

Save Century II Newsletter #6 - The Truth Comes Out!

The Wichita Eagle published a story on March 3 reporting that the Broadway musical, “Hamilton,” *is coming to Wichita*. Anyone questioning the Riverfront Legacy Plan to demolish Century II will recall that “Hamilton” has often been used as an example of a Broadway production that could not come to Wichita because of the physical limitations of Century II - the stage was 11 feet too shallow. According to the American Theater Guild, the performance will not leave pieces of the set in the trucks as feared. Rather, “the Hamilton production will be of the same size and quality as the one at the Richard Rodgers Theatre in New York and currently on tour” and will “100% be the full-sized tour seen in all other markets and equity [produced].”

The Wichita Eagle clarified the actual reason for not getting Hamilton before the 2021-22 season was strictly related to ticket sales.

Riverfront Legacy backers and the public relations firms they’ve hired to spread their propaganda have used the Hamilton excuse to convince Wichita citizens, Music Theatre Wichita staff, and City Council members that Century II should be destroyed. For too long, special interests have had their way with City Hall and we're still waiting on an Ethics Policy from City Council.

We ask that you keep reading, listening, and thinking. We owe thanks to reporters and opinion writers at the Wichita Eagle, the Wichita Business Journal and reporters at local TV and radio stations for their investigative reporting. Check out three of the more recent stories about “Hamilton” in Wichita, which debunks the physical limitations of Century II:

- <https://www.kansas.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/suzanne-perez/article240898376.html>
- <https://www.kansas.com/entertainment/arts-culture/article240852816.html?>
- https://www.bizjournals.com/wichita/news/2020/03/05/american-theater-guild-hamilton-will-be-same-size.html?fbclid=IwAR1N6zK5N-fRpMvzhr10mVC9ujR2BMe97hE1r_H1x1DWPx0eL9ExKeAHWs

We have a plan that reflects what the citizens of Wichita want:

- First, Wichitans deserve the right to vote on this proposed development. Anyone who has received their recent property tax assessed value knows we pay through our pockets for these developments which do nothing to improve our quality of life. Check out the state of city roads, the inadequate police staff, or closed neighborhood swimming pools.
- Second, send Populous home! Their plan costing \$1.2 billion dollars is unrealistic and expensive. Why anyone would want to swim in the Arkansas River, or spend \$300 million on an underground parking lot?
- Third, apply for grants, tax credits, and capital improvement project funds to renovate and rejuvenate Century II. City Manager Layton has admitted to deferring maintenance on this building for over 10 years!

The City of Wichita has enough projects underway. With the economy in flux, we need to wait before spending any more money with private developers. When Riverfront Legacy presents their plan to City Council this month, we'll let you know. Show up in your Save Century II T-Shirt and make your voice heard!

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