

## 妙覺佛教學院工程的好消息

# Good News from the Wonderful Enlightenment Buddhist Institute (WEBI) Project

節錄自朱建和居士於2021年7月18日週日線上講座系列的報告

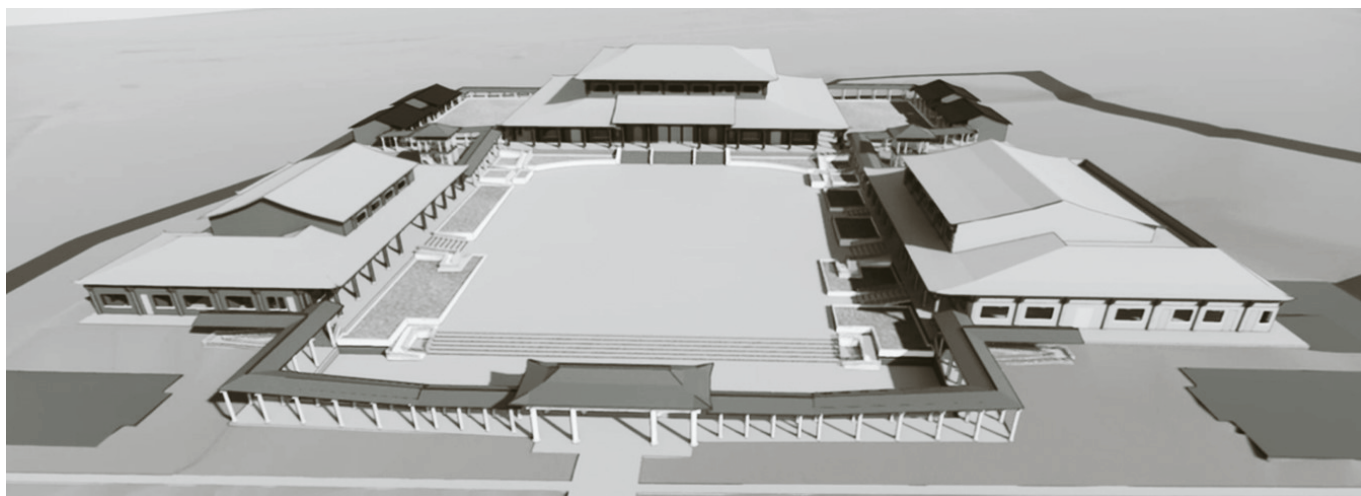
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An Excerpt from Upasaka John Chu's Talk in the Online Sunday Evening Lecture Series on July 18, 2021

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English Translated by Amy Liu



今天晚間的報告有三個部分，第一部分，就是我們目前已經興建的第一期工程的進度，還有第二期包括大殿、齋堂、法堂這三棟的設計。第二部分，跟大家分享我們過去幾十年來找過不同的建築師，做過不同的設計，一直演變到今天最後定案的這個設計方案。最後的部分，跟大家分享一個好消息，就是我們的妙覺佛教學院新佛殿，一直以來因為在農地的地目上，所以高度限制只能在五十英尺以內，我們在今年七月一號通過公聽會，當天出席的曼都西諾郡規劃委員全體無異議同意讓我們增加高度到六十

Tonight's report consists of three parts. The first part is about the progress of the project's Phase One, which has been under construction, as well as the designs for the second phase, which includes the Buddha Hall, dining hall, and Dharma Hall. In the second part, I will share with everyone the designs created by various architects over the past few decades, leading up to today's finalized design. And for the last part, I bring good news. The new WEBI Buddha Hall has always been restricted to fifty feet in height because it is located on agricultural zoning. However, in a public hearing on July 1, 2021, the Mendocino County planning commissioners unanimously approved our request for an increase in height to sixty-five feet. Our architect was incredibly happy. When a member of the WEBI Oversight Committee heard the news, someone was overjoyed to the point of tears. This was truly

五英尺，所以我們的建築師特別高興，妙覺佛教學院計劃監督委員會裡，有的人聽到這個消息甚至喜極而泣，這真是很好的一個消息。

### 宣公上人的開示與偈頌

我們這個工程有兩個名字，原來叫做「國際哲學倫理研究院」，後來對內改成「妙覺佛教學院」，這兩個名字是指同樣的一個工程。我們師父宣公上人一九九二年在萬佛殿開示時，曾經說：

