



Contact: Roseann Scibilia, Executive Director
Telephone: 716-832-1010 x201
Email: r.scibilia@udcda.org

For Immediate Release

The University District Community Development Associations, Inc. Receives Funding to Renovate the Uptown Theatre on Bailey Avenue

The University District Community Development Association and Uptown Theatre were awarded a \$150,000 grant through the New York State's 3rd Annual Regional Economic Development Council Awards. The funds will be used to rehabilitate the theatre located at 3165 Bailey Avenue. The Theatre was built in 1926, when it was originally known as "The Varsity," and served as an anchor for the neighborhood for many years, before falling into disrepair. The current owner, Ibrahim Cissé, purchased the theatre in 2010. At that time, he put approximately \$85,000.00 into the building to bring it into working condition and to rehabilitate the office from which he runs a computer business. However, the theatre is still in need of rehabilitation work to allow the public to use it comfortably. Central to this is an upgraded heating and cooling system, to bring the theatre up to code and to provide proper ventilation so that the approximately 630 seats can be comfortable occupied. The possible uses for this theatre are many and varied.

The University District Community Development Association, Inc. runs youth programs that would utilize the theatre space for its programming. In addition, the Theatre is adjacent to a new early childhood center and a block away from the Westminster Charter School. The Theatre will serve both of these institutions for school events and performances. Most importantly it will provide a most needed events venue to the community.

The University District Community Development Association, Inc. is a non-profit corporation concerned with housing & human services to improve the quality of life in the University District and surrounding neighborhoods. We offer a comprehensive variety of services and programs to identify and resolve issues and empower residents in improving community needs. We accomplish this through the actions of a partnership of stakeholders: volunteers, government, private funders and community organizations. These actions are undertaken for the benefit of the residents, businesses and property owners of the entire University District Community.

On Thursday, February 27th, 2014, at 2:00 P.M., the University District Community Development Association Inc., Bailey Avenue Business Association, Inc., & Ibrahim Cissé will have a presentation & photo session at the Uptown Theatre located at 3165 Bailey Avenue, Buffalo N.Y. 14215.

For more information about this topic, please contact Roseann Scibilia by calling 716-832-1010, or e-mail

r.scibilia@udcda.org.