

1st Quarter Capital Campaign Report – April 30, 2023

Our capital campaign, *Sacred Space for All*, has been very active this past quarter. Highlights include:

1. Phase 1 work (to keep water out of the building) made significant progress during 1st quarter 2023, with exterior restoration on the Audubon, front, and courtyard sides of the sanctuary nearly completed and scaffolding removed. Cypress Building Conservation has been conducting this exterior repair and restoration, including masonry cleaning, cast stone repointing, waterproofing, replacing rusted metal lintels over doors, reglazing deteriorated windows, securing/replacing roof tiles and repairing gutters. The remaining phase 1 work includes doors, entrances and windows on the sanctuary, as well as the fellowship hall roof.

The Project Management Task Force (Nathan Lott chair, Sean LaRocca co-chair, Becky Meriwether, John Ehlers, Tom Rushing) has also begun planning for Phases 2 & 3 work (HVAC, plaster replacement, plumbing, ADA bathrooms etc), which will not commence until Phase 1 is complete and funded. The current estimate for Phase 1 work, including all associated campaign costs, is approximately \$828,748. Total cost of work for all three phases combined is estimated to be \$3 million.

Before:



Photo Credit to Marc Boswell

After:



2. The Individual Donor Task Force (Beth Terry chair, Courtney Wilson, Elizabeth Wilson, Susan Cotton, Pastor Elizabeth Lott, Darla Durham, Sharon Carroll) and Diaspora Task Force (Darla Durham chair, Flora Blackstock, Sharon Carroll, Paul Powell, Todd Heifner) continue to make good progress raising funds for the capital campaign. As of April 12th, \$414,089 has been raised in cash donations and \$55,430 in outstanding pledges, for a total of \$469,519 (not including grant funds or tax credits).

We did meet the milestones to receive the first half of the grant (\$125,000), plus a \$5000 award to support architect drawings, so our total cash raised as of April 12th is \$544,089

(not including outstanding pledges & the second half of grant & potential historic tax credits, which raises the total to \$814,519). However, funds from second half of the grant and historic tax credits come only after the project has been completed and paid for (these funds will be used to pay down the line of credit). To manage cash flow, we recently began drawing on the \$200,000 line of credit at our bank (\$111,232 borrowed to date, 6.75% interest rate). To complete phase 1, we estimate that we have \$194,860 yet to spend. With our cash on hand and line of credit remaining (\$110,201 total), we are working to close a \$84,658 gap through seeking additional donations from our diaspora, supporters in the community, and church members.

3. The Development Task Force (Sylvester Tumusiime and Becky Meriwether) have been very active this quarter with grant and prize research and submittals for Phase 2 work (plaster, energy efficient HVAC, weatherization). Solar panels, energy efficient HVAC, and weatherization provide an exciting opportunity to significantly reduce our electricity costs (which are currently ~ \$45,000/year) and HVAC maintenance (~\$20,000/year).
 - a. National Trust for Historic Places Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund (for interior bricks & mortar): An application was submitted on March 1st for a \$15,000 grant to repair and replace the plaster over the exposed hollow tile and under stair areas visible from the two main entrances to the sanctuary. If awarded (notification takes place in July 2023), we will be required to match 1:1, with one year to complete the project.
 - b. BuildingsUp Support Grant (energy efficient HVAC, weatherization etc): The team of St. Charles Ave Baptist Church, Broadmoor Community Church, & Bethlehem Lutheran Church applied for and was awarded a \$5000 grant and 10 hours of technical assistance to prepare a competitive Phase 1 Concept Proposal (due July 18th). If the Phase 1 Concept Proposal is successful, the team of will receive a prize of \$400,000 to compete for a Phase II Planning Prize to develop, with a consultant, scalable, reproducible models to improve energy efficiency in New Orleans Community Lighthouse houses of worship. No match is required for this prize, which is intended to help compete for the Phase II prize and will be spent as decided by the NOLA BuildingsUP Team. Future phases of the prize will roll out annually: Phase II Planning, Phase III Pilot, Phase IV implementation, Phase V Grand Prize. In the meantime the NOLA BuildingsUp Team will be developing tools & resources for accessing tax credits, rebates and financing mechanisms to reduce or eliminate up-front costs for Energy Efficient HVAC, hot water, appliances, and weatherization (attic insulation & air sealing at a minimum). Making these changes in a building can save up to 30 – 50% on power bills in addition to power bill reductions from solar energy.
 - c. Community Lighthouse: the task force has been learning more about the requirements for the Community Lighthouse Program. The plan for installing solar panels & back-up batteries on Community Lighthouses is for TNO to purchase and install the panels and batteries at the sites, and the churches are responsible for paying TNO a portion of the electric power savings monthly over 20 years, and making any updates needed to allow installation of the system.

Lighthouses are responsible having a team to open and staff the Community Lighthouse following a hurricane or other major disaster and during prolonged power outages, and canvassing the area around the building to identify folks with high-risk needs. We have begun exploring the possibility of partnering with neighborhood organizations and community partners to join the congregation in this endeavor.

4. The external/public phase of our campaign began in the 4th quarter, led by our Community Task Force (Nancy Sanders chair, Marc Boswell, Laura Ates, Caroline Durham). On Saturday, October 15th, an Asset Mapping Event was conducted at the church, facilitated by our consultants at Partners for Sacred Places. A community open house was held on Thursday, December 1st. Pastor Elizabeth and Marc Boswell led tours of the building to members of the public (about 35 – 40 people). Dr. Michael White provided a presentation on the history of spiritual music, and information was provided about our renovation and capital campaign. Feedback from the public was very positive. We built on that success with our Jazz Service on February 19th, with over 250 people in attendance. Sacred Space for All handkerchiefs were given out, and information about the capital campaign was shared at the reception.
5. The Communications Task Force (Linda Easterlin chair, Danny Calhoun, Clay Cotton, Sarah Cotton, Brendan Lyman) continued to support the fund-raising efforts by creating Sacred Spaces banners for the front of the church highlighting the restoration in progress and posting photos on social media. Pastor Elizabeth has been sending a quarterly newsletter out to our diaspora to engage them in the campaign.

What can you do to support the campaign?

- Give! Continue to faithfully fulfill your pledge/or make a pledge.
- Tell our story and share the excitement! Invite your friends to join us!

Susan Cotton – Co-chair Capital Campaign Steering Committee

Karen Babin - Co-chair Capital Campaign Steering Committee