

## Portland Opera House meeting scheduled for May 14

8:16 AM, May 6, 2011|

PORTLAND - The Economic Revitalization Committee of the Portland Main Street program will be hosting a community meeting to rally support and organize volunteers for the Portland Opera House Restoration project. The meeting will be held on Saturday, May 14, at 10 a.m. Community members are encouraged to attend to learn more about the restoration initiative and how they can be involved in this exciting project.

"The Economic Revitalization Committee has been approached with this project and is excited to move forward with it as a whole community initiative," said Downtown Development Authority Director Patrick Reagan. "This is something that can bring the entire community together and will be a great enhancement to the downtown Portland landscape."


The meeting will include a brief informational session presenting some of the research that has already been completed, as well as case studies on similar community opera houses and their restoration efforts. The meeting will conclude with a tour of the Portland Opera House.


The Opera House was constructed in 1880, just 11 years after Portland was incorporated as a village. Between 1880 and 1920, the Opera House was used as a venue for plays, operas, comedy acts, traveling musical productions and variety acts, community events, church events, and films; as a gymnasium; and by the United Methodist Church as a reading room. The Opera House boasts a capacity of 600, with a beautiful main stage, a full balcony, and two original ticket windows.

"The Opera House is, structurally speaking, in good shape and the possibilities are endless for this underutilized space," Reagan said. "This is a community gem from which many organizations and residents could benefit. Right now it sits vacant and that is something that the citizens of Portland can change," said Reagan. "The Economic Revitalization Committee hopes this meeting will begin the conversations to move this project forward."

The meeting will take place at 136 Kent

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Street in Portland - the old Hallmark Store, just below the Portland Opera House. For more information, contact Patrick Reagan at (517) 647-5027 or [ddamainstreet@portland-michigan.org](mailto:ddamainstreet@portland-michigan.org).

- From the Portland Main Street office

