

# Frequently Asked Questions

Regarding the Potential Sale of Property

Currently Being Leased to Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts by Pi Beta Phi Fraternity

## **What does this mean for the future of Arrowmont?**

*The Arrowmont Board of Governors is fully committed to the ongoing success of Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts. However, the sale of the land on which the school is located represents a major threat to the Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts. While Arrowmont could be relocated and rebuilt elsewhere, the cost of doing so would greatly exceed the amount of money that Pi Beta Phi Fraternity has suggested it might offer. The Arrowmont Board of Governors believes that losing the historic campus and the professional craft studio facilities and dormitories would be devastating to the school, not only in the short term, but also because it would sever its long-lasting ties to the early heritage of Pi Beta Phi in Gatlinburg. Of additional concern is the fact that the immediate loss of revenue and constituents (both local and national students and conference attendees) while the new facilities are being built could prove catastrophic.*

## **Will there be workshops in 2009?**

*YES! There are no interruptions to scheduled programs and workshops and all programs will be held as planned. Arrowmont is continuing to do business as usual.*

## **Isn't Arrowmont, which is a successor of the Pi Beta Phi Settlement School, a philanthropy of Pi Beta Phi Fraternity?**

*That has been the case ever since Arrowmont was created as a School of Arts and Crafts in 1968. The Pi Beta Phi Settlement School, which was founded in 1910, was designed assist the citizens of Gatlinburg and the surrounding area in educating their children, which included not only reading and writing, but also agricultural and vocational education, health education, and cultural exposure. A huge number of individual members of the Pi Beta Phi Fraternity consider the Pi Beta Phi Settlement School Inc. d.b.a. Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts to be the Fraternity's historical philanthropy and will continue to support it in the future.*

## **What is the status of the land and buildings at Arrowmont?**

*Since 1991, Pi Beta Phi Fraternity has been leasing approximately 14 acres of land to Pi Beta Phi Settlement School Inc. (d.b.a. Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts) for \$1 per year. The current lease runs through August 31, 2011. Pi Beta Phi Fraternity owns all of the historic buildings currently being used by Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts, which include the large central studio complex designed by architect Hubert Bebb in the center of the campus, the former Health Clinic on Parkway, the Staff House and Dining Hall, the Red Barn, and the historic cottages now used as dormitories. Arrowmont owns all buildings that have been erected since 1991, which include the Wood Studio, the Pollard and Hughes Hall Dormitories, and the Resident Artist studio building.*

## **Isn't Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts on the National Register of Historic Places?**

*Yes, what was the original campus of the Pi Beta Phi Settlement School contains two national Historic Districts, which were placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2006 and 2007 with the approval of Pi Beta Phi Fraternity. One of the districts also includes the Arrowcraft Shop, the historic Ogle cabin, and the original schoolhouse, which are leased by the Fraternity to entities other than Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts. These historic structures, a part of Gatlinburg's heritage that is closely tied to the history of the Pi Beta Phi Settlement School, would also be impacted by a land sale.*

**Does the fact that the property contains two National Historic Districts affect what can be done with the property?**

*No, it does not affect what can be done with the property.*

*Listing on the National Register of Historic Places does not:*

- *Limit the rights of property owners to use, develop or sell their historic properties.*
- *Require that historic properties be maintained, repaired, or restored. Require that historic properties be open to the public.*
- *Automatically bring about local landmark designation or local historic district zoning.*
- *Automatically stop federal undertakings that could adversely impact historic resources.\**
- *Require review of local, state, or privately funded projects that could affect properties.*

*(Information provided by Tennessee Historical Commission.)*

*\*However, when a proposed action, such as road building, undertaken using federal funds, might impact a listed site, a federal review process can be triggered that could result in delay or possible prevention of that action.*

*The Tennessee Historical Commission's letter of August 19 states:*

*"As a popular tourist destination, Gatlinburg is continually growing and changing, trying to improve its economic base. While the tourism industry is beneficial to the city, it has resulted in the loss of most of the historic resources in Gatlinburg. The collections of historic resources at Arrowmont are the only historic districts in downtown Gatlinburg. We hope that Arrowmont and Pi Beta Phi can work out a solution that will allow the campus to remain."*

**What are the developers planning for the Arrowmont property?**

*The developers, reportedly named Twin Falls LLC, have not contacted Arrowmont or its Board of Governors at this time. The proposed development was described in The Mountain Press on August 24: "\$500 million development, including indoor and outdoor water parks, four hotels, four retail villages and more, is planned for the Arrowmont property and a lot more land adjacent to it..." According to the article, this information was confirmed by Lee and Lori Reagan, and Allen Cox of Gatlinburg, while looking over preliminary plans created by Thinkwell Design & Production during an interview with Josh Flory, business writer for the Knoxville News Sentinel Aug. 29.*

**Is there a chance the new owner might allow Arrowmont to stay?**

*Since Arrowmont has not been contacted by the developers nor seen the plans for the development, any intentions for Arrowmont to remain have not been discussed. However, in light of the proposed development, it is unlikely that Arrowmont would be able to maintain its current level of integrity as an art community and a quiet oasis surrounded by this type of planned development.*

**How much is the land being sold for and has Arrowmont been given the opportunity to purchase it?**

*The amount of money that is being negotiated for the land purchase between Pi Beta Phi and the developers has not been disclosed. Pi Beta Phi has not offered the property to Arrowmont but might be willing to consider an offer from Arrowmont to purchase it. However, we don't have any idea what the price expectation would be at this time.*

**What does this mean for the relationship of Pi Beta Phi and Arrowmont?**

*Pi Beta Phi's decision to sell the property on which Arrowmont sits will have a major impact on the School. Statements made by Fraternity officials have signaled that this would not only be the end of an era of Pi Beta Phi's financial support for Arrowmont but the end of the official relationship between Pi Beta Phi and Arrowmont. However, many, many individual Pi Beta Phi members and Pi Beta Phi alumnae clubs have indicated their wish to continue to support the school, even if the Fraternity should officially cease to do so when the land is sold.*

### **Is Arrowmont in a financial crisis?**

*Arrowmont, like many other nonprofit art institutions, requires significant financial support to operate. Tuition and fees cover only 60 percent of our operating budget. If Arrowmont must relocate, it will face significant financial challenges. Increased financial support from individuals, corporations, grants, and from other sources will be necessary to build our future.*

### **How can I help?**

- 1. Join Friends of Arrowmont or the Signature Circle. Friends of Arrowmont is a program of on-going support and annual donor recognition for the school. The Signature Circle is an active patron's group of supporters who donate \$1,000 or more annually and receive invitations to exhibitions and special programs. Contributions can be made through the Arrowmont website.*
- 2. Sign up for a workshop and bring a friend!*
- 3. Follow all the various discussion groups on the Internet and let your others know you support Arrowmont.*
- 4. Keep checking the Arrowmont website for the latest news and developments.*
- 5. Volunteer your time, expertise, or other valuable assets to keep Arrowmont growing and thriving in the community.*
- 6. Consider including Arrowmont in your long-term financial plans.*