「這個我們東區的計劃如果通過了，我們正式要造一個宮殿式的廟宇，那麼所有修道的人，都可以搬到一起去，設備方面，傳戒，或做什麼事情都很夠用，地方也很合用。這個樣子才算是萬佛聖城上了軌道了，我們在那邊把妙覺聖寺造好了，這一邊一切的地方、建築，就改做大學、中學、小學使用。」

所以上人高瞻遠矚，在一九九二年就把我們整個聖城的藍圖都已經講得很清楚了，我們新建的地方是法師搬過去用；舊有的地方，這些就留給中小學、大學來用。

關於這座妙覺山，上人寫過一首四言偈頌：

妙覺巔峰  
龍飛鳳舞  
本來性中  
神定仙閒

### 郡參事全力支持妙覺佛教學院

這張照片是2016年我們破土典禮時候所照的，中間最高的是恒來法師；這位是萬佛聖城的方丈恒律法師，他在主持灑淨儀式；這個是我們邀請南傳的帕薩諾法師來共同

good news.

### The Venerable Master's Instructions and Verse

Our project has had two names. Originally, it was named the International Institute of Philosophy and Ethics, and later, we referred to it internally as the Wonderful Enlightenment Buddhist Institute. The two names refer to the same project. At a Dharma talk in the Buddha Hall in 1992, our teacher, Venerable Master Hua, instructed us, "If our East Campus Plan is approved, we will be officially building a monastery in a palace style. Then, all the cultivators can move there together, and it will be suitable and equipped to hold ordination ceremonies and all kinds of other events. Only then will the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas be considered to be truly on track. After the Wonderful Enlightenment Sagely Monastery is completed over there, all the buildings here [on the west side] can be used for the university, high school, and elementary school."

Thus, back in 1992, the Venerable Master already had the foresight and clearly laid out the blueprint of the entire City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. The monastics will be moving into the newly constructed buildings, and the currently existing place will be for the elementary school, high school, and university.

Regarding the Wonderful Enlightenment Mountain, the Venerable Master wrote this verse:

*At the summit of Wonderful Enlightenment Mountain,  
Dragons soar and phoenixes dance.  
In your inherent Buddha-nature,  
Rest in samadhi and be free like an immortal.*

### County Supervisor Offers Full Support for WEBI



主持；還有一個就是很支持我們的曼都西諾郡民選官員凱瑞·布朗，最左邊您看到的就是易果容居士、方丈恒律法師、恒來法師、帕薩諾法師、恒持法師、恒賢法師、恒良法師，這位就是郡參事、也做過郡長。凱瑞·布朗非常支持我們的工程，她在位當曼都西諾郡參事八年期間，只要我們提出來的方案，她幾乎都是全力支持。

她曾經跟我們講：「你們萬佛聖城有什麼我可以幫忙的地方，這是我家裡的電話號碼，找我最好的時間是早上七點鐘。」

為什麼她這個西方人對佛教這麼支持？後來我才發現，她母親雖然不是佛教徒，但是她母親生前跟觀音菩薩很有緣。她母親有一尊白瓷觀音像，保存了一輩子，可能因為是這樣子，她覺得她母親對觀世音菩薩的尊重、信仰，好像是聖母瑪利亞一樣，她耳濡目染、有這樣的身教，所以她雖然是基督徒，也對我們佛教很護持的。

她母親往生之後，她就將這尊觀世音菩薩像捐出來，我們將祂供奉在萬佛城行政辦公室的展示中心，大家可以看這尊觀音菩薩像。就是這尊觀音菩薩像，對她母親很有幫助，對她也是一個很好的身教，尊重別的宗教。

2018年，英國永生寺的阿瑪若法師來我們的工地參觀，由方丈上恒下律法師陪同。同一年，中國真如禪寺方丈上純下聞和尚，還有台灣海明寺方丈上明下光法師，由我們方丈上恒下律法師親自接待。

菩提團隊不牟利

This photo was taken at our groundbreaking ceremony in 2016, and the tallest person in the center is Dharma Master Heng Lai, the Abbot of the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, Dharma Master Heng Lyu, is hosting the Ceremony for Purifying the Boundaries. This is Ajahn Pasanno of the Theravada tradition; we invited him to be a co-host. The next photo shows Mendocino County's First District Supervisor Carre Brown, an elected official of Mendocino County, who has been of great support to us. From the left, Dr. Ron Epstein, DRBU Chancellor Emeritus; Dharma Master Heng Lyu, Abbot of the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas; Dharma Master Heng Lai, DRBA Board of Directors; Ajahn Pasanno, Abbot of Abhayagiri Monastery, 1997 - 2018; Dharma Master Heng Chih, Chair of the DRBU Board of Trustees; Dharma Master Heng Hsien, Professor Emerita; and Dharma Master Heng Liang, DRBU Dean of Students. Ms. Brown has been very supportive of our project. During her eight years as the Mendocino County Supervisor, she almost always showed full support for our proposals.

