



Sharonville Fine Art Council News

SFAC Board Members

Sue Koetz, Director of Parks & Recreation in Sharonville; Co Founder, Standing Secretary

Janey Kattelman, Sharonville City Councilmember; Co Founder

Gayla Price, Manager, PNC Bank Director of Capital Campaign

Robin Kurlas, Owner, RED SQUIRREL RESTAURANT; Website and Database

Honorary Members

Virgil Lovitt II, Mayor of Sharonville

Pete Kauffman, Dugan & Meyers Construction

Paul Muller, Muller Associates

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Underground tunnels? Ladies of the evening? Gambling? Fire? What do these have to do with the Act 1 Theater in Sharonville? At one time, all of these were taking place in the buildings we now call the Act 1. As Cincinnati Commercial Contractors completes different phases of the renovation, history is revealing itself in some humorous (and not so humorous!) ways. Some of this history is also causing the Fine Arts Council some additional changes that we were not anticipating.

With these changes also come some additional costs. We have been very fortunate that several business in and around the Sharonville area have donated their money, materials and time to this project. Without these generous donors, we would not be as far long as we are today. Approximately two thirds of the funds needed have been raised. We are still in need of approximately \$280,000 to complete the initial renovation. Anyone interested in donating to this

project can send their donations to: **Sharonville Fine Arts Council- Capital Campaign Fund C/O PNC Bank, 12075 Lebanon Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45241** You can also use your VISA or MasterCard by going to the Council's website - www.sharonvillefinearts.com. Click on the Capital Campaign tab and the site will direct you how to make your donation. If you have any questions on the project, feel free to contact us. Our contact information is on our website.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Letter from Mayor	2
Website	3
Volunteers	3
Project A Go	3
Wall of Fame	3

WE NEED A NAME!

Sharonville Fine Arts Council is looking to name the building and the newsletter!

If you have a clever name for the building or the newsletter (they can be the same!) please send your entries to Robin Kurlas at ripkurl@aol.com or call her at 513-266-5156.

Deadline to enter is Feb. 15,

2008.

The winning name will be selected and announced on Feb. 29, 2008 (yes, this is a leap year)

The winner will be notified and will appear on the website.

Entries Must Include:

Your Name
Phone Number
Email

from Mayor Virgil Lovitt, II.....

I am very pleased to report the City of Sharonville will partner with the Sharonville Fine Arts Council to help restore the Act 1 Theater in Downtown Sharonville. The partnership will include initial funds from the City that will be used for immediate repairs, transfer of the property's ownership from the City to that of the Fine Arts Council, and attracting and organizing volunteers to assist with the project. The renovation of the theater will remove a blight from the downtown area and replace it with an asset to the Community.

Several years ago the City attempted to offer the property to any developer for any viable project. Due to the limited size of the lot and its restrictions, the City was unsuccessful in attracting a quality developer. The other options included tearing down the building and creating green space or working with a nonprofit organization to restore the building. In an effort to save the building, the Sharonville Fine Arts Council volunteered to lead the restoration efforts. Their vision for the building included classes, live stage productions, lectures, recitals and rentals.

Within a year of volunteering to restore the theater, the SFAC received architectural restoration estimates, in the range of \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000. Another obstacle the SFAC faced was the lack of ownership. Since the property was not owned by the SFAC, the SFAC did not qualify for most nonprofit grants.

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Despite their best fund raising efforts, it became obvious that the cost and lack of ownership were major obstacles to the SFAC.

In the City's 2007 budget, the City agreed to transfer ownership of the property. By doing so, the SFAC will now be eligible for grants. Financially, the City will commit up to \$300,000 toward the project. The first \$150,000 will be used for repairs needing immediate attention and the additional \$150,000 will be matching grant funds on a 50/50 basis. The Sharonville Fine Arts Council will be responsible for finding grants, sponsors, and groups willing to provide “in kind” assistance such as windows, doors, and engineering. Several companies and individuals have already been contacted and expressed their eagerness to participate in both the project and fund raising. A general contractor has been chosen

– Cincinnati Commercial Contracting, and the remodel is well underway.

