



For Immediate Release

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HYDE SQUARE TASK FORCE SEEKS PROPOSALS FROM REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS TO PRESERVE HISTORIC BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH

Jamaica Plain, Mass. (June 11, 2019) –Hyde Square Task Force has put out a request for proposals to preserve the historic Blessed Sacrament Church site with innovative approaches to revive the Jamaica Plain landmark through a combination of usages.

The proposals are central to HSTF’s complex task of balancing restoration, community needs, and performing arts space. required to ensure the project and HSTF embark on a financially sustainable initiative with far-reaching benefits to the neighborhood and the city.

“HSTF looks forward to identifying qualified and accomplished development partner(s) to work with in the re-programming and redevelopment of the Blessed Sacrament Church site in Jamaica Plain,” the proposal states. “While we appreciate the value of this prominent 'JP' locale, we fully understand the challenges ahead in addressing the physical and financial redevelopment of the site. As such, we welcome proposals from competent and enthusiastic developers and look forward to selecting the best team members to support this vital community project.”

The RFP was distributed today and the organization expects to receive proposals by August 16. The task force will hold a meeting in July to inform and engage with the Hyde Square community on the RFP selection, project timeline, and ongoing process.

HSTF purchased the landmark Blessed Sacrament Church in 2014. Studies and records indicate that the property has been in disrepair since as far back as 1991 and data gathered by the organization have developed a cost estimate of approximately \$20 million to restore the structural integrity of the building, and another \$4 to \$5 million to make the building operational as a community space.

The prohibitive nature of the costs led HSTF to conduct a lengthy fact-finding period, speaking with community members and other stakeholders, as well as more than a dozen experts in the fields of real estate development, historic preservation and non-profit management.

The top priority outlined in the RFP is the establishment of community space in the church building.

“A critical component of the HSTF’s core mission includes the creation and access to significant and functional performance and event spaces,” the RFP says. “This our first priority when determining the re-use of the existing Church asset. This space would ideally accommodate approximately 250 people and ideally would be pronounced by a prominent entrance from Centre Street.”

For more information about the ongoing work to preserve the Church of the Blessed Sacrament, please visit www.hydesquare.org .

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