She once told us, "If there is anything I can do for the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas— here is my home phone number. The best time to call me is 7 a.m."

How come she, as a Westerner, is so supportive of Buddhism? I found out later that although her mother was not a Buddhist, she had deep affinities with Guanyin Bodhisattva. Her mother kept a white porcelain statue of Guanyin throughout her life, and maybe because of this, Ms. Brown felt that her mother respected and believed in Guanyin Bodhisattva just like the Virgin Mary. Thus, although she is a Christian, Ms. Brown has been a great supporter of Buddhism.

After her mother passed away, she donated her mother's statue of Guanyin Bodhisattva to us, and it has been enshrined in the Exhibition Center at the Administration Office in the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. Here, you can see the statue of Guanyin Bodhisattva. This statue was very helpful for her mother, and it has also set a good example for Ms. Carre Brown, teaching her to respect other religions.

In 2018, Ajahn Amaro of Amaravati Buddhist Monastery in the United Kingdom came to visit our [WEBI] construction site, where he was accompanied by the Abbot Dharma Master Heng Lyu. That same year, Dharma Master Chun Wen, the Abbot of Zhenru Chan Monastery in China and Dharma Master Ming Guang, the Abbot of Haiming Monastery in Taiwan also came, and both were received personally by our Abbot Dharma Master Heng Lyu.

### Team Bodhi (the General Contractor) Does Not Work for Profit

The monks' dormitories and multi-purpose buildings are already



男眾法師的寮房，還有多功能房，現在已經百分之九十五完成了，待水電連接上去，就可以使用。另外這邊有四棟，這四棟現在大概也建了百分之四十、五十，應該在今（2021）年底，整個外牆、屋頂會完成。

第一期男眾法師的寮房，它的南邊這塊綠地，齋堂會在東邊，佛殿在中間，法堂在佛殿的西邊。這是中國史居士捐的第一期九棟建築屋頂所有的陶瓦。

宣公上人的弟子鍾果基、張果寶、劉果福、阮田這幾位組成了一個建築公司，叫「菩提團隊」專門就是為承包我們第一期工程。他們除了多數不領薪水，大部分都是義工之外，承包工程也不求利潤，所用的這些機器設備，等到這個工程完成之後，都會捐給聖城。這是近氣法師，他在工地一方面監工，同時也跟這些義工一起做事情。

這是屋頂三角形的結構，我們的菩提團隊、第一棟跟外面的承包商學，接下來幾棟他們都學會了，就自己可以做。除了菩提團隊，我們還有胡公浩、張果煌、翁果樹、阮親賢、顏琛這些人來當義工。

## 第二期工程介紹

這是鐘樓和鼓樓，我們第二期工程的佛殿是要供奉五方佛，西區現有的佛殿（觀音殿）有一萬尊小佛像，每一尊都是上人塑的，每一尊都有他的頭髮在裡面；同時，上人也保留了他的一些頭髮，交代說未來在東區妙覺聖寺大雄寶殿的地基，要把他的頭髮放到裡面去。

宣公上人的遺願、把他頭髮放在佛殿的地基裡面，這是一個表法，他的願力要成就整個的妙覺聖寺；同時，也要我們記得他的教化。有人說我們這座大雄寶殿的地基除了鋼筋水泥之外，還要建立在這個六大宗旨，我們平常在

95% complete and will be operative once water and electricity are connected. The other four buildings [in Phase one] are also 40-50% complete, and the entire exterior wall and roof should be finished by the end of this year (2021.)

On the field south of the Phase one monks' dormitories, there will be a dining hall on the east, a Buddha Hall in the center, and a Dharma Hall on the west. These are the roof tiles for all nine buildings built in Phase-one, donated by Mr. Shi, a layperson in China.

