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PRESS RELEASE

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Historic Municipal Auditorium Makes Grand Re-opening

The highly anticipated grand re-opening of the historic Municipal Auditorium is set for April 3 with Mayor Cedric Glover leading an all-star cast of public officials, entertainers and private citizens anxious to get the first look at the \$5.3 million renovation.

The big, public party starts at 4:30 p.m. at the Grand Promenade on Elvis Presley Boulevard and will include building tours, door prizes and "auditorium appetizers." The festivities will wrap up around 7:30 p.m., allowing plenty of time for people to stop by after work.

"The public is absolutely invited to come out and take a good look at this beautiful building and the outstanding restoration that's been accomplished thanks to the faith they put in us by passing the 2011 bond issue," Mayor Glover said.

The 2011 bond issue set aside \$4.3 million to renovate the Municipal. That figure was later revised to \$5.3 million after the city applied for funding through the state historic rehabilitation tax credits program.

The additional funding allowed several more phases of work to move forward in order to address various needed repairs discovered as work progressed. Those items included replacement of the upper level seating; replacement of the clerestory windows and providing shades so that they can be closed only when needed for performances; and cosmetic repairs such as plaster and painting throughout the building.

The Municipal Auditorium is listed with the U.S. Department of the Interior as a national landmark for being the home of the legendary Louisiana Hayride and for its distinctive architecture.

The renovations will bring the building into compliance with all accessibility requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as well as provide improvements to areas such as seating, flooring and air conditioning.

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