

Public Meeting and Survey Results Analysis

August 2024

Evidence of Strong Consensus:

Preservation and Continued Use: There is overwhelming community support for preserving the Coventry PEACE Building as a hub for arts, culture, and education. The strong consensus in favor of maintaining the building and its current functions underscores its value to the community.

Opposition to Demolition: A significant majority opposes the demolition of the building, viewing it as a substantial loss to the community. This strong opposition reinforces the preference for preservation.

Desire for Collaborative Solutions: The community calls for collaborative efforts involving all stakeholders to find sustainable ways to manage and maintain the building.

Areas of Divergence:

Funding Solutions: While there is broad agreement on the importance of preserving the building, opinions diverge on how to fund necessary capital improvements, with suggestions ranging from modest tax increases to alternative funding sources.

Management Concerns: Despite the support for preservation, some respondents expressed concerns about the library's current approach to management of the property, suggesting a need for an alternative method.

Key Insights from Additional Responses:

Support for Current Tenants: Respondents emphasize the importance of supporting current nonprofit tenants with long-term leases, enabling them to secure funding for improvements and continue their community services.

Library's Role: There is a common understanfing that the library should may not want to manage non-tradiional library buildings. Some respondents suggest selling the building to tenants or another entity, such as the City.

Community Engagement: Suggestions include enhancing the building's role as a community arts center, increasing community engagement, and developing more programs that connect the library with the community and local artists.

Transparency and Collaboration: Respondents stress the need for transparency from the library board and a collaborative approach with current tenants to devise a sustainable plan for the building.

Conclusion:

The community strongly prefers preserving the Coventry PEACE Building and maintaining its role as a cultural and educational hub. This broad alignment across multiple issues indicates a strong community consensus.