

Questions for CERSC

Building and Meetings

Why did you initially present yourself to the community as Haymarket Books and not as CERSC and its various entities?

Haymarket Books is our most well-known project publicly and accounts for the bulk of our annual revenue and expenditure. Additionally, Haymarket's catalog includes titles that reflect the politics and perspectives outlined and highlighted in the other projects of CERSC. Since Haymarket Books is such a well-known name, especially in Chicago, we often hold ourselves out as Haymarket Books to the public for ease of recognition.

What are your plans for the building?

Our plans for the building are two-fold. The first is the conversion of the first floor into a meeting space that would be open to the public on a reservation basis and would host the programming of Haymarket Books. The second is to house the offices of CERSC, including Haymarket Books, in the remaining floors and coach house.

What type of meetings will you hold and how often?

Haymarket Books will be hosting events on the first floor to coincide with book releases and author tours. We anticipate meetings that will attract the maximum capacity of 100 persons to take place once a month on average. The presentations will be largely book events with our authors that coincide with a book's release and involve lectures on the topic of the book, readings from the book or a combination lecture/readings. We also anticipate holding a number of cultural events as well, including film showings, poetry readings, and book discussions.

The first floor space will also be available to the community at large to reserve and hold events on a reservation basis. We will charge a fee for this service on a sliding scale, with discounts for Buena Park residents and organizations. We anticipate reservations for this use by the local neighbors association, the Alderman's office and local condo associations to name a few.

How many meetings have held over the last two or three years? What were the topics, presenters and the number of attendees?

Our meetings over the last few years have revolved around the release of new titles by Haymarket Books and tours by our authors. In the last year this has included book events with former Chicago Bulls star and Haymarket author Craig Hodges on his autobiography Long Shot, Chicago native and poet Kevin Coval on the People's History of Chicago, investigative journalist Allison Flowers on the release of her book Exoneree Diaries, and Mark Wilkerson on Thomas Young's War, to name a few. The totality of these book events number around 20 in the Chicago area each year and have been held at smaller venues like book stores.

Additionally, Haymarket Books, in conjunction with the Lannan Foundation, has sponsored a Chicago based speakers series that brings leading authors and critical thinkers in

conversation to local audiences. In the past year this has meant events with Keeanga Yamahtta-Taylor, Noam Chomsky, Angela Davis, Michelle Alexander and Naomi Klein. As these events attract a large audience, they are held at venues that can accommodate their attendance. We have previously held events of this size at locations like the Newberry Library, Rockefeller Chapel at the University of Chicago, Thorne Auditorium and the Auditorium Theatre. While we anticipate continuing this speaker series into the future, those events will continue to be held at larger venues.

Please tell us about your security plans for any meetings that might be contentious?

The safety and security of the Buena Park neighborhood will of course be of our utmost concern and we will consider all measures to ensure that safety. This will entail discussions with the community to address any security concerns should they arise. In 15 years of doing events we have never had a security concern at any of our events.

How will you handle events, so they do not infringe on the neighborhood?

We are mindful of being good neighbors as we move into the building and plan our future events. This will of necessity require us to be conscientious of the needs of our neighbors as well and to consider such things as traffic and congestion in the neighborhood. In furtherance of that effort we have hired a traffic consultant to conduct a study of the impact to the community of our proposed use so that we can be mindful of how to plan events to minimize those impacts as much as possible.

Parking

Please share with us your plans to deal with parking for when you have larger events in the community center

We are conducting a traffic study for this purpose. Our current plans include providing information on local parking options that direct attendees to park at the paid parking lots at Brennerman School and Disney Magnet School. These lots are administered by Black & White Limo and are pay for use lots.

Renovation and Plans for the Building and Grounds

What are your plans for the future of the building?

CERSC's plans for the building include a sizeable expenditure to renovate and remodel the main building. This includes a new roof and substantial masonry work to the exterior of the building for maintenance purposes (including the coach house). The interior of the building will undergo some remodeling and upgrading. The first floor will be converted into a large meeting room (accommodating approximately 100 people), a library/reading room and a smaller conference room (approximately 30 people). The second and third floor of the building, as well as the coach house, will not undergo substantial remodeling as it is already conducive to our use for office space. We hope to install an elevator as well for ADA compliance purposes to the upper and lower levels.

Will you renovate?

See above.

If so, how much?

The renovations will be primarily to the exterior of the building (maintenance) and the interior of the first floor of the main building.

What are your plans for the coach house?

The Coach House will be additional office space and storage for CERSC.

What guarantee do we have that CERSC will not tear down the building?

The community has our assurance that CERSC will not tear down the building. It is our intention to maintain the beautiful building that exists there and to make it available to the community to use as a meeting and events space in addition to hosting our literary/cultural/artistic events.

Do you wish to take advantage of the tax freeze program which may require you to retain period moldings, doors, fireplaces, columns, etc., if they currently exist?

We will discuss this matter with our attorneys as we had not considered its availability or applicability until now.

What are your plans for the grounds?

The grounds will continue to be maintained as is. In the summer months it will be an additional space that can host events or community gatherings on a reservation basis.

CERSC

How many employees do you have?

CERSC has 24 employees currently.

How many will be on site each day?

CERSC has 16 employees that work in Chicago that will use the building daily.

How will you handle security at the building?

The building currently has a security system that we will continue to use.

What are your reasons for locating a commercial business in our residential neighborhood?

The 800 W. Buena building has been continually used as a school or home to some non-profit organization continually for over 70 years. Given this history of continued non-residential use and our plans, we felt the building was ideally suited for our purposes. The building is already organized into numerous small offices on the second and third floor so it requires very little change for us to be able to utilize it for our offices. Additionally, the first floor space is conducive to the type of programming we envision for our authors and books. The building's

current use and its prospects for the type of literary/cultural/artistic programming we envision make it ideal for those purposes.

What are the benefits you will provide directly to Buena Park?

The primary benefit to the community will be the locating of a literary/cultural/artistic venue in the heart of Buena Park. This space will be made available to the community at large for the first time in its history and we will improve and maintain the building for future generations to come.