

Survey Results Central School April 2012

Idea	106	A big box restaurant like Red Lobster or something in that order
Idea	107	A brew pub
Idea	108	A charter school
Idea	109	A coffee shop with couches and reading material, affordable good food
Idea	110	A consignment gallery.
Idea	111	A forum, an open are/writers studio
Idea	112	A fun community atmosphere would be ideal. Our community is turning back to the arts and old Central School becoming a fun environment for the whole family to discover would be the perfect addition!
Idea	113	A hair salon
Idea	114	A high quality themed restaurant.
Idea	115	A lighted marquee/signage on more than one side of the building would be helpful to identify occupants.
Idea	116	A popular restaurant like Red Lobster or Olive Garden... something nice.
Idea	117	A simple restaurant would attract visitors.
Idea	118	Advertise -- what you repeatedly hear about and read - you go to visit.
Idea	119	Advertise as a place to photograph weddings, senior portraits or family pictures.
Idea	120	ADVERTISE w signs as you come into town where visitors can get info, discounts on lodging, freebees, etc.
Idea	121	ALCOHOL - BEER - WINE - MUSIC
Idea	122	All activities need more media promotion. Newspapers, Radio, TV and press releases about various activities provide free promotion.
Idea	123	Allow one room for meetings or a gathering place.
Idea	124	An antique mall concept would be ideal if it was economically feasible. It would serve to attract visitors and tourists year after year while keeping it's historical "flavor."
Idea	125	An old time photo booth
Idea	126	Antique shop or high end consignment store
Idea	127	Antique stores
Idea	128	Anything for tourist to see and do to get them to come to town and stay
Idea	129	Appealing to families of students who attended school there.
Idea	130	Apply to grant for historic upgrades
Idea	131	Are grants being looked at? What about a funding drive for support from the community.
Idea	132	Are there any benefactors interested in assuming ownership & preservation of this landmark?
Idea	133	Are there any other sources of funding that could support a particular use of the space to supplement income from rent? I'm thinking particularly of arts applications -- Art Space deals with the use of historic buildings for arts-related activities.
Idea	134	Are there bonding monies available for capital improvements?
Idea	135	Art exhibits, more local art shops, local design services
Idea	136	Art space: Office and performance space for arts/culture organizations... promote GR as a cultural destination
Idea	137	Artists, vendors, petting zoo, face painting, info table w area attractions, music workshops and events.
Idea	138	Arts & crafts for kids!
Idea	139	As an out of state former resident, I always enjoy revisiting my old school. Brochure for class reunions and other gatherings
Idea	140	Ask other organizations what they would use it for
Idea	141	Ask teachers their ideas
Idea	142	Attempt to get more nonprofits, which create traffic, back into the lower level.
Idea	143	Attract at least one tenant which would create traffic
Idea	144	Availability for no charge for non-profit group meetings or for a small fee for other meetings. It is a nice, central location.
Idea	145	Ballroom dancing classes
Idea	146	Bank branch office

Idea	147	Bank or financial advisor/office type area on one of the floors
Idea	148	Barber shop
Idea	149	Bathrooms on the main floor would be good. Bathrooms being open would be a better benefit.
Idea	150	Be bold. Be innovative. Solve the parking problems.
Idea	151	Be willing to consider removing the building from the registry of historic places if that becomes a hindrance to a good new plan.
Idea	152	Being a historic site is great, but it does come with rules. How can the rules for what you can do with a historic site be used to their advantage?
Idea	153	Bicycle center
Idea	154	Big fountain (gathering place)
Idea	155	Bike rentals for summer vacationers
Idea	156	Bike shop or some athletic shop
Idea	157	Blandin grant to subsidize rent for cottage artisan shops, outdoor bazaar, up-scale flea mkt, chain saw carvers
Idea	158	Book reading club
Idea	159	Book Store, Garden
Idea	160	Brew Pub or wine bar
Idea	161	Bring in more small local businesses.
