



OFFICE OF GRANT MANAGEMENT DIVISION OF BUDGET & FINANCE

Thank you for your ongoing support of our community's Hagerstown Revitalization project. We are grateful for the continuing support and allocation of funds necessary to complete this project. The project consists of the expansion and renovation of the Historic Maryland Theatre, the expansion of the Barbara Ingram School for the Arts (BIFSA), renovation of existing buildings to house new programs offered by the University System of Maryland – Hagerstown (USM-H), and the creation of a multi-use plaza which is expected to become a new hub of City Center activity.

Historic Maryland Theatre Expansion

The Theatre has added an additional 30,000 square feet which has restored the Theatre to its original footprint prior to the fire which destroyed the front of the building in the 1970's. The expansion replaces a current outdoor courtyard and consists of 5 floors, transforming the Maryland Theatre into a Performing Arts Complex. Construction commenced in May 2018 and was completed in Fall 2019.

Washington County Board of Education – Urban Educational Complex Expansion

The expansion was completed in conjunction with the Maryland Theatre and involves the construction of a 5-story 53,995 sq. ft. educational facility by a private developer for the Washington County Board of Education. This facility is located between the Maryland Theatre and the highly successful Barbara Ingram School for the Arts. A blighted structure on the property was demolished to provide a site for the new building. The facility allows the WCBOE to expand specialized educational programs for public school students in Washington County.

Prior to the renovation, WCBOE students attending BIFSA did not have enough space to meet all their curriculum/programming needs. They did not have dining space or science labs, and were required to walk to different locations downtown which disrupted the day, exposed the students to the elements, and posed a safety and security issue. The improvements provide a full kitchen, dining space, additional classrooms, and science labs for WCBOE programs.

University System Maryland Hagerstown – Hospitality Center and Walnut Street

An existing building, located at 55-59 West Washington Street, was renovated by a private developer to house a new undergraduate Hospitality Management and Tourism program. Tourism is the second largest industry in Washington County and there is a demand for a Hospitality Management and Tourism program. The renovated building includes a commercial kitchen, seating and dining and event space for 150 people, classrooms, and office space. The second floor of the building will be roughed-in to accommodate proposed future science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs being considered. The Hospitality Center opened in December 2019.

USMH has renovated the facility located on Walnut Street in Hagerstown to provide clinic and laboratory space for the new Master's degree program for Physicians Assistants. The program has the capacity to enroll 75-90 Physician Assistant students, which will help to fill a critical workforce need that exists in the region. The facility opened in May 2019.

Plaza

This component includes improvements to the rear of the project area in downtown Hagerstown to create a multi-use Plaza that ties all the critical components of the project together. The manner of construction will allow vehicular traffic as necessary during designated times, pedestrian movement, and group use for scheduling of public and private events. This gives a multi-faceted approach to the project area, which will expand revenue generating activities while encouraging additional business engagement. In the future, there are plans to construct student housing, shops and outdoor venues. This area is expected to become an additional hub of City Center activity. The expected cost of this component is \$2,350,000. The underground relocation of utilities for the plaza installation of wires/conduits has been completed. Design is projected to be completed in March 2021, Construction bid award in April, with construction starting in June 2021 and completed in August 2021.

As a result of the expansions and renovations, the Maryland Theatre, Barbara Ingram School of Fine Arts, and USMH will all have the space needed to expand and continue their operations safely, efficiently, and meet the daily demands required by each of the partners involved. This will not only provide a safe educational and entertainment environment in the Hagerstown City Center, but will also provide the anchor institutions needed to attract and expand businesses in the downtown core of Hagerstown. This project will be a major catalyst for urban revitalization.

The projects listed above, have all been funded through a combination of Local, State, Federal and private funding. The Capital Projects Grant program has been a significant and vital funding mechanism for this project, with funding totaling \$5,250,000 provided in FY18, FY19, FY20, and FY21. In FY22, we request an additional \$2,250,000 for the project.