



What do you appreciate most about the Historic Keturah Hotel / MACK (Building) from a historic perspective?

- I love how this beautiful structure graces our Main Street.
- The outside design
- The convenience of having an arts center in McCormick... I love it!
- The history it preserves
- The historic nature of the building and the programs the MACK offers
- that it has been preserved so well
- It's wonderful to have this building and it's personal & history available for visitors to learn about, as well as the community having access to it.
- Colonial Revival style of the Keturah since few buildings were constructed in this style during the late 1880s to early 1900s.
- Nothing from a historic perspective; perhaps you should educate us
- The very fact that is a historic building
- role in town development.....architecture.....location
- It retains its physical fetuses but also is functional
- in addition to the outside facade, the interior moldings, floors, entry give a certain charm to the MACK
- Art shows of local artist's works and art classes
- It provides historical perspective to the entire railroad town corridor. Keeping the exterior like it looked and repurposing interior space that preserves some of its past as a hotel should be priorities.
- Still standing and location
- Brings a little oasis of art and arts education programing into this cultural desert, and helps to build something of community of arts appreciation. It's a wonderful showcase for local and regional artists.
- Overall atmosphere
- The beauty of the building as an anchor to downtown McCormick.
- Preserving the past
- Keeping it historical in design while making it user friendly for community and visitors- it is a gem!
- The attractive frontage on S. Main st.
- The fact that it is a historic building that is regularly updated and improved is important along with the fact that it serves the entire community.
- It conforms to the historic look up the town
- It reflects a significant period of time in McCormick's history in a solid, faithful design.
- The beautiful brick and architecture of the era in which it was built.
- The fact that it's being preserved and serves as a city and county learning facility

- The community has a place to see and participate and enjoy in the many aspects of art.
- Knowing that the building was a hotel in the past and now is being used as an art center.
- The appearance of the building fits downtown McCormick.
- The fact that it is a historical part of McCormick!
- That it is well preserved and repurposed
- It is part of the history of McCormick! In today climate of people trying to erase our history - it needs to be preserved!
- The overall look of the building.
- It is well cared for.
- The role it has played in McCormick - just imagining visitors, salesmen and others coming off the train to spend the night in the hotel, is exciting to think about.
- It's historic "look". the park space in back
- I like the fact that it is a historic hotel. When you walk into it you can imagine what each room was like when it was used as a hotel. I personally like the story of the "drummers" who came to McCormick. You may want to consider just a small plaque that names the rooms??
- I appreciate it being part of American train heritage.
- Historic facade as it fits the nature of the community. Location in middle of town. Gift shop accessible when attending art shows and classes. Reverse also true with "gallery" open when visiting gift shop.
- I appreciate the history of the MACK and the fact that it is being kept up.
- The building offers heritage, history and sound foundation for the community
- I feel historic buildings tell stories of our beginnings that we all need to know and am so excited about the renovations for the MACK.
- It is at the heart of our small town, and it has served this community as a center for art and history!
- Preserving an areas/town history and historical architecture and tying the Arts in makes a complete story/packages when selling your programs to the community and surrounding regions.
- Historic sites should always be preserved if possible. It is part of what makes a town special.
- The beautiful woodwork, original floors and high ceilings that make the rooms feel so spacious.
- Its historic charm - holding on to the original aspects of the building
- I love old buildings. The house I grew up in was over 100 years old. The church my dad had was founded prior to the formation of the United States. It has 3 Tiffany windows and many historic individuals buried in its surroundings. The college I went to was housed in the old homes of Pennsylvania coal barons. So the MACK, with its unlevel wood floors and skinny staircase, is just wonderful to me and, unfortunately, oh so non-compliant with any state or federal regulations.
- What I appreciate most it the insight of how the hotel connects you to the life of the past. The space feels as if you are being transferred back into the origins of the hotel. I love the atmosphere and I feel as if I do my best work in the building.
- Youth activities
- Always glad to see history maintained for future generations. The venue is a plus for McCormick. It would be better if there was easier access--one way street, fence, parking, etc. It's too bad there is an eye sore next door.
- that it's been so well preserved and repurposed

What program, function, activity, or opportunity would you like to be able to accommodate at the MACK when it reopens that cannot be currently accommodated?

