the commission to recommend the hiring of an architecture firm to conduct a market analysis, feasibility study and business plan. The market analysis will determine the needs of the community, a feasibility study will explore the possibilities of the theater and examine the changes that would be required, as well as determine if pursuing the project are in the best interests of the community. The business plan will tell us what to expect in operating the theater on opening day, five years and ten years from opening day. The planning stage is the most important stage to this whole renovation process and the commission, as well as the Friends of the Washington Theater, are excited about what the coming months will hold."

The selection committee will make a recommendation to the commission at the monthly meeting April 13th. The commission will then send a resolution to the City Council for approval of hiring the architecture firm chosen. Funding for this phase of the project is in thanks to Quincy Preserves, Arts Corridor funds and individual contributions.

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