

Landmark Hotel Reopens as Cultural Center

Roanoke, Virginia's long-neglected and derelict Dumas Hotel has been redeveloped by Total Action against Poverty (TAP), a Roanoke Valley antipoverty organization, into the Dumas Center for Artistic and Cultural Development, a community performing arts venue that includes a state-of-the-art 200-seat theater, offices for the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra, and classroom space for youth performing arts programs. An opening celebration for the project was held this past November.

African American film pioneer Oscar Micheaux lived in the Dumas Hotel and maintained offices and studios during the 1920s in the historic Strand Theatre across the street. Renovation of the two architectural icons is considered essential to local efforts to revitalize this now severely blighted corridor that once was the bustling cultural and commercial hub of Roanoke's African American community.

Funding for the \$4.4 million Dumas adaptive-use project came from a number of sources, including a \$475,000 federal grant. Hampton Roads Ventures used federal tax credits received through the U.S. Treasury Department's New Markets Tax Credits (NMTTC) program



TOTAL ACTION AGAINST POVERTY



REGINA BREWER

A long-neglected hotel in Roanoke, Virginia, has been developed into a community performing arts venue.

to attract a large investment from a major Wall Street institutional investor to help ensure completion of the renovation. Hampton Roads Ventures similarly used the NMTTC program to assist the \$6.2 million renovation of the Strand Theatre, which is scheduled to reopen this year as the Claude Moore Educational Complex, a college-level culinary school with banquet facilities, to be operated by the Roanoke Higher Education Center.