Some may look at the building as it is and not see its value. Members of the Sharonville Fine Arts Council, many Elected Officials and I look at what it could be. For those of us who grew up in Sharonville, the Act 1 is more than just a dilapidated building. It holds memories of growing up and spending Saturdays with our families. Those of us who have been involved with the project truly believe the renovated theater will be an asset to downtown and the community.

WEBSITE AND VOLUNTEERS!



Ground Breaking Sept. 20, 2007
Janey Kattelman, John Westheimer, Eileen Berke and Virgil Lovitt dig while Sue Koetz, Robin Kurlas and Gayla Price cheer them on!

Have you seen our new website,
[www.sharonvillefinearts.com??](http://www.sharonvillefinearts.com)

It's filled with information about the Sharonville Fine Arts Council – our renovation project, the groundbreaking ceremony, selected artists, upcoming events and ticket information, and lots more.

There's a *donor page* to show who has supported the project and sponsorship levels. We now accept donations online. It's safe, secure, and easy-to-use.

Volunteer opportunities are also available online. This is an exciting time for the SFAC. There's plenty

to do and we could use your talents. Opportunities exist from staffing events, stuffing envelopes, publicity, and many things in between. From a few hours per month to a more committed role, we welcome all to get involved. Our Volunteer Coordinator, Cindy Morris, may be reached at cindyjmorris@fuse.net or at our website:
www.sharonvillefinearts.com

Check it out often, as it changes frequently to keep pace with the happenings at the SFAC!

THIS PROJECT'S A GO!

The Sharonville Fine Arts Council, along with the support of many corporate sponsors, civic leaders, local non-profit organizations, residents and private donors collaborated to bring this four year plan to fruition.

Renovation to the former Act 1 Theater began with the building permit being granted on August 30, 2007.

The center will include five main features; live performance theater, gallery space, art education

space, working artist studios and outdoor Children's Sculpture Garden.

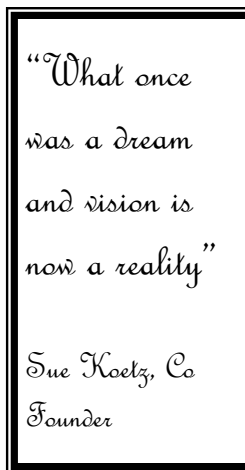
To date the following has been performed:

- Internal rooms gutted for remodeling
- Front façade is being designed using the original beautiful brick
- Brick is being tuck pointed

and foundation shored

- New stage and Green Room
- Elevator installed along with ADA restrooms

Projected completion is Spring 2008.



WALL OF FAME – BE A PERMANENT PART OF SHARONVILLE HISTORY

Many generous residents, private donors and business sponsors have stepped forward to donate to this project and will appear on the "Wall of Fame" once the building is renovated.

For \$1,000 and up, you or your business/organization can become a part of history with a permanent remembrance of your contribution with a wall tile.

"Wall of Fame" member so far include:

- Cincinnati Commercial Contractors
- JLS Architect
- John R. Jurgenson Co



- CDS
- Fred Skurow
- Drury Inn
- Fifth Third Bank
- Pat Madyda
- Ford Motor Company
- Cincinnati Sub Zero
- Franklin Savings
- Gilkey Windows
- Keidel



- Becker Electric
- Gorman Heritage Farm
- Ford Development
- Beacon Orthopedics
- Woodward Construction
- Givudan Inc
- Sharonville Chamber of Commerce
- National City Bank
- Mary Piening
- City of Sharonville



Brick Parters for the Children's Sculpture Garden are also available for purchase!

WE ARE ON THE WEB!
www.sharonvillefinearts.com



Sharonville Fine Arts Council

PO Box 62345
Sharonville OH 45262

513-563-2895

**Join the "Wall of Fame"
Make your donation today!**

Our Mission

The mission of the Sharonville Fine Arts Council is to implement a comprehensive arts and cultural initiative for the City of Sharonville and the surrounding region.

Our Vision

The vision is to create a grass-roots community initiative including interested residents, business leaders, civic leaders, educational leaders and area artists to combine their expertise and energy to make this vision a reality.