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Gordon Square Theatre gets \$200,000 from state for asbestos removal

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Tom Breckenridge, The Plain Dealer
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Dancers rehearse at the Gordon Square Theatre in 2005. The Ohio Department of Development today said it was providing \$200,000 for removal of asbestos from the theater's ceiling.

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- Federal stimulus money will help with the continued renovation of the Cleveland Public Theatre, in Cleveland's Detroit-Shoreway neighborhood.

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The Ohio Department of Development said today that \$200,000 from a new fund to clean up and revitalize historic sites is headed to the theater, for asbestos removal.

The theater is part of the historic Gordon Square Arts District, which has seen a multimillion-dollar redevelopment in recent years.

The new money should pay for asbestos removal in the ceiling of Gordon Square Theatre, one of three performance venues that constitute Cleveland Public Theatre, said general manager Denis Griesmer.

The work is scheduled from January to March, when the Gordon Square Theatre is typically closed, Griesmer said.

The project will not only make the building safer, but will also help in the job-generating restoration of the neighborhood, state development Director Lisa Patt-McDaniel said in a news release

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Asbestos is best left alone and encapsulated. If it must be removed, it is a tedious, painstaking process if done properly. It is often performed in tented or sealed environmental sections. I have seen the remediation techs partying in mechanical rooms where noone else is allowed. Often change orders flare up with a health skull and crossbone type of message at the heading. One will find the number of remediation techs that are ex-cons, populate their trade more than any other trade by a wide margin. I have always been suspicious of this trade after watching them the way I have. I feel these techs can be manipulated by the contractor in many different ways.


This is why I ask if we have the remediation records of the Ameritrust Building and if there were change orders. Just suspicious...

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Well, cons built the exact theaters that are now being renovated so it makes sense. Chances are, they will pay about \$50,000 out for the job and pocket the rest.

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 **daveln** July 15, 2010 at 12:15AM [Follow](#)


Actually, this project will allow some necessary renovations to take place without exposing workers and building occupants from most of the harmful asbestos fibers that would be released when doing things like installing insulation, moving partitions, cutting in new air conditioning ductwork and grilles, etc. Removing the asbestos-contaminated materials is a good thing, and if performed properly, provides reasonable jobs to relatively unskilled workers.

The Ameritrust Building has huge amounts of asbestos that still needs to be removed. As far as I know, only a few floors have been cleaned so far, but the whole building will need to be abated prior to reuse or demolition - and as I have stated in a previous post, the curtain wall requires more complicated additional asbestos removal - making the overall cost of asbestos abatement higher for demolition than it is for reuse of the building.


David Ellison, resident architect of CPT and Green Party candidate for County Executive

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