Idea	162	Building - nothing - tear it down
Idea	163	Cabaret with food & performance space
Idea	164	Café, restaurant , coffee shop combined with internet café or bookstore
Idea	165	Candy Store
Idea	166	Candy Store... café... art supplies
Idea	167	Casino or Viking stadium?
Idea	168	Chamber of Commerce promote as a downtown business and the void it would leave if it closed. Other businesses benefit from tourists who come to see it and then go across the street to other businesses.
Idea	169	Change the bylaws to increase flexibility of leases and grounds usage. I realize it's a cozy park but these restrictions limit utilization of the grounds.
Idea	170	Change the look inside, it's wasted space
Idea	171	Change the name. It's not a school anymore. Get over it!
Idea	172	City should get rid of it... wasting tax money on a losing money pit
Idea	173	Clothing store
Idea	174	Coffee shoppe
Idea	175	Colorful walls
Idea	176	Community room for non-profit meetings
Idea	177	Computer space, offices and businesses that don't need a lot of space
Idea	178	Conservatory pyramids or structures for plants, butterflies, etc. that would draw visitors and locals
Idea	179	Consider applying for a "green" grant to upgrade the school melding past with modern (which will soon be history)...let's create a new history
Idea	180	Contact Minneapolis/St. Paul or out-of-state "adaptive re-use" developers to offer completely new ideas. This may mean a major remodeling addition to the building. Don't be afraid of change.
Idea	181	Continue the Historical Society
Idea	182	Continue to utilize it for interesting shops, coffee shop, etc.
Idea	183	Converting to use as apartments
Idea	184	Create an art design Mecca for the area (interior design services, fiber artists, etc.) Create artists studios for local artists, or open for rental by public groups
Idea	185	Daycare center for children of downtown workers?
Idea	186	Decorate for the holidays!!! Old central school should be what visitors remember about our town.
Idea	187	Dedicate some sq ft to public educ. where all ages could be "brought up to speed" e.g. iPads, iPhones, nooks..

Idea	188	Deli would be nice for lunches... has anyone talked to a catering company?
Idea	189	Demolition?
Idea	190	Develop a themed playground outside to attract families
Idea	191	Devote the entire building to the preservation, display and research of Itasca County History
Idea	192	Devoting the entire building to a well managed Itasca County History Ctr/Gift Shop, the building can be sustained
Idea	193	Diversity in shopping
Idea	194	Do what Duluth did and give a free lease to someone who can show what they can do to liven it up.
Idea	195	Don't give out tickets for parking, it looks empty all the time, let it be parking all day! Re-do the hills, cut down some trees, put in a gazebo, look at putting back a fake Peter Pan tree, put lights on all the small trees during the winter time
Idea	196	Don't lose the historical value for residents and tourists
Idea	197	Don't turn it into an office building!
Idea	198	Eating area
Idea	199	Endowment fund... a fund that could help out when times are tough.
Idea	200	Events like small craft shows. Maybe featured types at a time since space would be limited
Idea	201	Explore connecting to art & music
Idea	202	Farmer's Market
Idea	203	Fill upper levels with non-profit renters, rent must cover most of the operation costs of the building. Lower levels need to act as a draw for the community
Idea	204	Find a developer who can vision a financially viable use and sell the building to the developer.
Idea	205	Find a way to reduce advertising costs for the renter as an incentive for moving into the School.
Idea	206	Find out what other towns are doing that makes their use of historic buildings successful
Idea	207	Find things that are missing in Grand Rapids that could be implemented in Central School.
Idea	208	First Friday event has been a great community builder. Think of ways to build on that.
Idea	209	Fish or wildlife display- tourists love them
Idea	210	Fishing display "Hall of Fame" or Hunting "Hall of Fame" or resort display of old resorts
Idea	211	Food goes with everything
Idea	212	Food truck(s)? Does this help get around codes being that it is outside? The facility has great grounds and parking lot to accommodate some sort of entertainment and refreshments/food served from a food truck. They are very popular in larger cities.
