

County of Union Purchases

\$6 Million in Renovations Planned for Downtown Rahway Landmark

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders announced improvements designed to modernize and update the Union County Arts Center (UCAC) in Rahway so that it can present quality entertainment on a year-round basis.

"We are looking forward to working with the Board of Trustees of the Union County Arts Center in beginning work," said Freeholder Deborah Scanlon, who chairs the Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust fund. "The revitalization of this historic landmark is also to further elevate and establish the Union County Arts Center as a premier Northern New Jersey performing arts venue."

Rahway Mayor James J. Kennedy added the county's investment in the UCAC is the centerpiece of a major revitalization in Downtown Rahway.

"Part of the role of government is to spur economic

development, create new jobs and opportunities for our residents," Mayor Kennedy said. "The County's investment in the Arts Center is helping to bring about that revitalization in Rahway. One only needs to look at the success of similar endeavors across New Jersey."

Kennedy pointed to examples in Newark, where NJPAC has been credited with helping to spur prosperity in that city's downtown, and also in Red Bank and New Brunswick, where public investment in the arts has spurred a renaissance.

The Union County Arts Center is the jewel of the recently established Arts District in the City of Rahway and a key to Rahway's redevelopment. The Downtown area is undergoing a \$100 million redevelopment project that will create new jobs and business, increase ratables, and create new housing for all Union County

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Richard Stender, president of the Union County Arts Center Board of Trustees (center, third from left) presents Union County Freeholder Chairman Al Mirabella (right) with the key to the arts center during a ceremony marking the County of Union's purchase of the theater prior to a show at the historic landmark. Rahway Mayor James Kennedy (left), Freeholder Deborah Scanlon and Freeholder Chester Holmes (fourth from left, back) also participated in the ceremony. The theater will be renovated to include air conditioning, which will permit year-round use of the facility.



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