



# Underground Railroad Center Project

## The Oberlin Underground Railroad Center Project Update

The City of Oberlin's plan to preserve and reuse the historic Gasholder building/property as an Underground Railroad Center and Multi-Modal Transportation hub continues to progress. The 2002 NOACA (Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency) grant application, which was originally approved for \$1.14 million in transportation enhancement funds was reaffirmed in whole on April 16th, 2010. The City of Oberlin will be receiving \$917,600 (which requires \$229,400 in matching City funds) from NOACA. Phase I will consist of stabilization and rehabilitation of the historical gasholder building (completion date scheduled for spring-summer 2012), Phase II will consist of establishing a multi-modal Park-N-Ride facility and Phase III will consist of establishing an Underground Railroad Center.

Please continue to watch for upcoming Oberlin Underground Railroad Center (OURC) Project newsletters as a way to keep up with the regular Underground Railroad Center Implementation Team (URCIT) meetings. It is via this newsletter, as well as published committee minutes, and our Facebook™ page that we will continue to communicate the project's progress to those who may be unable to attend and participate in URCIT meetings and related events.

As the person coordinating efforts on this monumental and vital community project, I continue to invite and encourage you to contact me with any suggestions, questions, or concerns regarding the project (440-775-7217).

Warmest Regards,

*Darlene Colaso* (Assistant City Manager/Project Coordinator)

More OURC Project Info? Visit: [www.CityOfOberlin.com](http://www.CityOfOberlin.com)

## Timeline of Events from 01/11 - 12/11

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| <p>Jan '11 Silent fundraising campaign progressing. The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center approached City management with the idea of collaborating. MLK Jr. Day event a success! Request for "1889" to be placed on the Gasholder roof when it is replaced.</p> <p>Mar '11 A <i>Certificate of Appropriateness</i> for the "restoration/ rehabilitation of the exterior shell" of the Gasholder was unanimously approved by the Historic Preservation Commission.</p> <p>May '11 "Sneak Peek" events held during Oberlin College Commencement weekend with nearly 50 attendees viewing and touring the OURC! Bill Long Foundation grant awarded for a collaborative project with JVS to have students draft and construct an informational kiosk for the OURC Project.</p> <p>Jun '11 Planning Commission approved moving OURC signs closer to Rt. 58 for better visibility. Basement cleaning was completed; soil samples negative for toxic mold. Preparations made for construction documents for Phase 1— Exterior Rehabilitation and Stabilization of gasholder building. Another "Sneak Peek" event held during Juneteenth Celebration. Oberlin Rotary proposes bike shelter gift to OURC.</p> <p>Aug '11 NOACA and FHWA decide roof AND brick masonry work be done simultaneously in Phase 1. Fundraising efforts</p> | <p>increased to meet match for Phase 1 construction. Banner hung on building to allow photo opportunities after large OURC signs moved closer to Rt. 58. Donations continue to come into to meet funding match required for Phase 1 Construction.</p> <p>Sep '11 Charles Grigsby (former American Idol finalist) holds benefit concert for OURC Project.</p> <p>Oct '11 OURC Project goes out to bid: Bid comes in under estimated costs and is awarded to R.W. Clark Co. out of Cleveland. JVS students show kiosk prototype and more than 140 donations for project received to meet match for Phase 1 project construction!</p> <p>Nov '11 Construction begins on OURC roof. Oberlin College makes donation; writes letter of support for OURC project.</p> <p>Dec '11 Architect presents 3 potential site plans for URCIT to review. Planning sub-team working on helping OURC architect to finalize site and interior planning. Organizational sub-team continues to work on future operations planning. Fundraising sub-team working on an official fundraising kick-off event for Phase 2 matching funds.</p> |
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