

473 RENOVATION PROJECT
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
MARCH 24, 2024 Drop-In Session

Q: When will the building be ready for us?

A: The schedule indicates we'll be able to enter the building to do things like unpack and arrange furniture, etc. in mid-December 2024 ... so we could launch our programs more fully in January 2025 and begin welcoming renters. The professional team knows this timeline is appealing to us, so they are pushing to achieve it while being honest that it is ambitious and could easily be impacted by delays with suppliers and trades.

Q: How will we manage light and glare coming from the big eastern windows in the sanctuary?

A: Depending on the season and time of day, the impact of light from these windows will vary. We have included window blinds in the design specifications. The sanctuary needs to face the east wall in order to align with entryways from the lobby and to fully use the T-shaped space in a way that allows everyone to sit directly facing the stage.

Q: Where will staff be able to work if we aren't renovating the basement for offices?

A: Our staff have worked primarily from home for several years (including pre-pandemic). There is one private office in the basement already, and other small rooms which will be bookable by staff for meetings and when they need privacy onsite. The plan is to build more office spaces in the basement as one of the first low-cost elements of phase 2.

Q: What kind of storage will be available for program supplies, for ourselves and our tenants?

A: There are several storage areas throughout the building and our Administrator will assign users to them. While we believe we will have enough, it will be necessary to manage how the spaces get used. Some closets are available within program rooms and some storage will have to be elsewhere in the building. Kitchen storage seems plentiful, though we'll need to make room for renters to keep some of their things onsite as well. There is designated storage for most of the sanctuary chairs.

Q: What are the plans for security at the building?

A: We worked with an Electrical Engineer to design and source a security system for the building. There will be automated locks on the main entrances, and guests will be able to reach a person by a communication system to ask for entry (which can be done by the authorized person using a remote-control system). Before we launch the building, staff and volunteers will work out the procedural implications of this system. There will be times when we or a tenant have a greeter in the lobby and leave the doors unlocked during busy arrival and exit periods; at most other times, doors will be locked and visitors will need to request entry.

Q: Who will be renting space in our building?

A: We have met with several potential renters interested in our site; it is too soon for them to be sure of their needs or make a commitment. We are talking with the former Music Studio tenant and the former Montessori school tenant. We are also meeting with food entrepreneurs, educators, arts groups, and social services organizations to discuss possibilities. It is unlikely that many of these arrangements will be settled until 2025.