

**CITY OF GAUTIER  
MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Samantha Abell, City Manager  
**From:** Patty Huffman, Grants & Projects Manager  
**Through:** Chandra Nicholson, Director of Economic Development and Planning Dept.  
**Date:** July 11, 2013  
**Subject:** City Council Letter of Support for Humanities Field Station at Twelve Oaks

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**REQUEST:**

The Economic Development and Planning Department requests City Council approval for a letter of support for the development of a Humanities Field Station to be located at Twelve Oaks.

**BACKGROUND:**

Twelve Oaks is located on thirteen acres along the Mississippi Sound and was built circa 1896. According to the Gautier Historic Preservation Commission, the house was built on the site of the McRae Hotel, a pre-Civil War vacation resort for coastal area residents.

Volunteers have worked for over two years on a plan to create a humanities learning center or field station at Twelve Oaks. A letter of general support has been requested from the City to be included with requests for funding from other sources.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

City staff recommends that City Council approve the attached letter of support for the plan to develop a Humanities Field Station at Twelve Oaks.

The City Council may:

1. Approve the letter of support as presented;
2. Approve the letter of support with changes; or
3. Disapprove submitting a letter of support.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Humanities Field Station Letter of Support

*Mayor*  
Gordon T. Gollott

# *City of Gautier*

## *Gautier, Mississippi*

*City Manager*  
Samantha D. Abell

*City Clerk*  
Cynthia Russell

*Council*  
*At Large Mary F. Martin*  
*Ward 1 Johnny Jones*  
*Ward 2 Hurley Ray Guillotte*  
*Ward 3 Casey C. Vaughan*  
*Ward 4 Charles "Rusty" Anderson*  
*Ward 5 Adam D. Colledge*



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July 16, 2013

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of the Gautier City Council, I would like to offer the City's wholehearted support for the establishment of a proposed Humanities Field Station to be located at Twelve Oaks in Gautier, Mississippi.

The City of Gautier is very proud of its heritage and natural beauty and recognizes Twelve Oaks as one of our city's gems. Twelve Oaks is located on thirteen acres along the Mississippi Sound and was built circa 1896. According to the Gautier Historic Preservation Commission, the house was built on the site of the McRae Hotel, a pre-Civil War vacation resort for coastal area residents.

The concept of re-purposing this large, historic home as a Humanities Field Station is a unique way to preserve the history and natural beauty of this property while encouraging work in the field of humanities. Such a multi-disciplinary center would attract artists, writers, musicians, historians, philosophers, anthropologists, students and others who could interact and share ideas in this lovely setting on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

The City of Gautier has adopted the theme of "Nature's Playground". Creating a Humanities Field Station at Twelve Oaks fits with the City's emphasis on our waterfront and natural beauty of the area. This proposed field station will serve to cultivate our creative economy by attracting visitors to the area and stimulating the local economy.

The City of Gautier is proud to offer its support for the proposed Humanities Field Station at Twelve Oaks, and will assist with the planning of this unique project. We look forward to partnering with others to transform this local landmark into a special learning center which can be preserved and enjoyed by many.

Sincerely,

Gordon T. Gollott, Mayor  
City of Gautier

*"Nature's Playground!"*