

**CITY OF GAUTIER
MEMORANDUM**

To: Samantha Abell, City Manager
From: Patty Huffman, Grants and Projects Manager
Through: Chandra Nicholson, Director of Economic Development and Planning
Date: July 24, 2015
Subject: Submission of an Application to the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
for a MS Gulf Coast National Heritage Area Grant for the former Gautier Colored School

REQUEST:

The Economic Development and Planning Department requests City Council authorization to submit a grant application to the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources for a Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area Grant for the former Gautier Colored School (also known as the West Pascagoula Colored School). The building is located at 902 De La Pointe Drive at the entrance to George Martin City Park.

BACKGROUND:

The Gautier Historic Preservation Commission has identified the Gautier Colored School as an important historic site for preservation and future use as a Historic Schoolhouse and Cultural Museum. In 2014 the City received a Community Heritage Preservation grant from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) in the amount of \$80,000 with a \$20,000 match to stabilize the building. This process is currently underway, and a Steering Committee has been established to assist with fundraising and promotion of the project. The total cost to renovate the building has been estimated at \$400,000 or more.

DISCUSSION:

The mission of the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area is to tell the coast's nationally significant story to residents and visitors through activities and partnerships that celebrate the unique history, people, traditions and landscapes of South Mississippi. Grants will be awarded in amounts between \$500 and \$50,000. Total anticipated funding for all awards is \$150,000. Applicants must provide at least a 3:1 ratio match from non-federal sources (either cash or in-kind). The city's existing state-funded Community Heritage Preservation grant from MDAH will serve as the city's match to this federally funded grant. Applications must be submitted by August 10, 2015 and project start dates will be October 1, 2015.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Economic Development and Planning Department recommends that City Council authorize submission of a grant application for the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area funding for up to the maximum amount of \$50,000 for the next phase of restoration of the former Gautier Colored School.

City Council may:

1. authorize submission of a grant application as outlined above; or
2. disapprove submission of a grant application.

ATTACHMENT(S):

Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area Press Release-Availability of Grants



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

News Release

Contact: Melissa Scallan

Phone: 228-523-4124

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15-52-MMS
July 16, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Grants available through Gulf Coast National Heritage Area

BILOXI, Miss. – The Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area is seeking applicants for its grants program to promote understanding and enhancement of the heritage areas in the lower six South Mississippi counties.

The mission of Heritage Area is to tell this area's nationally significant story to residents and visitors through activities and partnerships that celebrate the unique history, people, traditions and landscapes of South Mississippi.

Total anticipated funding for all awards is \$150,000, subject to the availability of funds. Grants likely will range from \$500 to \$50,000. Funds for the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area's matching grants program are provided by the federal government through the National Park Service.

Entities who are eligible to apply include city, state and county governments, universities and non-profit groups.

There will be a conference call at 10 a.m. Friday, July 24 for those who have questions about the applications. For call-in information, email rhonda.price@dmr.ms.gov. Applications can be found at dmr.ms.gov. The deadline for submissions is Aug. 10, 2015.

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is dedicated to enhancing, protecting and conserving marine interests of the state by managing all marine life, public trust wetlands, adjacent uplands and waterfront areas to provide for the optimal commercial, recreational, educational and economic uses of these resources consistent with environmental concerns and social changes. Visit the DMR online at www.dmr.ms.gov.

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