



CITY OF TEMPLE TERRACE NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COUNCIL APPROVES FUNDRAISING EFFORT FOR ARTS CENTER

TEMPLE TERRACE, FL. – (7/16/08) – The Temple Terrace City Council on Tuesday night approved a fundraising drive that could help determine the feasibility of building a \$9.3-million Arts Education Center in the City’s downtown redevelopment area.

The City Council will authorize a citizen committee to raise the money needed to construct the facility. The City has committed \$2.5-million in Community Investment Tax funds toward the project. The master developer, a partnership of Ram Development Co. and Pinnacle Realty Advisors, has donated the land (a \$500,000 in-kind contribution).

After 12 months, City Council members will evaluate the success of the fundraising effort as they determine whether to proceed with the project. Under its agreement with the master developer, the City has two years from the time of closing on the sale of the redevelopment property to pull a permit for constructing an arts center.

The proposed 22,000-square-foot Arts Education Center would be a multipurpose facility designed for the performing arts, banquets, meetings, weddings and other activities. It would house classrooms for dance, music, theater, ceramics and more. It also would incorporate an art gallery, dressing rooms and offices, including space for the Greater Temple Terrace Chamber of Commerce.

The City expects to close on the sale of 20.36 acres of property southeast of Bullard Parkway and 56th Street in mid-September. The area now is the site of two antiquated shopping centers. But the Phase I plan calls for a \$45-million development incorporating retail, residential, office, restaurant and civic/cultural components. The pedestrian-friendly project will create a “sense of place” and a new downtown for Temple Terrace.

The Arts Education Center, if approved, would be in the heart of this new downtown.

For more information, contact the Temple Terrace Redevelopment Department at (813) 989-7130.

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