- Classes requiring “bulkier” supplies or set-ups; large gatherings and social events built around an art theme.
- Larger craft groups
- handicap access to classes on 2nd floor
- With improved lighting and size of rooms, I hope to help set up a glass studio & workshop.
- Larger gallery space. Multiple classroom spaces. Room that can be used for musical/theatrical presentations.
- Dinner book club discussion; piano recitals; First Friday artist receptions
- dedicated space for children's classes and others so that more than one activity can go on at the same time
- performing arts....music, dance, theatre on stage in park
- Sunday's at Four performances
- Dance programs
- Artisan's works
- I am unsure what sorts of events that present difficulties in hosting. Does the greater McCormick County community have needs that are unmet for which the Keturah might be of use?
- Large dinner parties. Meeting rooms.
- As the 22 year editor of The Spoon River Poetry Review and 30 year Director of Creative and Professional Writing and Comparative Literature and 16 years on the Illinois Arts Council/Literature Panel and Illinois Humanities Council, and a judge for the National Endowment of the Arts, and recipient of 40 program grants for the journal totaling \$300,000+, and as a recipient of more than 1/2 million in grants, prizes, awards, fellowships for my own work, and having given more than 6000 poetry/literary readings and lectures in virtually every state and 9 countries--I can tell you with authority that the very best venues for literary and dramatic performance is TA DA: in ART Galleries! I arranged at least 1000 readings and master classes in Illinois State University's art gallery, often co-ordinating the featured art/artists with the poet, prose writer. When David Wojnarowicz came to campus and exhibited his work, I invited an AIDS gathering of poets and writers and we had two days of art and literature programming that bounced kinetic energy through and at more than 5000 people over two days in the galleries that spilled into coopted spaces in other buildings, coffeeshops and the two bookstores. Other readings were smaller, 20 to 300. All had receptions. Often I put the writers and poets at my home to save budget money. The MACK could do a small version of this: If you had an art exhibit that featured birds, I bet I and others regionally and locally have multiple bird writings. Or: And I have done this as well on a local and a national level where the works of art accompanied by the poems they inspired were exhibited in a traveling caravan for two years in national galleries across the U.S. I have three works of art in my home accompanied by the poems I wrote. I bought the paintings, framed the poems. I was part of a Women in the Arts grant from the National Endowment for the Arts in conjunction with the state arts councils in several midwestern states that did all this. The first exhibit was in Woman Made gallery in Chicago. But the MACK could do something like this on a smaller regional scale. It could involve children as well. I have done this with children in the public schools and also in three At-Risk schools, one in the Watts area of Los Angeles where the 13 to 15 years olds were given false names for identity protection. My session with them lasted 4 hours: we created a poem from Franz Marc's "The Large Blue Horses" and with the school computer (this was in the early nineties) the students made a poetry broadside and everybody signed their fake names and mine all over it and got a print to take to wherever and whatever home was. The girl who never said

one word in the 3 hour session did all the computer work and she turned on like a lightbulb with electrical excitement. I would be happy to work with the MACK on any or all of these things.

- Pottery, more adult painting classes
- Would be nice if classes could be held at the building instead of offsite
- More space for gathering for artist exhibits and programs.
- We enjoy the artist's dinners outside on the back patio. The inside art exhibits are very congested.....would be nice to have more space to socialize and view the art.
- We enjoy the art shows along with having the store available. I am not artistic but have enjoyed a photography class. Perhaps a broad offering of topics for adult classes would be well received.
- Would like more offered with a venue of classical music ...Perhaps a cocktail party with a string quartet? Concerts in the park with more handicap facilities and easier access to the park.Can better parking be considered?
- More spacious area for group sessions - whether for classes or dining options; a private conference room; a dedicated cleanup station (painting or pottery classes);
- I enjoy the open air patio behind the MACK, and the activities you have hosted there without the inconvenience of bad weather.
- Piano, Guitar, Dance Lessons. Loved the First Friday events, Dinners, Luncheons, Teas. Art Library (small reading room)
- modern art work stations and handicap accommodations
- The MACK could use a better ceramic program. Currently the MACK does not have a designated ceramics area or room and all the pottery has to be fired off site and hauled back. A specific location for kilns to fire the pottery would be a great asset so that programs could be offered for all ages. The way it is currently most of the tools and equipment, beyond just the bare basics , are brought in by the instructor. When pottery pieces have been created in a class, workshop or art camp the instructor has to carefully box them up to be taken off site for the firing and then returned. Pottery usually requires two firings, one to harden it and then the second to mature the glazes as a finished piece. Having a designated ceramics area or room also help keep contamination of other art materials (pastel dust, graphite dust and paint dribbles)from getting in the clay and the clay dust out of the paints. Individuals visiting the art center are usually interested in seeing separate designated areas for the creation of the different major mediums. A ceramics area would be a great addition like a wing, on the back of the building leading to the garden, then the kilns would not be located in the older part of the building .
- Space for multiple programs or classes. There's a lot you could do program wise that just isn't feasible now with the space. It would be nice if the building could be opened up a bit more in areas for larger art shows or things like yoga classes, paint and pours, mini theater?
- Would love a pottery group or use of a kiln.
- classes available to those with disabilities
- Not sure
- Drawing and Painting for beginners
- Educational activities of all types.
- Since I'm not really familiar, I can say what I would enjoy having: outdoor concerts in that wonderful amphitheater, art classes in several mediums, social events centered around particulars artists or exhibits.
- I would like to have use of the meeting space periodically for personal business. Perhaps you do this already and I am just not aware of it. There are few places to go to sit and have a short meeting with someone in this town. I sometimes use the library which is nice. I am thinking of a meeting with two or three people who may be planning

