



NEWS RELEASE

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City of South Fulton Government

City of South Fulton Acquiring Two Fulton County Arts Centers

South Fulton, Southwest Centers to House City's Arts Classes, Performances

CITY OF SOUTH FULTON, GA. (December 17, 2019) – The arts have a new home in the City of South Fulton. In fact, they have two as the city prepares to acquire the South Fulton and Southwest arts centers from Fulton County.

With the centers at the core of its developing arts and culture experience, the city's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department is expanding quality classes and productions previously offered by the county, including the addition of spoken word and African dance instruction.

“Fulton County is pleased to have strong partnerships with our 15 cities, and we look forward to a smooth and successful transition of these facilities to the City of South Fulton,” said Fulton County Board of Commissioners Chairman Robb Pitts.

“Our arts program will celebrate the many talents of the residents of South Fulton and these arts centers will be the stages where those talents can flourish and be shared,” said Mayor William “Bill” Edwards. “At the same time, they will allow us to host some of the world’s best performers and artists, including some who call our city and region home.”

Under the agreement, the city will take over management of both centers on Jan. 8, when it acquires the Southwest Arts Center. It already owns the South Fulton Arts Center and leases the facility to the county under an agreement that ends the same day.

“Our goal is to ensure a smooth and seamless transfer,” Edwards said. “We will work strategically to ensure there are no breaks in the availability of popular programs offered to residents, including summer camps, dance instruction and art classes.”

In addition to first-class arts programming at the Southwest Arts Center, the South Fulton Arts Center will expand offerings to include science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) instruction.

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“With these centers, South Fulton is poised to blaze a path in arts, culture and education,” Edwards said. “Our residents will have the tools they need to succeed in the workforce of tomorrow and enjoy the best in entertainment in their city.”

Assessments of both facilities are underway to determine what repairs, renovations and upgrades are necessary before classes start. Edwards said the city will make significant investments in the centers in coming years.

An official opening event is planned for Feb. 29 immediately following Edwards’ annual State of the City address, marking South Fulton’s first event scheduled after taking over the Southwest Arts Center.

“The City of South Fulton is poised to introduce first-class arts and cultural programming citywide by leveraging these two facilities,” said City Manager Odie Donald II. “I’m excited to expand our valued partnerships with groups like True Colors Theater and explore new opportunities that never have been seen before on the south side with such stalwarts as the Atlanta Opera, Serenbe Institute and a host of other local talents and production companies.”

The arts centers transfer comes on the heels of \$17 million in capital improvement projects approved by the city last week under its new urban redevelopment plan. Those projects will include renovations of city parks and fire stations and the construction of a new public safety facility. Work on those projects is set to begin early next year.

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