



Rural Development • Rural Business-Cooperative Service • Rural Energy for America Program

Brining The Creative Arts to Rural Communities

Dawn Johnson, Melissa Craig, and Christina Rudolph, individually proven to be successful business women, teamed together to form Studio on the Square, LLC in Hamilton, Texas. Their first dance class was taught to more than 35 children in the Fall of 2009, and has steadily evolved into offerings to include tumbling, cheer, tiny tots for ages 0-3, workouts, and arts.

With only word of mouth advertising, Studio on the Square was outgrowing their existing small leased space, so they sought out the opportunity to bring something to the city square that could serve the community while continuing their passion for offering the arts. In April 2015, they purchased the old Hamilton Guest Hotel



Studio on the Square—Hamilton, TX.

— built in the 1860's — in an effort to be a major player in the revitalization of the downtown Hamilton Square. The building, which had set empty for more than a decade prior to the purchase, boasts more than 10,000 square feet of space and was immediately utilized for classes and studio time as a Creative Arts Center with a focus on the fine arts, performing arts, and dance studio for Hamilton and its surrounding communities. Major renovation projects have since been completed, including the revamping of all plumbing, HVAC and electrical systems, and replacement of windows, and the space has become a popular venue for events, including children tiny tot parties, paint parties, jewelry parties and make-and-take parties. There are also several specialized boutique shops located in the space. When renovations are completed, Studio on the Square will also be utilized as an event venue, providing the largest indoor climate-controlled venue in Hamilton County.

The Rural Energy For America Program (REAP) grant will allow Studio on the Square to install a 20KW solar array on the rear roof of the building, which will result in significant energy savings, helping to ensure the longevity of the business.

Obligation Amount: \$16,439 REAP Grant

Date of Obligation: January 20, 2016

Congressional District: Representative Williams, District 25; Senators Coryn and Cruz

Partners: Hamilton EDC

Demographics: City of Hamilton and Hamilton County, TX

Impact: Reducing electrical costs for commercial business