

Dubuque Main Street is pleased to invite you to participate in a discussion of a vision for the future of the former St. Mary's parish buildings. There will be two opportunities to participate. The first meeting will take place at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 29, 2011 and the second meeting will be at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 3, 2011. Both meetings will be in the St. Mary's church building at 1584 White Street, Dubuque. The content of both meetings will be the same. You are free to attend one or both meetings. Each meeting is expected to last approximately 90 minutes.

Duane Hagerty, a graduate student pursuing his Master of Science in Historic Preservation at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, is preparing a feasibility study on the reuse of the former St. Mary's Church and its parish buildings. The principal aim of Mr. Hagerty's study is to propose several uses for the St. Mary's campus that will achieve the following goals:

1. Preservation of the history, architecture and art of the parish buildings, most importantly the church building;
2. Utilization of the buildings on a daily basis by a variety of users;
3. Economic self-sustainability; and
4. Contribution to Washington Neighborhood revitalization.

St. Mary's parish was an anchor to the north side of Dubuque. While the closing of St. Mary's was a great loss to the city and to the Washington Neighborhood, the memory of St. Mary's glorious past and the beautiful structures that remain provide a unique opportunity to create something that could once again be a strong asset to the community and a catalyst for renewal of the neighborhood. None of this will be possible without input from neighborhood residents, representatives from arts, culture, social services, education and preservation organizations and members of the business community. Therefore, your participation in this planning process is key to finding a reuse for St. Mary's.

The event will include a presentation on the history of St. Mary's and the significance of its art and architecture. The group will then split up into smaller groups to brainstorm ideas for new uses for the St. Mary's buildings. After that, the larger group will reconvene to have a general discussion of about the ideas raised by each group. The ideas generated will be used to develop several proposals that will be included in Mr. Hagerty's feasibility study. You have a unique opportunity to participate in planning for the future of the former St. Mary's buildings and the Washington Neighborhood.

We hope that each of you will attend this very important event. Please RSVP by November 28 2011 by emailing Duane Hagerty at DuaneHagerty@gmail.com.