The Venerable Master's disciples Mr. Tru Chung, Mr. Jimmy Cheung, Mr. Teck Lau, and Mr. Vincent Dien Nguyen formed a construction company and named it Team Bodhi, with the sole purpose of undertaking Phase-one of our project. Not only do most of them receive no salary and mostly volunteer their service, but they also undertook the project without seeking profit. When the project is completed, they will donate all the equipment used in the project to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. This is Dharma Master Jin Qi, who oversees the project at the construction site and also works alongside the volunteers.

This is the triangular structure of the roof. While constructing the first building, Team Bodhi learned how to make them from an outside contractor, and for the following buildings, they were able to make the structures by themselves. Besides Team Bodhi, we also have Mr. Howard Hu, Mr. Guohuang Cheung, Mr. Peter Wong, Mr. Jason Ruan, and Mr. Daniel Yan volunteering to help.

## Introducing Phase Two of the Construction

These are the bell and drum towers. The Buddha Hall in Phase-two of our project will enshrine the statues of the Buddhas of the Five Directions. The current Buddha Hall on the west campus (Guanyin Hall) has ten thousand small Buddha statues, each of which was handmade by the Venerable Master and contains bits of his hair. At that time, the Venerable Master also saved some of his hair and instructed us to put it in the future foundation of the Jewel Palace Hall at the Wonderful Enlightenment Sagely Monastery on the east campus.

Venerable Master Hsuan Hua's wish to have his hair placed in the foundation of the [future] Buddha Hall is a Dharma symbol representing his vow to establish the Wonderful Enlightenment Sagely Monastery and, simultaneously, serves as a reminder for us to remember his teachings. Someone said that the Buddha Hall's foundation will be built not only with reinforced cement, but also

籌備的時候，就要奉行「不爭、不貪、不求、不自私、不自利、不打妄語」，這樣的地基才堅固。

另外上人的心願、造這座妙覺聖寺，是讓我們有機會來完成這個心願，大家集思廣益、同心同德來做；同時，他是希望這一座道場，是一座修道人的大冶洪爐。上人講過，他來到這個娑婆世界的大事因緣，就是要造活佛、造活菩薩，這是他的願力。

這是裡面的五方佛，三萬尊小佛像原來已經預定要供奉到最高的地方。我們的建築師說，好不容易規劃成三萬尊小佛像都可以供奉在高處；現在我們增加了十五英尺以後，佛殿裡頭就可以更莊嚴，三萬尊小佛像要請到更高更合適的地方，當然沒有問題了。

這個就是剛剛報告的三萬尊小佛像，大家可以認捐。現在可以認捐的小佛像數量大概不到一萬尊。

這是大殿的外觀。佛殿的四個角落、右上角是方丈室和男眾法師的休息室，左上角是女眾法師的休息室，還有插花的部門，左下角這個地方是功德部，右下角是祖師殿，祖師殿通常是傳三皈五戒的地方，中間入口這個地方是天王殿——彌勒菩薩、四大天王。

這是佛殿、齋堂、法堂（也就是圖書館），這個四周圍起來，是有風雨走廊的。等我們都興建好了，我們的大型法會萬佛寶懺、觀音七、彌陀七、地藏七、禪七會在這邊舉行，但是居士住的地方，還是在原來西區的地方，兩邊要互相支援的。

第二期工程的建築設計，到現在已經有美、中、台十多位建築師的努力，其中很多都是義務發心設計，也有上人的老弟子參與。

我們的建地有一塊溼地，後來為了避開溼地，我們的妙覺寶殿建地申請向北移400英尺，獲得通過，這樣對溼

on the Six Great Principles. Starting at this stage of planning, we should practice the Six Great Principles of “no fighting, no greed, no seeking, no selfishness, no pursuit of self-advantage, and no lying.” Only in this way will the foundations be solid.

Another one of the Venerable Master’s wishes for constructing this Wonderful Enlightenment Sagely Monastery was so that we would have an opportunity to fulfill the wish, with our collective wisdom and being of one mind. At the same time, he hoped that this monastery could become a great smelting furnace for cultivators of the Way. The Venerable Master once said that the causes and conditions of the great matter for him to come to this Saha world was to create living Buddhas and Bodhisattvas.

