

**CITY OF GAUTIER
MEMORANDUM**

To: Paula Yancey, City Manager
From: April Havens, Grants and Projects Manager
Date: September 13, 2016
Subject: Submission of an Application to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History for a Community Heritage Preservation 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 Archives and History (MDAH) for a Community Heritage Preservation Grant for the Mississippi Landmark, 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. The grant application must be received by MDAH by September 30, 2016.

BACKGROUND:

The Mississippi Legislature has approved the twelfth round of funding for the Community Heritage Preservation (CHP) Grant Program. This program authorizes the Mississippi Department of Archives and History to make grants available for the preservation, restoration, development and interpretation of historic courthouses and school buildings. To be eligible, a building must be designated as a Mississippi Landmark under the Antiquities Law of Mississippi prior to application. The former schoolhouse was originally built in 1921 by patrons of the school as a one-room school for Gautier's African-American children and was used as a school until 1946. Later, the building was used as a community center, senior citizens center, and voting place.

The schoolhouse was designated as a Mississippi Landmark by MDAH on October 19, 2012 for both its historical and architectural significance and was also named in 2013 as one of the 10 Most Endangered Historic Sites in Mississippi by the Mississippi Heritage Trust.

DISCUSSION:

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. The City received a CHP grant of \$80,000 in December 2013, with a \$20,000 match, for Phase I to stabilize the building. A \$50,000 grant was also received from the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources for the first phase, which is now substantially complete. The building has a new foundation, roof, and floor.

Future Phases II and III are estimated to cost \$227,325 and \$121,775, respectively. If the City chooses to apply for Phase II funding only, a local match of \$45,465 will be required. If the City chooses to apply for Phase II and Phase III funding, a local match of \$69,820 will be required. A match has **not** been included in the fiscal year budget. Applicants of the CHP Grant Program will be notified in December 2016 of the MDAH Board of Trustees' decisions. These grants are reimbursement-based after completion of the project. All projects must be completed by December 1, 2019.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Economic Development and Planning Department recommends that City Council authorize submission of a grant application to MDAH for the Community Heritage Preservation Round XII funding for the next phase of rehabilitation of the former Gautier Colored School as outlined above.

City Council may:

1. Authorize submission of a grant application for \$227,325 in funding (Phase II only), signed Statement of Understanding, and commitment for the required match up to \$45,465; or

2. Authorize submission of a grant application for \$349,100 in funding (Phases II and III), signed Statement of Understanding, and commitment for the required match up to \$69,820; or
3. Authorize submission of a grant application with changes; or
4. Not authorize submission of a grant application.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Community Heritage Preservation Grant Program Documents (Round XI):
 - Certification of Matching Share
 - Statement of Understanding



MATCHING SHARE

Donor: _____

Source: _____

Total Cash Amt: \$ _____

Donor: _____

Source: _____

Total Cash Amt: \$ _____

Donor: _____

Source: _____

Total Cash Amt: \$ _____

Donor: _____

Source: _____

Total Cash Amt: \$ _____

Donor: _____

Source: _____

Total Cash Amt: \$ _____

Total Match (must equal matching funds on Item 5 of the application): \$ 0.00

CERTIFICATION OF MATCHING SHARE

I certify that the matching share funds identified above are available, and that they will be allocated only to the Community Heritage Preservation Grant project described in this application and titled:

Project Title

Name and Title of Authorized Representative

Signature Date

Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit appropriate documentation of the matching share (copies of bank statements, etc.) to this page. Please note that applications without documentation may not receive full credit for the matching share.

STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

With respect to grants received from MDAH, applicants indicate by their signatures they have read, understand, and agree to this Statement of Understanding. Failure to comply will result in cancellation:

1. This is a request for consideration for a grant and does not constitute a commitment for funding from the Community Heritage Preservation Grant Program administered by MDAH.
2. Individuals submitting this grant request on behalf of applicants have the necessary authority to request consideration of this project by MDAH.
3. This is a matching grant program in which only a portion of the total project cost can be supplied by the grant funds; matching share will be supplied by applicants in the form of cash. In-kind matches will not be considered or credited to applicants. Projects with a cash match larger than 20% will score higher; however, any amount offered as a match must be guaranteed. **There will be no amendments to lower the match percentage amount.**
4. No work covered in this application is to begin until applicants have been notified in writing that funds have been awarded and have accepted in writing the terms and conditions of the grant. No work is to begin until the work has been approved by the Permit Committee and applicants have received an official **Mississippi Landmark Permit**.
5. If a grant is received, a 25-year preservation and maintenance covenant must be submitted to MDAH in which the grantee agrees to maintain the property and not abandon it. Covenants are transferable.
6. If a grant is received, all obligations for material work are to be paid by the grantee, who will then receive reimbursement from the Department of Finance and Administration, based on prior agreement and approval by MDAH.
7. The availability of funds for reimbursable expenses incurred by grantees is dependent upon the authorization and sale of legislatively approved general obligation bonds by the Mississippi State Bond Commission. Until the Commission sells the bonds, reimbursement funds will not be available.
8. Grants will be administered in accordance with all applicable state laws, regulations, policies, requirements, and guidelines, including Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, non-discrimination on the basis of handicap, and equal employment opportunity and labor laws.
9. Projects shall be carried out pursuant to the relevant treatment in The Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* as outlined in Appendix B and the *International Existing Building Code 2009*.
10. Procurement actions will be conducted in accordance with the State of Mississippi bidding and procurement laws.

COMMUNITY HERITAGE PRESERVATION GRANT PROGRAM—ROUND 12



11. All costs charged to the grant project will be in payment of approved budget items.
12. Adequate resources will be available for the completion of the proposed project and the continued operation of the site.
13. An adequate financial management system (and audit procedure when deemed applicable) will be maintained to provide control of all property, funds, and assets during the grant period.
14. The project, if funded, will be carried out in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the Historic Preservation Division of MDAH and will be completed within the allotted time. **Projects will not be extended.** Additionally, there are benchmarks that must be met during the grant period in order to keep a project on schedule. Failure to meet the benchmarks could lead to the cancellation of a project.
15. Applicants will cooperate with the staff of MDAH in meeting all the above requirements.
16. Additional administrative requirements and project-specific conditions may be a part of any grant offer made by MDAH as a result of this application.
17. **Failure to comply with the conditions set forth in this Statement of Understanding will result in cancellation of the grant.**

The applicant recognizes and agrees that any state financial assistance will be extended in reliance on the representations and agreements made in this assurance, and that the State of Mississippi reserves the right to seek judicial enforcement of this assurance. This assurance is binding on the applicant, its successors, transferees, and assignees, and on the person or persons whose signature appear below and who is/are authorized to sign this assurance on behalf of the applicant.

Name of Applicant/Project Sponsor Date

Name and Title of Authorized Representative

Signature