



WASHTENAW COUNTY OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING

January 22, 2009

Ms. Denise J. Sachau, Grants Manager
State Historic Preservation Office
Michigan Historical Center
Department of History, Arts and Libraries
P.O. Box 30740, 702 W. Kalamazoo Street
Lansing, Michigan 48909-8240

RE: CLG/Michigan Historic Preservation Grant Application
Rehabilitation Master Plan and National Register Nomination – Chelsea Center for the Arts

Dear Ms. Sachau:

Enclosed please find the Certified Local Government (CLG)/Michigan Historic Preservation Grant application to fund the development of a Rehabilitation Master Plan and National Register Nomination for the Chelsea Center for the Arts, located in the former St. Mary's Parish School in Chelsea, Michigan. If the proposed funding is granted, the Washtenaw County Office of Strategic Planning historic preservation staff will work with the Chelsea Center for the Arts Staff to select a qualified consultant for creation of the Rehabilitation Master Plan. Washtenaw County staff will also use their expertise in the field of historic preservation to write the National Register Nomination for the St. Mary's Parish School.

The proposed Rehabilitation Master Plan would provide a guiding document for the Chelsea Center for the Arts, assist that organization in appreciating its built assets and in implementing a plan for its long-term care and use. The National Register Nomination for the St. Mary's Parish School would validate the school's historic and architectural significance according to National Register criteria, provide historic resource protection at the Federal level, and honor its importance in the community of Chelsea, Michigan. Finally, the two products of this proposed project would put into place the historic resource documentation, evaluation, and implementation plan necessary to assist the Chelsea Center for the Arts in seeking funding for future rehabilitation projects.

Washtenaw County, a Certified Local Government serving 28 units of local government, fully supports this application. Few historic preservation projects have taken place in Chelsea, and the Office of Strategic Planning is pleased at the opportunity to form positive relationships with community members related to historic preservation and the arts.

Thank you for your time and consideration in evaluating this grant proposal.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Guenzel
Washtenaw County Administrator