Idea	213	Food/restaurant/café
Idea	214	Free meeting room for other non-profits? I use River Grand for free- Gets me "in the door" & promotes good will
Idea	215	From past experience having my retail store in there- fill it! Get locals in town with \$\$\$ to help
Idea	216	Fun shops
Idea	217	G.R. lacks for meeting places for small, mid-sized groups. If meeting rooms were available at a modest price, individuals and businesses alike may book them -- especially now w [one of the local] meeting rooms no longer available. It would be even better if a hospitality kitchen (w minimum facilities like fridge, sink, stovetop, microwave) were available an/or catering services nearby.
Idea	218	Game & candy store
Idea	219	GLBT Center [Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender]
Idea	220	Great spot for an antique mall. Contact Chris Worth! He was interested when I was there.
Idea	221	Group marketplace (several vendors w one manager type)
Idea	222	Have music & food carts outside in the summer with a sitting area
Idea	223	Have periodic special events to bring regulars.
Idea	224	Have popcorn and ice cream cones sold in the hallways.
Idea	225	Have special events here
Idea	226	Having Central School updated & full of activity would help with growth & promote the importance of downtown GR
Idea	227	Historical information available for tourist trade. More unique historical items available for tourists to purchase

Idea	228	Historical Society own building
Idea	229	Hold a festival, hire a musician!
Idea	230	Hold old fashioned ice cream social and/or lawn picnics- perhaps dress in period with lawn games and live music
Idea	231	Housing
Idea	232	Housing development... apartments
Idea	233	How about a café/coffee shop?
Idea	234	How about a little bistro that supports live music?
Idea	235	How about a real "Goods from the Woods" home... artisans can demonstrate & even sell through internet/Webcam
Idea	236	How about a theater on Fri nights... for Indie films & wine?
Idea	237	How about an artists colony?
Idea	238	How about high quality antiques - not necessarily large, but unique?
Idea	239	How about offering free rent for a year to get some ideas. Apply to a board to decide who gets it.
Idea	240	I hope we can continue to enjoy the serenity of the historical school
Idea	241	I know there was \$\$ raised for a children's playground and that the money still exists. As a kid there was the big peter pan tree. Why not get a fake tree for kids to climb through or familys to sit under?
Idea	242	I really liked Central School when it had lots of cool shops and an eating place.
Idea	243	I really think that if there was a restaraunt again the amount of traffic would increase substancialy. Rather than having a privately owned restaurant, maybe the commission could run manage it.
Idea	244	I think it needs a specialty restaurant where people can relax.
Idea	245	I think the tenants should form a group to promote their places of business. First Friday was great...just need more of that.
Idea	246	I think the visual & historical value of the building is very important to the identity of the area and Grand Rapids
Idea	247	I would like to see computer classes for Apple/Mac be offered someplace' what about day sessions being offered making it a school again?
idea	248	I would like to see the integrity of the building upheld.
Idea	249	I would love to see an old fashioned restaurant, a children's play space w old dresses and fund pretend rooms w stoves and beds and older household items
Idea	250	I would really like to see Central School succeed in the long run. If the County Historical Society moves out - I would like to have other "attraction" oriented things and/or shops that I could point my guests at my resort to go there.
Idea	251	Ice cream or gelato parlor
Idea	252	Ice Cream Shoppe
Idea	253	Ice Cream vendors during good weather at art/craft fair & music.
Idea	254	Ice cream, candy store, soda fountain... Kids have cash and increase foot traffic would be a great start
Idea	255	If done correctly it could be an attraction - high end restaurant/bar, real stores
Idea	256	If it is unable to keep its tenants, consider minimal heat in the basement and only open it during tourist season
Idea	257	If nothing works, maybe it has to be razed.
Idea	258	If space remains vacant, offer business groups the space for meetings. Might increase traffic and bring more in.
Idea	259	If the owner of the building is the city or county (I am not sure) then any expansion of office space needed by that entity should be made to occupy the school - top floor. Build in your own anchor renter and some baseline rent.
