



PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 10, 2024

**Organization Name:** Hub in the Hills  
School Repurposing Project Gains Community Support and Momentum

Imagine ... a darkened and dingy gymnasium that once hosted bright, musical plays and energetic assemblies, is transformed from its now, gloomy state, into a showcase for the ballet. Yet, it doesn't stop there. This versatile venue isn't confined to the grace of dancers alone; it stands ready to embrace a multitude of purposes. The long hallways, now covered with dirt and grime, are glistening as music students excitedly trot into contemporary spaces for piano and voice lessons. Further inside the old school lies an expansive lunchroom where stale smells and folded tables define the space. That space will soon be abuzz with chatter and the clanging of mixing bowls from middle schoolers who have gathered to learn the art of cooking from Birmingham's best chefs.

These are just a few of the visions that have attracted prominent businesses and a non-profit to join alongside the founder of a project called, Hub in the Hills. Based in the southeast — a non-profit organization specializing in master planning, a skilled team of architects, a national law firm and an award-winning film company — have joined in support of the mission to repurpose the former school, according to Dr. Ammie Akin.

Akin, who has led the dream and efforts to facilitate the transformation of the former Vestavia Hills Elementary Central school, said the former school structure "... will soon be a light in the rolling hills and bring unique services together under one roof, creating a distinctive enrichment center for various community and individual endeavors".

In November, the group's first hurdle was cleared when the Vestavia Hills Board of Education members agreed to enter into a purchase contract with *Wellspring Holdings*, an affiliate entity of Hub in the Hills. "We considered this to be a first major step in our project's future," said Akin.

The project's timeline will be announced this spring and between now and then, the organizers will be busy putting all the pieces together, overseeing the building's inspection and creating a campaign that will help fill the spaces in Hub in the Hills. With strategic partners, Third Lens, Adams Design Associates, Baker Donelson and Cedar Creative, Akin says they're on their way to spreading the word about this fresh, unique and inspiring concept in the Birmingham area.

"Each strategic partner brings exceptional skills and perspectives, resulting in a dynamic collaboration that promises a truly exceptional outcome," said Akin. "We're excited for the next phase and to welcome additional inquiries."

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