

Save Peace Memorial Auditorium

Remembrance.

It's what voters had in mind in 1946 when they encouraged their friends & neighbors to support a bond to build Peace Memorial Auditorium as a living memorial to the 2,610 Riley Countians who served in World War II, with special recognition for the 101 who did not return from the war. The World War II memorial is not a statue, a monument, or a plaque. The auditorium *is* the memorial.

Permanence.

Peace Memorial Auditorium was completed in 1955, featuring high quality acoustics in a venue designed to host veteran events & all manner of cultural & other events for the community. Manhattan's citizens expected Peace Memorial Auditorium to "long endure as a living memorial to our beloved dead." There is no expiration date when it comes to honoring America's veterans & war dead.

Threatened.

Over the decades, our community lost sight of why Peace Memorial Auditorium was built, eventually taking "Peace Memorial" out of its name and calling it "City Auditorium." City Commissioners recently approved spending \$2.95 million to replace the auditorium's fixed seating with Parks and Rec. Dept. offices & to replace the stage with basketball courts, effectively destroying the auditorium & the World War II memorial.



Why?

Peace Memorial Auditorium has been targeted for the location of Parks and Rec. Dept. offices & new basketball courts because the space has been rarely rented in recent years. Why? The auditorium was completed in 1955 & hasn't been improved since. The auditorium has no A/C, stage lights have been removed, broken seats go unrepaired, the electrical system hasn't been upgraded, & the handicapped lift isn't maintained. A neglected auditorium becomes an undesirable space & results in its being underutilized. Why not use the space for something else? Because the auditorium *is* the memorial & because there are other viable options that would provide for improved offices & an improved auditorium.

Solution.

Another option for improved Parks and Rec. Dept. offices involved building new offices in City Park for \$1.5 million. New offices could be built in City Park or elsewhere at City Hall at a lower cost. From the \$2.95 million dedicated for the current option, there would be funds left to restore Peace Memorial Auditorium to its former glory. Parks and Rec. Dept. offices would be improved, the World War II memorial auditorium would be restored & enhanced, & both projects would be accomplished in a financially sensible manner. After all, the auditorium *is* the memorial.

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Kansas Chapter
American Legion Pearce-Keller Post 17
Manhattan/Riley County Preservation
Alliance



Be Involved.

Come to the City
Commission
meeting.

Sept. 3, 7:00 p.m.
City Hall, 1101 Poyntz Ave.



Support.

We support seeking alternate options for improved Parks & Rec. Dept. offices & restoration of Peace Memorial Auditorium.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1786
Flint Hills Veterans Coalition
League of Women Voters of
Manhattan/Riley County
Manhattan Jaycees
Freedom Girls Foundation