Idea	260	If we don't have it, try it. Also, this would be a nice place to live.
Idea	261	If you have any hope of keeping the Grand Rapids "downtown" alive for future generations, promote "Old Central School".
Idea	262	Image is already shaky. Do the change drastic & do it well. Shock locals into a new image. Nice! Not cheesy.
Idea	263	Improve park area w lighted trees at Christmas, musical events, gazebo

Idea	264	In business they say the three most important things are location, location, and location. Now Central School may have the location but is still is lacking in the draw needed to peek the interest of the average person the community. In part this can be oven come by the inviting of different group out to participate in events both on the ground and in the building, but always with an emphasis on actually entering the building. Draw them out, then draw them in.
Idea	265	In interest of keeping building occupied, city might subsidize rents in part or totally, especially for non-profit orgs.
Idea	266	In order for the city to be of help...get community behind refurbishing the building by donating time and equipment like they do for habitat for humanity. Once the repairs and updates are done..the building should be good for decades to come making it cheaper to rent.
Idea	267	Information center
Idea	268	Invite businesses that represent the North Woods and American made products
Idea	269	Is there a way to work with their neighbors better?
Idea	270	It definitely needs a café/restaurant to entice shoppers to come and stay longer
Idea	271	It looks like the "institution" it was. Needs colorful, inviting "flags" that line the walkways & decorate the building
Idea	272	It may be neat to turn the grounds into a community park space with picnic area, playground, sculptures, etc.
Idea	273	It may be useful as a single retail/restaurant location, but it's commercial usefulness is limited.
Idea	274	It needs energy. I'd hate to see it demolished. I'm sure those w a passion to preserve it are lagging in energy. Invite new ideas "new voices" and encourage partnerships with community organizations.
Idea	275	It's a beautiful building & tenants should be ones that can capitalize on that asset
Idea	276	Just go to MSP, Duluth, Bemidji and copy what they have going.
Idea	277	Keep historical ties
Idea	278	Little historical plays
Idea	279	Local fishing Hall of Fame
Idea	280	Look at an organization that specializes in marketing plans for historical buildings
Idea	281	Look for state/federal grants to hire a professional to promote the building and what it has to offer.
Idea	282	Lower the rent for all functions so they feel free to invest in expansion and feel a little more welcome
Idea	283	Make it "wireless"
Idea	284	Make it a parking lot!
Idea	285	Make it affordable for nonprofits to rent
Idea	286	Make it easy or little cost to use the grounds
Idea	287	Make it into an antique shopping mall that is open occasionally. Buffalo MN does this and it's really successful.
Idea	288	Make the public space available to events, i.e. weddings, community fundraisers, small concerts, etc.
Idea	289	Make the spaces in the building affordable for new business to flourish. No need to bleed businesses dry.
Idea	290	Maybe a hobby shop?
Idea	291	Maybe a weekly or monthly get together BBQ with a "back to the past" theme
Idea	292	Maybe an all-class reunion before former students get too old
Idea	293	Maybe housing or services/businesses downstairs so people com in to do business... Bank or Credit Union?
Idea	294	Maybe housing?
Idea	295	Maybe lease from private instead of government
Idea	296	Maybe make the landscaping more elaborate and build a bigger and better sign recognizing the C. S.
Idea	297	Maybe offer non-profits low rent space
Idea	298	Maybe something could be done in conjunction with the Forest History Center?
Idea	299	Maybe the Co-op would be a good fit- health food store
Idea	300	Maybe we could have sewing and knitting classes there

Idea	301	Michael's, Herbergers or Dept of Motor Vehicles
Idea	302	Micro brewery may be a draw
Idea	303	Modernize one level for Mall like business opportunities with additional space constructed on one side
Idea	304	More advertising in the paper on the various things that are there
Idea	305	More advertising!
Idea	306	More fun stuff for families and charity events
Idea	307	More retail businesses in the building
Idea	308	More shops, summer fun picnics in the beautiful outside area
Idea	309	Most of all -- keep it fun and lighthearted... like a weekly summer band or chorus and an ice cream truck.
