



The Need to Campaign for Our Investment

PCAA Buildings Background

Through a carefully considered decision-making process, the board of the PCAA voted in August 2018 to purchase and rehabilitate the 207 East Main Street (Eaton) building to become the new home of the Art Association. This decision was made for two critical reasons: More space for programming was desperately needed AND a location in a more trafficked area would increase visibility, program participation, and community engagement in the arts.

The Hillcrest building had served the Art Association extremely well for 30 years. The art association board members and volunteers at that time raised all the money to build the building and have maintained it throughout the years. The county's only commitment was to provide the land through a \$1 per year lease of 100 years. By 2018, however, spending a large sum of money to rehab and expand the facility did not make sense for two primary reasons: The land on which the building sits is owned by the county and therefore it made no sense to spend valuable funds to expand the facility without ownership AND the location does not increase visibility.

Early in 2019 representatives of the PCAA met with county commissioners about the plans to move and asked the commissioners to support the move by providing relief from the lease obligations in one of two ways: County purchase of the building at market rate based on the appraisal provided by PCAA OR put the land up for auction to provide PCAA an opportunity to bid on the acreage and therefore potentially secure ownership of the entire property.

Despite multiple individual conversations with the commissioners as well as presentations to them in public session, no satisfactory agreement has been reached.

General Timeline of Relocation Process: *

Summer 2017:

- Individual conversations with commissioners about building possibilities

August 2017

- Purchased 207 E. Main St.

December 2017

- Met with Commissioner Creech and Prosecutor Votel to discuss options and were told there are processes that can be done.

February 2018

- Completed appraisal of Hillcrest Building at PCAA's expense ONLY at commissioner's request.

March 2018

- Appraisal sent to commissioners

April 2018

- Commissioners requested utility history
- Commissioners toured the PCAA

January 2019

- Meeting in commissioners' chambers requesting action.

June 2019

- Meeting in commissioners' chambers about auctioning land.

Summer-Fall of 2019

- Continued conversations with all commissioners.

*Individual conversations with all commissioners have been ongoing throughout the process.

Why this matters to Preble County Citizens:

1. Over the years of the PCAA's existence, literally thousands of Preble County residents (aka taxpayers and voters) have utilized the resources of the Art Association to enrich the quality of their lives.
2. Over the years of the PCAA's existence, literally hundreds of individuals, families, foundations, and corporate citizens (aka taxpayers and voters) have provided financial support for both the construction of the Hillcrest facility, the purchase and rehabilitation of the East Main Street facility, and the ongoing operations of the art association.
3. Since the July 2019 opening of the East Main Street facility, participation in programs and visitors to the art center have grown 40% over the same period in 2018 and in all previous years.
4. Over the past six years, the art association has reached out into the community and developed partnerships that have resulted in public art installations in the following locations: ASK Playground, Eagle's Point, downtown Eaton, Lewisburg Community Gardens, PC Jobs and Family Services and more!
5. Over the past six years, the art association has developed partnerships to provide art opportunities to assist specific individuals with special needs – such as intellectual disabilities, physical disabilities, mental and emotional disabilities, youth with court-related exposure, and older adults.

6. Over the past six years, the art association has expanded its program offerings to include Paint Your Own Pottery, pottery making, painting classes for youth and adults, textile art, special and seasonal art opportunities, Arts Night Out (over 3,000 attendees), Bad Art Good Folk (over \$238k raised to support program and operations), public art projects and community outreach events.
7. Over the past six years, the art association has stimulated the development of local businesses by artists who got their start at the Art Center. Examples include numerous painting classes, workshops, wine and paint events, and commission services.
8. Over the past six years the art association has expanded the opportunities for artists to exhibit their work through quarterly exhibits of professional artists as well as amateur and student artists through work with the schools throughout the county.