

OLD SCHOOL SQUARE

A NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANIZATION

June 17, 2024

To our Friends, Contributors, and Volunteers,

It has been a while since we have contacted you, and we want to update you on recent developments.

Old School Square Center for the Arts founded and operated the campus named for the first school in downtown Delray Beach, for more than thirty years.

During this period, we raised and invested millions of dollars into the renovations and capital improvements of our City's historic buildings while creating a vibrant community gathering place and a world class cultural arts center.

Despite the way our lease was terminated (without cause), OSSCFTA responded to all of the public requests for proposals made by the City since then to activate the Crest Theatre building. During the past several years, in public workshops and commission meetings we presented complete programs to reactivate every part of the Crest Theatre building, including the art classrooms, the theatre and a new kitchen which would serve as a teaching, as well as, an entertainment venue for the community. We have the commitment, experience and resources to make it happen.

In the last iteration of requests to activate the building, we, OSSCFTA, were the ONLY presenters, out of SIX contenders, who addressed the use of the building as a whole. Despite this, all six applicants were sent a letter rejecting all bids.

On June 5th, a phone call was made to 3 of the previous applicants, requesting a proposal within seven hours; only to occupy SEGMENTS of the building and fill the classrooms just for the summer months. We declined to follow through with this last request, due to the fact that we have never been short-term thinkers. Our plans and programs have been successful because of long term planning and committed ties to the community.

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At present, the operation of the building and its programming remain in limbo, costing taxpayers much more money than was ever granted to us for programming which we fulfilled for the ENTIRE campus, The Crest Theatre Building, the Cornell Museum, the Pavilion and the Fieldhouse. Apparently, the Commission has not yet decided who or how the last unprogrammed building will be operated, while the rest of the campus is now wholly funded with our taxes, an untenable long term position.

We, however, remain clear in our mission: to serve Delray Beach by bringing arts, education and entertainment to the city.

Just recently, we held our 9th Annual 6X6 Exhibition & Art Sale at The Hub @ Space of Mind in downtown Delray. The proceeds for this very successful fun event, will benefit arts in the 8 Delray Beach public schools.

We continue to program events for the near future, and will keep you informed.

Our community is full of talented, hardworking, fun-loving people who have embraced our efforts, as we embrace all opportunities to make Delray Beach the best it can be.

Thank you again for standing by us and with us. Together we can accomplish great things.

Always supporting Arts & Education,

The Board of Old School Square Center for the Arts