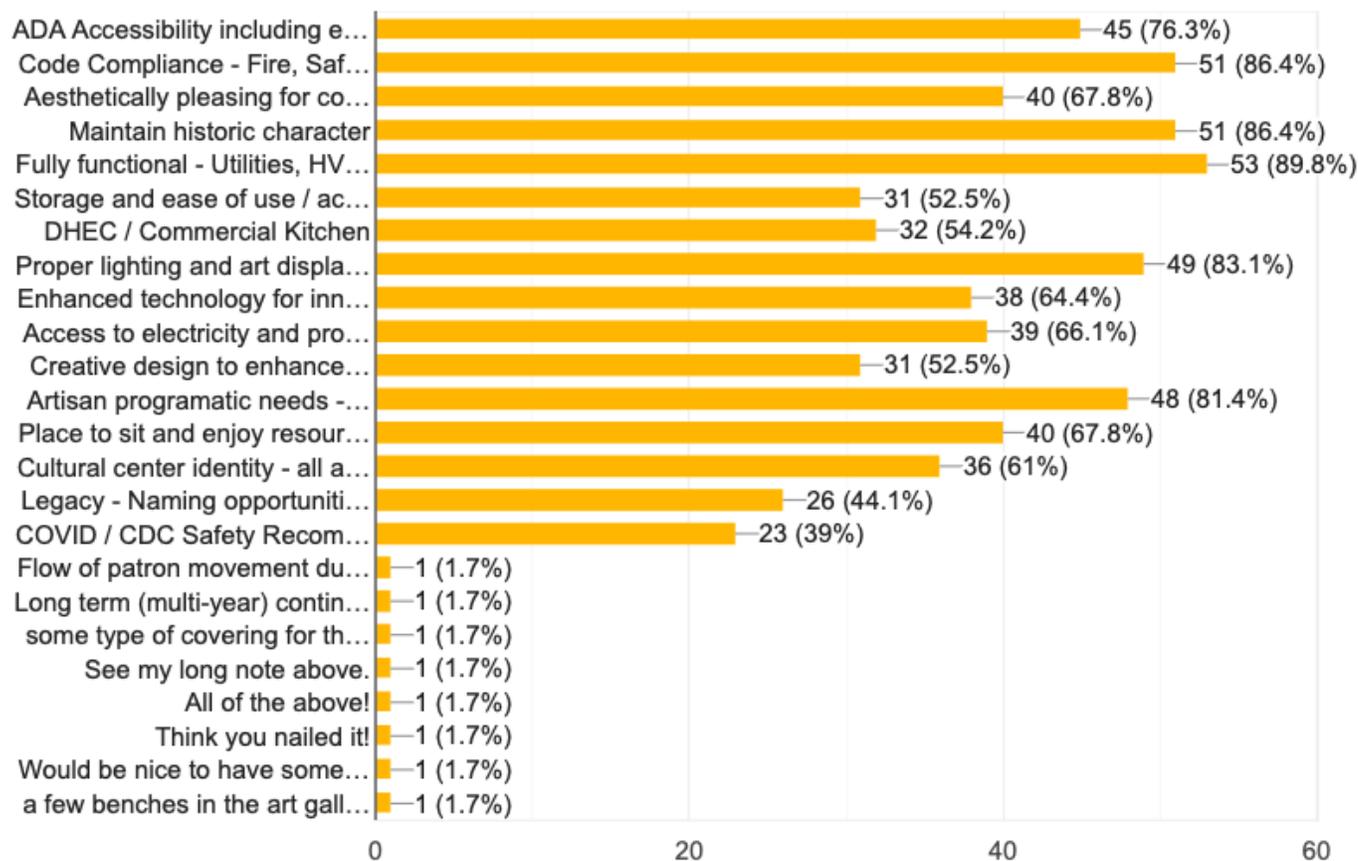
something. I would want it to be a complementary service and only if space is available at the time. I think this could bring a little extra traffic for the Artisan Guild. Who wouldn't want to stop in to see what's new.

