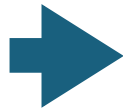




Thelma A. Boltin Center Community Engagement Session

The upcoming improvement project for the Thelma A. Boltin Center will preserve the architectural style and character of the historic building. The purpose of this Community Engagement Session is to gather feedback on improvements and how neighbors hope to utilize the Center in the future.

The Community Engagement Session includes four “Stations”:



Station 1: Welcome

Visit stations 2-4 in any order

Station 2: Programming Opportunities

Station 3: Existing Floor Plan

Station 4: Open Comments

STATION 1: Welcome Desk

Sign in, pick up an orientation packet and mark where you live on the displayed map.

STATION 2: Programming Opportunities

Please write responses to the following questions on the post-it notes provided

Have you or members of your household/group used the Thelma A. Boltin Center in the past? If so, what activities did you engage in? How often?

What activities or programs would you like to see be offered at the Center.

STATION 3: Existing Floor Plan

Please write responses to the following questions on the post-it notes provided

What improvements at the Thelma A. Boltin Center would better serve your groups' needs?

Please describe the size and type of space that you would like to utilize. Describe needs related to room sizes, rental rates, kitchen usage, audio visual equipment, flooring, lighting, acoustics, technology, etc. Indicate which needs are required to utilize the Thelma A. Boltin Center versus amenities that would be nice to have.

How large is your group? What frequency do you anticipate utilizing the future Center? When would you be interested in utilizing the facility—weekday, weekend, evening or daytime?

STATION 4: Open Comments

Please write any additional ideas or comments on the flip chart.

Thank you for participating, helping to make Gainesville a great place to live, work and play!

Thelma A. Boltin Center

Background Information

Built in the Northeast Residential Historic District in 1943, the facility originally known as the Gainesville Servicemen's Center was an entertainment venue for U.S. service members stationed at nearby military bases. The City of Gainesville later renamed it in honor of the late Thelma Boltin, the center's first director.

Planning Process

Next Steps - Following the Oct. 17 Community Engagement Session, city staff will bring a summary of participants' comments to the Gainesville City Commission on Nov. 2, 2023.

After City Commission approval we estimate that the design and permitting processes will take 12 months to complete with construction beginning in 2025.

Please provide us with your email address on the sign-in sheet so we can keep you updated on the project's progress!

Thank you again for participating in the Thelma A. Boltin Center Community Engagement Session! For additional information contact Peter McNiece at 352-514-8992 or email mcniecepr@gainesvillefl.gov.



City of
Gainesville
Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

Events Timeline

2023

- Nov. 2 – City Commission will vote on a path forward for the Center.
- Oct. 17 – Community Engagement Session is held with the community.
- Summer – City staff works with Wannemacher Jensen Architects, Inc. (WJA) on a design services proposal for the partial restoration of the Center.
- April – City Commission directs staff to pursue a partial restoration of the Center.
- Spring – City staff works with a consultant on detailed cost estimates for four options to restore the functionality of the Center.

2022

- Dec. – The City's Historic Preservation Board (HPB) approves Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) for demolition of the Center's east wing, and restoration of its historic auditorium.
- Nov. 8 – City staff applies for a COA for demolition of the Center.
- Nov. 1. – REG Architects, Inc. delivers a presentation on a restoration option to the HPB.
- Oct. 18 – City staff provides an update to the HPB.
- Sept. 6 – WJA and City staff deliver a presentation to the HPB with options for reconstruction of a new facility.
- Aug. – City's Code Enforcement division declares the center a "Dangerous Building;" utilities disconnected from the building for safety reasons.
- Aug. – City staff meets with REG Architects to discuss a feasibility study for the complete restoration of the building.
- Spring/Summer – City staff gathers input from stakeholders, and provides updates at monthly HPB meetings on May 3, July 5 and August 8.
- April – City Commission directs staff to work with WJA and the HPB on a plan for the property.

2021

- Nov. – Firm finds structural damage to the Center, and recommends either demolition or replacement of the auditorium, or demolition of the entire building.

2020

- Dec. – City staff discovers a portion of the roof over the Center's auditorium appears collapsed, and hires a structural engineering firm to assess the damage and secure the roof.
- March – Center closes due to the pandemic.

2019

- Aug. – City Commission approves a comprehensive renovation of the Center.

2000

- Center is last renovated.