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PRESS RELEASE

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Municipal Update Tour Set for Monday

Mayor Cedric Glover and SPAR Director Shelly Ragle are preparing a progress report on upgrades being made to the historic Municipal Auditorium.

The media tour is scheduled for Monday, November 11, at 11 a.m. at the Municipal, 705 Grand Ave. This date is also significant because it falls on Veterans Day 2013, which is the 84th anniversary of the day the building opened and dedicated as a memorial to the "soldiers and sailors of the World War."

The original project budget was \$4.3 million. That figure was revised to \$5.3 million after the city applied for funding through the state historic rehabilitation tax credits program.

The additional funding has created the potential to accomplish many of the things presented but unfunded in the programming phase of the work. It also addresses various needed repairs discovered as work has progressed. These items include:

- Replacement of the upper level (Dress Circle and Balcony) seating.
- Replacement of the clerestory windows and providing shades so that they can be closed only when needed for performances.
- Cosmetic repairs including plaster repair 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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