- Would love a smart board computer screen with Adobe products for teaching. We could also teach Photoshop and Illustrator classes. Computer art will be a 21st. century must.
- Art Gallery with more space when hosting affairs. Room for permanent gallery.
- I hope that we can again have the Dinner with the Masters.
- Larger gatherings. Not enough space to accompany at least 100 people
- I would like to see more youth programs.
- Cooking classes!
- Lunch or Breakfast and Learn Networking sessions/Evening cocktail networking hour for Chamber members.
- If affordable, the space being rented for the Artisan Store is much brighter, larger, and accessible and a better facility for retail purposes. That would free up space for more art classrooms or other needs at the current Mack facility. I would like to see the park used for more concerts, and other community activities such as art shows. We used to have "Art in the Park" with art vendors and activities and it was a great event.
- While my own children are grown, they enjoyed dance classes, ballet, tap, jazz when they were young. Could an upstairs room be used as a dance studio? A small cafe area, perhaps with some outdoor seating would be appreciated. Menu would be sandwiches, salads and bakery goods, muffin and cook type. This might be a loss leader, but it would enhance McCormick so much.
- elevator to different levels, separate entrance for instruction vs. gallery/gift shop
- The summer camps are fun to do. I would love to open the kids up to new artist and art forms. Maybe make a week of class that studies the history or art. Like mosaics, fresco painting, tribal paintings, and many more. Also if possible, maybe at the end of every week the camp can take a trip to a art studio/museum to view different pieces of art. Or chose an artist from different genre of art to work on.
- I would like to see music lessons, piano, guitar, basic cooking demonstrations or lessons, etc. Rental of rooms for meetings, receptions, luncheons. Proper storage for table linens, cooking utensils, tableware, tables. I would also like to see if some type of retractable awning can be done for the Patio Dinners. I always hated worrying about scrambling for another venue.
- handicap access to classes

What is most important to you in regards to facility needs and maintenance planning? (Check all that apply)

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59 responses



Open-ended: ANY & ALL suggestions are appreciated and will be considered. Thank you for supporting this critical project, and the arts!

- Another door between the Drummer Room and the Main Gallery (near the front of the bldg)
- Would be great to have a designated location/room for kilns (glass or pottery).
- Build an amphitheater cover to accommodate approx 100 seats ... outdoors for S@4 performances in the Spring and Fall. Just a cover
- better space for piano, not blocking corridor by the stairs
- My wife and I do not participate in many activities. We support the Mack with our membership because we believe it is a great asset to our community. We particularly like the programs you do with young people.
- More emphasis on music performance and lessons
- See my long note above
- I appreciate the music at artist receptions but find, because I'm hard of hearing, that I cannot converse with anyone. Also, because I have MS I need a place to sit for awhile.

- Thank you for taking on this ambitious project that will give McCormick 'bragging rights' and more opportunities for our young- and old - residents increased access to the arts.
- Thanks for all ya'll do!
- Sondra Gividen
- MACK should continue to be the cultural art center of the community. Programming for all school children should be available at off school times.
- The grounds on the back side of the building could be used better for out door classes if there were covered areas. It would be fabulous to also acquire the old hotel building next door for expanding the center, that is if it ever comes up for sale. That is what the Gertrude Herbert Institute of Art did, so now one building is mainly the gallery and the other is for art classes and programs.
- Mack 3rd floor- accessibility, ada compliance, lighting, climate control, durable flooring (stain resistance), security (escape plans), ensure adequate restroom, more sink space if used as a classroom, more outlets?, better shelving/storage 2nd floor- all of 3rd plus... Possibly open up more to create larger classroom space or meeting space, 1st floor- all of 3rd plus... better flow, may not be possibly but wider hall space, user friendly kitchen/ catering kitchen, All around- more storage, dedicated office spaces, more gallery space. Well defined spaces based on current and future needs.
- Monthly paint and sip classes, watercolor classes, pouring classes, pottery classes, and other various media classes
- Concerts in the area behind the building! Possibly including Fanny Kates building, and food services!! Cooking classes!
- See above list!
- I realize that I may have completed this survey earlier...but I'm sending just in case!
- I personally look forward to the improvements you will make while maintaining the historic aspects of the building. This can be such a charming place to bring visitors right in the hub of our little town.
- All of the above items are important. I checked the ones I felt most important
- Including all community members will help us grow as a whole group not divided.
- I addressed them above.
- I could probably have checked all the boxes.... but for my use I checked the ones most helpful to me. The MACK runs a great program for such a small town. Impressive! Love all the programs for teaching art for children! Debbie Sprouse
- Just have fun!