These are the Buddhas of the Five Directions inside [the Buddha Hall.] With great effort, the architect made a design so that the thirty thousand small Buddha statues could all be placed in high places. Now that we are allowed to increase the height of the Buddha Hall by fifteen feet, the interior can be made more majestic and there should be no problem placing the thirty thousand small Buddha statues in higher and more proper locations.

This is one of the thirty thousand small Buddha statues that was just mentioned, and anyone can sponsor one. Right now, there are less than ten thousand statues left that can be sponsored.

This is the exterior of the Buddha Hall, and these are the four corners. The top right corner has the Abbot’s office and monks’ break room, and the top left corner has the nuns’ break room and the flower arrangement room. In the bottom left corner is the donation department and the bottom right corner is the Patriarch Hall, which is usually where the Three Refuges and Five Precepts are transmitted. Near the entrance is the Heavenly Kings Hall, with [statues of] Maitreya Bodhisattva and the Four Heavenly Kings.

This is the Buddha Hall, dining hall, and Dharma Hall (the library), which are surrounded on four sides with a covered walkway. When everything is completed, large-scale Dharma assemblies, such as the Ten Thousand Buddhas Jeweled Repentance, Guanyin session, Amitabha session, Earth Store session, and Chan session, will all be held over here. However, lay people will still live in the original west campus area and the two campuses will mutually support each other.

For Phase-two, we have had designs by over ten architects from the United States, China and Taiwan. Many of them volunteered their work, and some of them were the Venerable Master’s senior disciples.

Our [original] construction site included a wetland area. Later, to avoid it, we applied and were approved to move the construction site

地的影響也更少，所以這個方案對環保來講，也是很好的。妙覺佛教學院的建地和外面的馬路之間，有六百英尺的緩衝區。整個東區原來都是農業用地，在農業用地上限制就比較多。

妙覺寶殿設計的造型有數十種，有的將妙覺寶殿設計得像博物館；有的太簡單，缺乏佛教寺廟屋頂造型；還有的造型看起來像別的宗教團體的聚會場所；或者設計太現代化。

我們最後選定的妙覺佛教學院新大殿設計圖，是一位建築師提供的第八個版本，結合東西方建築文化特色，大殿裡的使用空間沒有柱子，兩層飛簷的屋頂中間可以自然採光、自然通風。大法會的時候，這個大殿可以容納兩千五百人。在沒有法會的時候，可以作其他的多功能用途，左右每一邊可以有三間教室，總共有六間教室。

## 新大殿申請增高終獲通過

在宣公上人涅槃二十六週年的前一天（2021年6月18日），我們收到郡政府負責承辦的首席規劃官員茱莉亞·柯若格的通知，說我們等了將近兩年的增加大殿高度的案子終於給我們排定了公聽會日期，在7月1日；而且他們承辦單位認為我們符合所有五項條件，她會推薦在公聽會投票的這些規劃委員來核准我們這個案子。

這是我們兩年前剛提出來的時候料想不到的，我們內部先討論，是不是要提出申請？大家都認為這個機會不大；但還是知其不可而為之，來試試看。果然，我們兩年前提出申請的時候，那個承辦官員是一位男的，他一開始就潑冷水，說我們不符合條件，要通過這種特例是很困難的高門檻，所以他不願意為我們背書，不願意推薦通過，公聽會也一直拖延，不肯召開。但是我們還是繼續從各方面跟他說明，他後來不曉得什麼原

of the Wonderful Enlightenment Jewel Palace Hall 400 feet north, resulting in less impact on the wetland. In this way, our project is also quite environmentally friendly. There is a buffer zone of 600 feet between the construction site and the road outside [of CTTB]. The entire east campus was originally agricultural land, so there are more restrictions.

There are dozens of designs for the Wonderful Enlightenment Jewel Palace Hall. Some resembled museums; some were too simple and lacked the appearance of a Buddhist monastery; some looked like assembly halls of other religious groups; others were too modern.

The design we finally chose for the new Buddha Hall of WEBI was the eighth version provided by an architect, which integrated architectural styles of both the East and West. The hall's interior has no columns, and gaps between the two layers of upturned eaves facilitate natural lighting and natural ventilation. During large Dharma assemblies, this Buddha Hall can accommodate 2,500 people. When there are no sessions, it can be used for other purposes. The left and right sides can each be transformed into three classrooms, for a total of six classrooms.

