

Edwards,Michelle

From: Nasser,Karrum
Sent: Wednesday, December 05, 2018 6:23 PM
To: Edwards,Michelle
Subject: Fw: *Ext!* Correcting some misinformation about Art Spaces

FILED

DEC 06 2018

CITY CLERK

Can you post to website please.

Thanks
Karrum

From: Mary Kramer <mkramer@wabashvalleyartspaces.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 5, 2018 5:04 PM
To: Nasser,Karrum; Nation,Todd; Crossen,Martha; Garrison,Neil; DeBaun,Curtis; Elliott,Earl; Morris,Don; Azar, George; Auler,Amy
Subject: *Ext!* Correcting some misinformation about Art Spaces

****External Email - Think Before You Click****

- Helpdesk

December 5, 2018

Dear Mayor Bennett, Terre Haute City Council Members and Vigo County Commissioners,

I am writing to clarify some misinformation that I recently learned has been reaching city and county officials.

Mayoral candidate Pat Goodwin was quoted in the Tribune Star yesterday as saying that his proposal for a new jail, new police station, new sheriff's office at the existing government complex " would also allow development of "*Turn to the River*, an initiative to link downtown Terre Haute with a riverfront park." Yesterday I also received calls from several officials asking if I think that Art Spaces' *Turn to the River* plan could still proceed if Goodwin's plan were adopted.

It is important for you to know that the idea of Pat Goodwin's new proposal being compatible with *Turn to the River* is not something that Art Spaces has stated.

While I did not attend the public meeting he hosted and cannot verify if those were his actual words, or what his subsequent remarks were, as I have previously stated (in writing) to Pat when he presented his plan to me several days prior to the meeting: "yours seems like a very different concept for that government space than what we have arrived at after years of community and stakeholder engagement, bringing in professional artists and designers for years that have worked on projects like this in other cities, to try to create a very inclusive, upbeat, government area and place that is great for interaction, gatherings, farmers market, and as a way of developing our city to attract businesses, keep young college graduates here, etc. I'm not understanding how a 4-block criminal justice campus between downtown and the river is compatible with this vision."

Turn to the River has been made possible through federal and state funds that were committed to Art Spaces based on the purposes we have carefully described throughout all of our documents following years of positive community engagement and collaboration with government officials. The City of Terre Haute has been our governmental partner for two National Endowment for the Arts grants, one of which is currently in progress and we value this partnership.

Since 2012 we have applied for, and been granted \$238,000 for planning, concepts, artist integration and professional design work, which is nearly complete. 75% of the funds came in from outside of our region. State funds of \$700,000 from the Indiana Economic Development Corporation have just been made available to Art Spaces to begin implementation of *Turn to the River* in 2019, based on our current concepts and designs. Here is a direct quote from a letter dated December 3, 2019, confirming these funds: “The *Turn to the River* project is an important piece in the future of our region. This collaborative effort has the potential to revitalize the Terre Haute riverfront – which will benefit the development of downtown areas, enhance the ability to promote business growth and create an environment that promotes tourism. Art Spaces has been a productive partner in our effort to promote regional projects.” Again, these funds are all based on current concepts and designs.

It is impossible to say at this time what the future of *Turn to the River* would be if the landscape of the government property is used for a different purpose than the one upon which we built the plan, which was based on information provided to us at each new phase. It would require study, planning and re-design. To offer a fast answer to that would go counter to our process and our stated commitments.

With best regards,
Mary Kramer