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## Dan Gross | Work stops on Sameric

LIVE NATION says it has ceased construction and renovations on the Sameric (1908 Chestnut), the art-deco movie palace that has been closed since May 2002.

Clear Channel, of which LiveNation is a subsidiary, bought the theater in January 2005 from the Goldenberg Group, and said it would turn the Sameric [Boyd Theater] into a multi-use entertainment house.

"We've stopped construction in order to review what our overall plans are," **John Vlautin**, Live Nation VP of communications told us yesterday. He said selling the theater is "a possible option."

**Howard B. Haas**, chairman of Friends of the Boyd, a nonprofit group working to preserve the theater, said yesterday that he's upset that the theater, built as the Boyd in 1928, could again face demolition if sold to the wrong developer, and says his group will do whatever it can to ensure the Sameric isn't torn down.



Alliance Executive Director John Gallery (left) and Philadelphia Mayor John Street participate in the 2004 public announcement by Clear Channel that it was to restore the historic Boyd Theater.