## The Application for an Increase in the New Assembly Hall's Height Was Finally Approved

On June 18, 2021, the eve of the twenty-sixth anniversary of Venerable Master Hsuan Hua's entering nirvana, we received a notice from Julia Krog, the chief planner of Mendocino County, saying that the public hearing for height variance of the Assembly Hall, which we had waited almost two years for, was finally scheduled for July 1. Furthermore, the planning department believed that we met all five conditions, and she would recommend the planning commissioners to approve our case.

This development was unexpected when we made the application nearly two years ago. First, we discussed internally about whether we should apply. Everyone believed that our chances were slim, but we decided to give it a shot anyway. And sure enough, when we applied in 2019, the county planner was a man who discouraged us from the start. He said that we didn't meet the conditions and there was a very difficult, high threshold for getting this kind of special case approved. So, he wouldn't endorse our case or recommend its approval. The public hearing kept getting postponed, but we continued our efforts in explaining the case to him from different perspectives. Half a year ago, he resigned from the position. A lady replaced him, and after reviewing the documents we had presented,



因做不下去，半年前他辭職了。換另一位女士接過來，看看我們已經呈上去這些資料，前任官員認為不行的地方，她就找到符合法規的部分，變成五個條件都可以通過了。7月1號公聽會通過我們的新佛殿增高申請後，10天之內也沒有任何居民上訴反對，新大殿增高申請通過就此成為定案。

所以我們在收到通知，說7月1號要辦公聽會的時候，我們就知道大勢底定，已經沒有問題了。這份電子郵件的通知就在宣公上人二十六週年涅槃紀念日的前一天收到，這可以說是一個不可思議的感應。

除了要感謝很多人誠心迴向，以及本「項目團隊」同心同德、竭盡全力，諸多幕前幕後的支持者之外，另外有一個可能的原因是，這位女士送她的兒子跟女兒來我們學校讀書，所以她對我們師父上人創辦學校的理念很認同，她相信我們，才會把她的子女送到我們學校來就讀。

所以過去二十多年來都認為增加新大殿高度根本不可能的事，終於水到渠成，這是宣公上人辦教育受到西方家長的認同，西方人尊重上人辦教育理念的感應，所以把不可能的事都轉變成可能了。

問：是不是我們建好（新大殿）以後，舊的、現在西區的觀音殿還是開放？

答：這是對的。現有供奉千手千眼觀世音菩薩的佛殿，以後還是對外開放的。

問：在新的大殿那邊有沒有觀音菩薩的像？

答：宣公上人已經指示了，未來的妙覺寶殿是供奉五方佛，也是五智如來。新大殿目前規劃是，裡面有

she found the parts that conformed to the regulations where the former planner considered otherwise. [In this way,] it turned out that we met all five conditions. On July 1, our height variance application for the new Assembly Hall was approved at the public hearing. Afterward, there were no objections from any county residents within ten days, so the approval of our application became final.

When we received the notice that the public hearing would be held on July 1, we immediately knew that the die was cast, and we would have no problem [getting an approval]. This email was received on the eve of the twenty-sixth anniversary of Venerable Master Hsuan Hua's entering nirvana, so this can be considered an inconceivable response.

We are grateful for this development. In addition to the many people who sincerely transferred their merit, our project team has been of one mind and tried their best. And there are so many supporters up front and behind the scenes. Another possible reason is that this new planner sent her son and daughter to our schools, suggesting that she trusts and respects the Venerable Master's core values (ideology) behind establishing our schools.

As can be seen, what was considered impossible for the past twenty years—increasing the height of the new Assembly Hall—was finally accomplished. This is a response, indicating that the Venerable Master's ideas in how to conduct school education were acknowledged and respected by the westerners, which turned the impossible into possible.

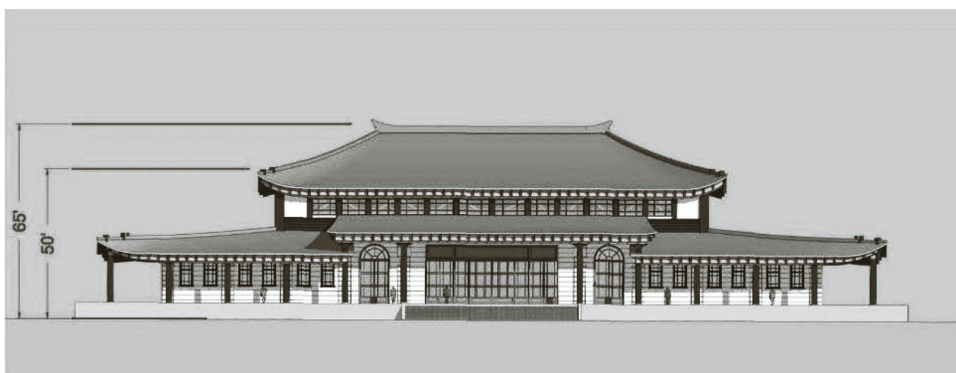
**Question: After the new Buddha hall is completed, will the current Guanyin Hall on the west campus remain open?**