Idea	310	Move ahead, make a decision and do it. Develop positive outcomes.
Idea	311	Move historical society to 1st level and retail on 2nd
Idea	312	Move Historical Society to either top level or basement. Space could be utilized better. Prime rooms for more \$\$\$
Idea	313	Movie night
Idea	314	Multi-use: Offices, shops/restaurants, housing on different levels
Idea	315	Music store, art gallery or thrift store
Idea	316	Music, bluegrass
Idea	317	Music, events with spark
Idea	318	Need a dedicated building manager with dedicated funding
Idea	319	Need building manager w experience in leadership or have a separate person that recruits, promotes, advertises, etc. which could be the Chamber or Visit GR staff
Idea	320	Need to involve community, clubs, etc. Hard to involve already busy people so work through organizations
Idea	321	Needs a business popular enough to draw the public to it.
Idea	322	Needs to be an investigation into the reasons why shops have left. This may open eyes as to a major problem.
Idea	323	Nice if there were people who could tell the history of the building working when there are certain events going on
Idea	324	Not sure there is any feasible way that it's commercial value can be enhanced. Need to find a single commercial tenant who can utilize the entire building.
Idea	325	Offer meeting rooms for organizations
Idea	326	Offer rent free space for start-up businesses on a month to month basis
Idea	327	Old fashioned ice cream parlor
Idea	328	Old fashioned school lessons... County historical society, retired teachers, community theatre
Idea	329	Opening fishing season activities, Tall Timber Days centered there at the hub of our town show people we have fun
Idea	330	Outdoor sculptures
Idea	331	Party supply store
Idea	332	Perhaps apartments are the best use of whole facility
Idea	333	Perhaps reducing the rent so more tenants would be interested in being there.
Idea	334	Perhaps the license bureau could move there too.
Idea	335	Perhaps there could be a "tea" room and used for wedding, baby showers, retirement or birthday parties. There was a business similar to this years ago by McKinney Lake.
Idea	336	Play off the local history
Idea	337	Play up the yellow brick road... those who walk it could get discounts to J. Garland's Museum or some memento
Idea	338	Playground equipment on the grounds...people miss the old Peter Pan Tree.
Idea	339	Possible housing.
Idea	340	Possibly city or county offices & services might be housed there
Idea	341	Private ownership
Idea	342	Public meeting rooms
Idea	343	Public office space
Idea	344	Put a fun water feature outside that people can play in on hot days

Idea	345	Put in technology that would allow for business meetings
Idea	346	Put something out in the lawn that can be seen that is special - there are too many trees covering the building
Idea	347	Reduce the rents until the building is filled with tenants
Idea	348	Remodel 1 classroom & hold "school" during summer. Kids could go one day w old fashioned teacher, write on slate boards, read "Dick & Jane", Have recess, etc. Nominal cost to cover expenses. Historical Society might run this. A novel experience for kids today
Idea	349	Re-name it... let the school theme die
Idea	350	Rent out a few rooms to the public for Special Occasions, Wedding Receptions, Meetings, Etc.
Idea	351	Rent out space for meetings?
Idea	352	Restaurant advertising menu and specials & ethnic offerings while getting people in for browsing in the other shops
Idea	353	Restaurants, women's apparel shops
Idea	354	Return the hostesses to interpret the building to the visiting public
Idea	355	Schedule singing, music, theatre groups from surrounding schools, 4-H, and scouting groups. Schools and other organizations often look for areas to perform in.
Idea	356	Seek preservation and legacy endowments from children of pioneers --- to relieve the financial pressures of building upkeep, maintenance and occupancy.
Idea	357	Sell shares like they did for the yellow brick road
Idea	358	Sell the building?
Idea	359	Should have the chamber, visit grand rapids, and other non profits use this location as a central office location for area non profits.
Idea	360	Small admission to museum. Why was this discontinued?
