

Highlights of the new board up program

It is the intent to submit a new RFP to secure contractors for boarding services.

The commitment for the 'better board-up' program, is to use one (1) of these three (3) methods in securing a vacant structure:

1. Security Board-Up: majority of these would be for structures pending review for demolition or scheduled for demolition. The boards used would be cut-to-fit sized for the openings, without paint or stencils on the wood.
2. Place Making Board-Up: a potential rehab property or potential demolition project candidate. The structure would be reviewed and determined by personnel for either scenario, and secured appropriately with cut-to-fit boards, sized for the openings, with one (1) solid color paint on the wood (white, charcoal, or black).
3. Preservation Board-Up: structures with the intent to preserve them for rehab and development. Examples include former libraries, post offices, corner commercial & residential store-fronts, VFW posts, etc. The structures will be secured with sanded hardwood boards, painted with a solid color, with a stencil or graphic laid on top of the solid color.

The smooth boards will have either a graphic or a resin type stencil, painted with a pneumatic paint sprayer.

The background will be a grey color with a view of window cross panels and curtains in white. Structures identified for preservation with the intent to rehab for development, on major corridors or thoroughfares, or in prominent locations with high visibility from the public, have the potential to partner with the Arts Commission on placement of public artwork on the boards. There is a substantial cost involved with this preservation board-up, and will be an infrequent option.

Under the current RFP, contractors involved in board-ups on behalf of the City are charging within a range of \$45.00 to \$130.00 per board. This charge includes the cost of labor and materials. A 4 x 8 sheet of rough pressboard or OSB costs approximately \$8-\$12 dollars (depending on market value for lumber), while a sanded hardwood board costs approximately \$16-\$20 dollars (depending on market value for lumber).

This process will not usurp any State of Ohio codes or regulations on securing vacant structures, and will not be a hindrance to the fire department in the event of an emergency.

Funding allocation for the program will be determined after the RFP's are submitted by contractors, and the costs are reviewed by internal staff.

Though Code enforcement will determine the fate of a Place Making board-up, with regards to houses that have the potential rehab or for demo, they welcome all input from Council Members regarding specific projects and properties of concern. Requests for preservation board-ups will be determined by the end-ownership or usability of a structure, and will be a cooperative judgement call between the Administration and Council.