**Answer:** Yes. The current Buddha Hall with the statue of Guanyin Bodhisattva with a thousand hands and eyes will remain open to the public.

**Question: Will the new Buddha Hall have a statue of Guanyin Bodhisattva?**

**Answer:** As instructed by Venerable Master Hsuan Hua, the future Wonderful Enlightenment Jewel Palace Hall will enshrine the Buddhas of the Five Directions, also known as the Five Wisdom Tathagatas. The current plan for the new Buddha Hall includes a symbolic Lengthening Life Hall on one side and a Rebirth Hall on the other, but the main Lengthening Life and Rebirth Halls are still on the west campus. The monks and nuns' areas might have statues of Guanyin Bodhisattva and the new Buddha Hall might too in the future, but currently, we don't know where they will be placed.

**Question: What is the application process for lay people to become long-term residents of the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas?**



這個表徵性的一邊是延生堂，一邊是往生堂；但是主要的延生堂、往生堂還是在西區。也許男眾法師、女眾法師的地方會有觀音菩薩像，新大殿未來可能也會有，目前我還不知道會供奉在什麼地方。

問：有一個比較一般的問題，是說在家人要到聖城來常住的話，需要什麼申請手續？

答：目前申請常住的話，要以義工的方式申請。申請義工，也是要幾個月的觀察，所以參加過一次法會，比如觀音法會、地藏法會之後再申請做義工，目前的程序是這樣子。

問：還有一個問題，就是認捐佛像每一尊多少錢？

答：可以跟我們的行政辦公室聯繫，大尊佛像數量不多，小尊佛像比較多。小尊的是\$1,000美元，大尊的是\$10,000美元。

問：有人問說，新大殿什麼時候可以蓋好？

答：我們現在大殿的進度，大約會在明年年中的時候完成設計，完成之後就可以招標、開始興建，大約一年半左右，2023到2024年，預計可以蓋好。

問：為何新大殿申請增加高度15英尺（總高度達到65英尺），而非別的高度？

答：曼都西諾郡對於各種不同的建築物的最高限制為65英尺。妙覺佛教學院位於農業用地，所以最高限制為50英尺。當初提出增高申請時，我們團隊的共識就是以曼都西諾郡建築物的最高限制為準，比較容易通過；而且建築師認為，增加到65英尺，已足以展現新大殿高聳巍峨的氣勢。❀

**Answer:** As of now, you should apply to be a volunteer if you want to become a long-term resident. The application process includes a few months of probation, so you should first attend a Dharma session, such as the Guanyin session or Earth Store session, and then apply to become a volunteer. That is the current application process.

**Question: How much does it cost to sponsor a Buddha statue?**

**Answer:** You can contact our Administration Office. There are very limited larger statues while much more small Buddha statues available, while most are already sponsored. A small statue is \$1,000 and a large one is \$10,000.

**Question: When will the new Buddha Hall be completed?**

**Answer:** At the rate we are progressing right now, the design for the Buddha Hall will be completed around the middle of next year. Afterward, we will conduct open bidding and begin construction. It is expected to be completed in another year and a half, between 2023 and 2024.

**Question: Why was the application for an increase in the new Assembly Hall's height set at fifteen feet (to make it sixty-five feet in the total height) instead of any other height?**

**Answer:** In Mendocino County, the height limit for industrial buildings is sixty-five feet which is the tallest height limit in our county. The WEBI construction site is zoned agriculture, so the height limit was fifty feet. Our project team reached the consensus to use the tallest height limit in Mendocino County so that it would be easier to be approved when we applied for a height variance. Moreover, our architect suggested that sixty-five feet would be good enough to give the new Assembly Hall a lofty and imposing look. ❀