



New Collaborators Add Momentum

We're very happy to report on the growing consensus that the Old Blair Auditorium can come back to life – not just as a performing arts and school space – but as a multi-use facility able to serve the broader needs of our community.

Thanks to the efforts of County Councilmember **Valerie Ervin** and her staff, the Old Blair Auditorium Project team has started working with the Montgomery County Public Schools, the Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth and Families, and several County agencies to identify the best compatible uses for portions of the facility.

We've talked about a number of possible uses – everything from after school activities, retreats, multimedia production, DJ classes, meeting space, community forums, and parent education/support meetings – most with a focus on addressing the needs of youth and families in the Silver Spring area.

This is an exciting time for the project! With momentum growing, the Old Blair Auditorium is on its way to once again becoming the community resource it was for many, many years.

School System Announces Support

On March 20th, Dr. Jerry Weast, Superintendent of Schools for Montgomery County, voiced his support for renovating the facility. The school system will undertake a new space analysis for the mixed use of the facility to determine the design layout and associated costs. Dr. Weast expressed his excitement in making the auditorium become a center of activity once again.



Congressman Wynn Tours Auditorium

Representative Albert Wynn takes a tour of the Auditorium after holding a Town Hall meeting at Sligo Creek Elementary School. Susan Tabach (not pictured) from Senator Mikulski's office also joined the tour.

Federal Funding Update

Last year, Senators Mikulski and Sarbanes won preliminary approval of \$200,000 for the project, but those funds weren't finalized because Congress failed to complete action on the annual budget. This year, we're working closely with Senators Mikulski and Cardin and Representatives Wynn and Van Hollen to secure key federal assistance for the Auditorium.

We are thankful for everyone in the community who wrote a letter to Congress asking for this critical support.

We are especially grateful for the efforts of our County officials – Councilmembers **Valerie Ervin**, **Mark Elrich**, **Nancy Floreen**, and **Duchy Trachtenberg** – who wrote to Congress to request Federal support for the project.

Join our e-mail listserve: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/oldblairauditorium/>

Continued Support from the Arts and Humanities Council

Earlier this year, we received a \$2,550 management assistance grant from the Arts & Humanities Council of Montgomery County. We sought this grant to provide training and assistance to our Board of Directors in the area of fundraising.

We are lucky to have such a great support structure for the arts in our County!

Blair High School Students Plan Fundraiser

Andrew Joseph and Eric Merchant, juniors in the Communication Arts Program at Montgomery Blair High School, are planning a fundraiser & public awareness project for the auditorium as part of a senior project. The benefit will present a lineup of bands and musicians from the local area.

We are very excited about their ideas, enthusiasm, and energy as well as their interest in creating a benefit event for the auditorium.

The event is scheduled for Saturday, September 29. Please put it on your calendar and plan to attend this exciting event!

Help Us Re-open the Auditorium! We need volunteers to help with community outreach, administrative tasks, and fundraising activities, and more. Please complete the form below and mail or fax it to us. Or visit our web site: www.OldBlairAuditorium.org/donate



Contribution and Volunteer Sign-up Form

_____ I want to volunteer to help.
My areas of expertise/interest are: _____

_____ I want to make a contribution:

\$35 \$75 \$125 Other _____

Name

Date

Address

City, State, Zip

E-mail

Phone

Checks: Payable to *Old Blair Auditorium Project, Inc.*

Credit Cards: Amex MasterCard Visa Discover

Name on card

Card number

Security code

Exp. date (m/y)

(3 digit number on back of card;
4 digit number on front of Amex card)

[Privacy notice: We will not share your information with any other organizations.]

Signature

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