

# *Save the Queen*

## *Frequently asked Questions (continued)*

Q. Will the City of Bryan be providing funds?

A. We expect to raise all of the funds to purchase the building from private donations to the Downtown Bryan Association. When it comes to the restoration expenses, in addition to private donations and grants that might be available from historic preservation organizations, we are hopeful that the City of Bryan will offer some facade grant support. They have offered such support for other buildings in Downtown Bryan in the past but we know that we have an obligation to prove that we are worthy of such support. We also understand that the city is under budgetary constraints. We think everyone realizes, however, that the Queen Theatre renovation is very important in the overall success for the rebuilding of downtown Bryan.

Q. What condition is the Queen on the inside?

A. Unfortunately, the interior of the Queen is in very poor condition. All of the theatre fixtures have been removed from the ground floor and most of the theatre seating on the second floor is not in useable condition due to rust and deterioration.

The wooden structure that supports the roof and the wooden structure that supports the mezzanine level have large areas that are rotten and at risk of collapse. That is why it is so important for the Downtown Bryan Association to take on this project at this time and not let any more deterioration occur. The roof has been leaking for years and, apparently, no repairs have been attempted.

The building has been examined by a structural engineer and it appears that, structurally, the building is sound and a restoration is very feasible. First, we will have to demolish the interior portions that are rotten and put on a new roof to stabilize and preserve the remaining portions that are useable. Then we will address the facade and the crown and work toward restoration of those features. Our final, and perhaps, most expensive task will be to rebuild the interior features to turn the building into a useable theatre and meeting facility.

All of the Downtown Bryan Association members are looking forward to taking on this project and Saving the Queen as the crowning centerpiece of Downtown Bryan.

Q. What can I do to help Save the Queen?

A. There are many ways in which anyone can help. Obviously, our greatest need right now is to raise the funds to purchase the property. We need most of the funds by June 21st. We then will need to raise another \$200,000 to do the restoration just to the point where the building is secure from the elements.

We can use the help of volunteers to assist in selling T shirts at both the First Friday Art Step on June 4th and also at Texas Reds Steak & Grape Festival on June 18th & 19th. We already have permission to set up a table at both events at the front door of the Queen Theatre to sell the "Save the Queen" T shirts with a design created by local artist, Stephanie Sale, especially for this project.