Idea	361	Small Event Center
Idea	362	Small hotel/motel
Idea	363	Small Music Festivals, bands, arts, sports and ethnic foods popular to this area
Idea	364	Some kind of draw on the grounds i.e., ice cream stand or a historical interest that's visible could be added
Idea	365	Something for all ages
Idea	366	Something for people on vacation that they can count on being there during their stay
Idea	367	Something that makes us want to go there more than once.
Idea	368	Something that will get locals as well as tourists to visit regularly.
Idea	369	Tear it down
Idea	370	Tear it down and build downtown parking...
Idea	371	The grounds are beautiful. Do something in the summer to get tourists to picnic. Maybe mobile food carts. It must be visible though.
Idea	372	The Judy Garland museum on the 3rd floor was a big draw
Idea	373	The top floor would make a nice restaurant
Idea	374	There is a need to attract for-profit businesses.
Idea	375	Three way partnership among 1) City of Grand Rapids, 2) Businesses in GR and 3) Blandin Foundation
Idea	376	Tie to tourism
Idea	377	Tourist items of history to purchase
Idea	378	Tourist request for maps
Idea	379	Tourists buy souvenirs - is there room her for a shop? Old fashioned candy store?
Idea	380	Try and collaborate with a retail/deli/coffee shop
Idea	381	Try to do inside the building every day of the year, what you do outside the building on Tall Timber Days
Idea	382	Updating the interior but not losing the old school feeling
Idea	383	Upper levels could be great as housing -- with shops on the lower levels (coffee shop, bistro, art gallery/shop, etc).
Idea	384	Use for government offices
Idea	385	Use it as a community center

Idea	386	Use public dollars to remove building and open area for a part & related activities, i.e., Farmer's Market
Idea	387	Use some of the space for "movies" of local history and interest
Idea	388	Use the courtyard more and make it visible from all directions
Idea	389	Use the Wizard of Oz connection when possible.
Idea	390	Using too much space for offices limits the variety of people who come & go in the building. Yes- it pays the utility bills but does it create long term enthusiasm, interest & commitment to the building?
Idea	391	Variety of shops, gift items, local unique items
Idea	392	Video games for people of all ages
Idea	393	Violin players, special events
Idea	394	Visit Grand Rapids office
Idea	395	Visitor center to refer restaurants and other businesses in the area
Idea	396	Volunteer training and maybe signage on historical details, interesting stories
Idea	397	We also need to work together from Central School to 1st Ave, etc. It is more of an issue than just Central School
Idea	398	We need to draw locals to our downtown to shop... to think of the downtown first.
Idea	399	Wed & Sat to coincide w farmers market, music, etc. & pay a stipend of \$50 per day to 10 vendors 2 days/wk
Idea	400	Were the community to know of the opportunities within the building perhaps more people would become involved
Idea	401	What about a soda shop/candy shop? It's a historical site, let's bring back some of the historical parts of Grand Rapids (Ben Franklin's soda bar).
Idea	402	Why not move part of the Farmer's Market to the Central School grounds on Wednesdays and Saturdays
Idea	403	Work with event centers - providing a community event package for conventions coming to town.
Idea	404	Work with outside talents to promote the building (This community is full of talent).
Idea	405	Would it be possible to base rent on the profit of a shop/business/restaurant?
Idea	406	Years ago District 318 has a spelling bee for elementary students on the inside steps of Central School. The moderator dressed as an old fashioned school teacher - very unique! What about using this building for caroling, etc. by school choirs at Christmas?
Idea	407	Yes. I think it should be offered that some of the empty space could be used by some of the non-profit agencies that work with people with developmental disabilities at a reduced price. They could use some of the space as a work space to work on projects as well as to possibly market things they have made. I would be interested in this and would be willing to volunteer some time to such an idea.
Idea	408	Yes. It should have a nice expensive/quality modern interior mixed in with the old architectural design.
Idea	409	Yoga studio on 3rd floor -- someplace with a view
Idea	410	You got them all.
Idea	411	You have already been applying for grants I assume.
Idea	412	Youth center activities along with senior activities