



STANLEY CHURCH UPDATE

Borough Council Meeting
4/12/2021



STANLEY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,
CHATHAM, N.J.

HISTORY

- ❖ Stanley Congregation approached the Borough in the spring of 2019 about donating the building.
- ❖ Building donated to Chatham Borough in early 2020
- ❖ Included \$350,000 for improvements and maintenance
- ❖ Desire is for the building to be used as a community resource

WORK TO DATE

- ❖ Submitted request for the building to be considered for state and national registry of historic places
- ❖ Borough submitted for a county historic preservation planning grant
- ❖ First public use will begin this week – Public Arts Council will move mural project to the parish hall
- ❖ Obtaining quotes to update replace heating system, add air conditioning, and measures to improve energy efficiency

POTENTIAL USES

- ❖ Community meeting space
- ❖ Concerts / plays
- ❖ Classes or rehearsal spaces (yoga, music, etc.)
- ❖ Large events – weddings, receptions, dances
- ❖ Rentable office space
- ❖ Youth center
- ❖ Before/after school programming
- ❖ Art exhibits
- ❖ ... many others

VIDEO TOUR OF THE BUILDING

OTHER ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

- ❖ Revenue options / financial sustainability
- ❖ Fundraising
- ❖ Management structure
- ❖ Staffing
- ❖ Remodeling
- ❖ Inventory and plan for fixtures/furnishings/etc.

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

- ❖ Visit and meet with other community centers (YMCA, Madison community house, various teen centers, etc.)
- ❖ Survey Borough residents
- ❖ Speak with school district, student groups, PTO, library, senior center, neighboring towns, and other Chatham organizations about unmet needs
- ❖ Form subgroups to flesh out specific ideas (e.g., youth center, events)
- ❖ Periodic reports to the community with opportunities for feedback

STEERING COMMITTEE

- ❖ Seeking volunteers for steering committee
- ❖ Expertise in key areas would be helpful
 - ❖ Large event planning (weddings, conferences.)
 - ❖ Commercial leasing or real estate
 - ❖ Community event programming
- ❖ Representatives of different potential user groups (teens, fitness instructors, seniors, etc.) would also be helpful
 - ❖ Would like at least 1 or 2 students to work on youth center and youth programming ideas

HOW TO VOLUNTEER

- ❖ Submit a volunteer application to the Borough Clerk (on our web site)
- ❖ Please include information about special skills and interests that you can contribute to the group
- ❖ Be prepared to put in 1-2 hours per week on research, outreach, interviews, data collection, etc.
- ❖ Candidates will be interviewed
- ❖ *... if you don't have time to volunteer, there will be many other ways to provide input, including a community-wide survey, workshops, and focus groups.*



QUESTIONS?