

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

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4-9-02

DATE: APRIL 1, 2002

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *PS*

SUBJECT: SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS FOR FORT WARD

ISSUE: City Council consideration of a grant application to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for funding, in the amount of \$125,000, for the restoration of Fort Ward.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council authorize the City Manager to:

- (1) approve the submission of a "Save America's Treasures" grant application to the National Endowment for the Arts in the amount of \$125,000;
- (2) approve the use of grant funds, if awarded, for funding restoration of the Northwest Bastion at Fort Ward; and
- (3) execute all documents that may be required.

Due to time constraints, the application for this grant was submitted to the National Endowment for the Arts by the April 5, 2002, deadline, pending City Council approval at its April 9, 2002, legislative meeting. Grants will be awarded after August 1, 2002.

DISCUSSION: The federally funded "Save America's Treasures" grants to preserve our cultural heritage are administered by the National Park Service, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts. Grants are available for preservation of nationally significant historic structures and sites as well as for nationally significant collections. The "Save America's Treasures" grant requires a dollar-for-dollar non-federal match.

The Office of Historic Alexandria has received \$28,371 in grants from the Commonwealth of Virginia for initial work at Fort Ward. The Proposed FY 2003-2007 Capital Improvement Program budget identifies \$200,000 of City funding to match anticipated state or federal grant funds estimated in the amount of \$60,000. This grant application and the work which is necessary to complete the restoration of the Fort were discussed on March 6 with Congressman James P. Moran, who indicated that he would support this grant request. In the past,

Congressman Moran has successfully sponsored appropriations from this program for the renovation of the Alexandria Academy and most recently for the Lloyd House.

Funding is necessary in order to repair a fissure which has migrated laterally approximately 100 feet along both walls of the northwest bastion, seriously threatening their collapse. Professional studies confirm that fluctuations in temperature, extremely high in the summer to freezing and thawing in the winter, along with poor drainage have allowed water to migrate into the slopes and saturate the soil. This saturation has resulted in a separation at the point where the original earthwork remained and the initial 1964 restoration work was implemented.

The City of Alexandria has commissioned two studies by professional soil engineers to ensure that proper conservation practices will be implemented with minimal invasion of the site. This will involve inserting grout columns into the walls to stabilize the earth; installing vertical channels (geopiers) at intervals to carry away the excess water; and installing a system of drains in the dry moat to move excess water away from the base of the walls. None of the work will be visible on the surface. The disturbed areas will be restored to reflect the proper 1860's military ambiance. This very specialized project will be carried out by contract under the direction of the Museum staff and engineers from the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services. A review of all landscape replanting will be conducted by Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities staff.

FISCAL IMPACT: Matching funds (\$125,000) required for the grant are available through \$28,371 in State funds, and the proposed FY 2003-2007 CIP funds of \$200,000. The state funding is required to be spent within FY 2003, however the potential exists to carry the funding over for one year. OHA staff intends to carry these funds over and request additional funding from the State in FY 2004. Staff expects that the announcement of federal funds requested in this grant application will take place in October 2002, and that the City will have two years from the announcement in which to spend the funds. The matching funds are identified in the CIP in FY 2006. In the context of the FY 2004 budget process, OHA staff will be requesting that the necessary portion of these funds be moved up from FY 2006 to FY 2004 to provide a match. In addition, the Friends of Fort Ward have pledged \$5,000 to this project. If this federal grant is awarded in its entirety, the CIP funds required would be only \$92,000. If the grant is awarded the funding will be: \$92,000 in City CIP funds, approximately \$28,000 in State funds, \$5,000 in private funds and \$125,000 in federal funds for a total of \$250,000.

ATTACHMENTS: None.

STAFF:

Jean Taylor Federico, Director, Office of Historic Alexandria
Wanda Dowell, Director, Fort Ward Museum
Kendel Taylor, Budget Analyst, OMB