



Department of Planning and Development  
Planning Division

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Adams School Site - Community Design Day**

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### **Adams School Site - Community Design Day**

**Portland, Maine** – The City of Portland, and the Adams School Reuse Committee, will host a Community Design Day to facilitate brainstorming, generate “crazy ideas”, and enable creative designs for the Adams School site on Munjoy Hill. The goal is to provide a full day Community Design workshop opportunity for citizens to envision and design possible alternatives for the reuse of the former Adams School site at 44 Moody Street.

The Community Design Day will take place Saturday April 28, 8:30-3:00 (the program will start at 9:00) at the East End School, 195 North Street, Portland, Maine. Architect Alan Holt, and his students from the Muskie School will assist with the facilitation of the day. Architect Eric Stark and his architecture students from the University of Maine at Augusta will assist community members and stakeholders with the graphic production of alternatives for the site.

This event is free and open to the public. People are asked to please RSVP for the event by April 25th via email to cmarsh@portlandmaine.gov, or by calling the Planning Department at 874-8721. Packets will be mailed to participants who preregister.

The design phase will remain open for 10 days after April 28. Final designs should be submitted by May 9 to Carrie Marsh, Urban Designer, City of Portland, Division of Planning, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, City Hall, 389 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04102, cmarsh@portlandmaine.gov.

All ideas will be reviewed at a meeting of the Adams School Reuse Committee on Thursday, May 10, 2007 at the Cummings Center, Second Floor Meeting Space, 134 Congress Street.

Please note that the Community Design Day is **not** intended to be a Request for Proposals for the site. Rather, it is an opportunity for citizens to brainstorm and develop conceptual ideas about the potential reuse of the site. The Adams School Reuse Committee will consider all options in its final report to the City Council, prior to the City’s formal solicitation of proposals for the site.

City Councilor Kevin Donoghue had this to say about the Community Design Day, “I thank City staff for their strong support of this day for citizen planners, and thank in advance all of our neighbors who will contribute their talent toward the realization of a raw community vision.”

Dan Haley, Co-Chair of the Adams School Reuse Committee encouraged people to “Please join us on April 28. This is a great opportunity to directly influence the design and use of this critical site. Your voice will be heard and will make a difference at this stage of the process.”

Matt Thayer, Co-Chair of the Adams School Committee noted, “This forum is a great chance for neighbors to share their vision for the site. We look forward to hearing more about what they would really like to see happen – in terms of both uses and design considerations.”

The Adams School site at 44 Moody Street, is bounded by Munjoy, Moody, Vesper and Wilson Streets. The school was built in 1952 and served for many decades as a neighborhood school, community center, and gathering place for the Munjoy Hill community. The school was recently closed when the East End School was constructed. The City established the Adams School Re-use Committee to gather information about the site, and input from the community, and to make recommendations to the City Council regarding the re-use of re-development of the site.

The Adams School Re-Use Committee includes: Daniel T. Haley Jr. Co-Chair; Matt Thayer, Co-Chair; Justina Marcisso; Kenneth Bailey; Richard D’Entremont; Cynthia Fitzgerad; and Eric Stark. City staff include Alex Jaegerman, Planning Director; Carrie Marsh, Urban Designer; and Amy Grommes Pulaski, Housing and Community Development Program Manager.

Gratitude is expressed to Alan Holt and his students at the University of Southern Maine Muskie School for their facilitation assistance; to Eric Stark and his students at the University of Maine Augusta architecture program for their design assistance; and to the Daniel T. Haley Insurance Agency for providing lunch.