



## ***News Release***

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### **Architects to present recommendations on old high school** *Public meeting December 8 at City Hall*

Nine nationally recognized architects, planners and other design professionals have formed a Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT) specifically for Branson and will be in town next Tuesday through Thursday, December 6-8, for final meetings with city officials and residents. They will be making final recommendations for uses of the old Branson school on Sixth Street.

The city purchased the 50-year old vacant school building last summer, and through a grant from the American Institute of Architects, hired a team of consultants to evaluate the school property to determine its best use for the neighborhood and community.

In September, three SDAT representatives visited Branson to meet with city officials and residents of the Thompson Addition neighborhood where the school is located. They also toured the old school twice.

Next week, the three representatives will be joined by seven more design professionals to continue the property evaluation and create final recommendations. Here is a schedule of their meetings where the public is invited to attend and participate in the property discussions:

**Tuesday, December 6, 9-10 a.m.** - SDATeam and city officials will once again tour the old school on Sixth St.

**Tuesday, December 6, 5-6 p.m.** - Residents of the Thompson Addition are invited to a public stakeholder meeting in the Council Chambers of Branson City Hall.

**Tuesday, December 6, 6-7 p.m.** - A public town hall meeting will be held in the Branson City Hall Council Chambers to obtain further input from citizens.

**Thursday, December 8, 6-8:30 p.m.** - The SDATeam will present its final recommendations for the old school at a public meeting in City Hall Council Chambers.

In between these public meetings, the SDATeam will be compiling all information from their discussions and tours of the building to create its final recommendations for the property.

During their first trip to Branson in September, the architects said this three-day visit in December would be very detailed.

“That’s when the real work will be done,” said Tom Liebel, one of the lead architects from Baltimore speaking before the Board of Aldermen in September.

“We want to leave you in an advantages position to enhance the neighborhood,” he said.