

Armory Update

November 2018



REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI):

The State has recently released an RFI to solicit responses from developers, businesses, institutions and non-profits that are interested in redeveloping the Cranston Street Armory. Additionally, this information will assist the Armory Steering Committee in understanding the range of concepts that may be feasible to include in a Request for Proposals (RFP) that will be issued in a few months.

At the request of the community, the due date for responses to the RFI is January 25, 2019. The RFI is available on the State of Rhode Island Purchases website: www.purchases.ri.gov or cranstonstreetarmory.org.

PUBLIC MEETING ON THE ARMORY:

On September 17, 2018, nearly 100 people from the community attended a public information meeting hosted by the West Broadway Neighborhood Association. Officials from the Rhode Island Department of Administration (which has care and control of the Armory) presented an update on the re-use planning process. A lengthy discussion included many questions from the audience and an insistence that communication on the Armory planning process be shared more broadly across the community. The State and Steering Committee members committed to developing and implementing a plan to ensure better com-

munication. The Steering Committee itself will be expanded to include representatives from community groups that desire to have their voices heard.

The Cranston Street Armory Reuse Plan Interim Report was presented by Utile, the consultant firm on the project. The interim report is available at cranstonstreetarmory.org. Questions from the audience were fielded. The report includes a summary of reuse ideas generated by the community at past public meetings & events. Successful examples of armory re-use developments across the country were also shared.

The Armory Steering Committee continues to meet monthly; most recently October 23, 2018. Several new members to the Committee were present including Dwayne Keys (South Broadway Neighborhood Association), Lesley Bunnell (neighborhood resident), Oscar Mejias (RI Hispanic Chamber of Commerce). Rep Anastasia Williams, Senator-elect Sam Bell, and City Councilor-elect Rachel Miller were also on hand.

The role of Committee members in keeping their respective constituencies informed was emphasized.