


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 10, 2009

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: GRANT APPLICATION TO THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION TO ENHANCE THE RESEARCH, INTERPRETIVE AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS OF THE OFFICE OF HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA AT FORT WARD PARK AND MUSEUM

ISSUE: Consideration of a grant application to the National Trust for Historic Preservation “Partnership-in-Scholarship” program.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) Authorize a grant application for \$15,000 to the National Trust for Historic Preservation; and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents that may be required under this program.

BACKGROUND: The “Partnership-in-Scholarship” Grants are part of the African American Historic Places Initiative (AAHPI) of the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) and are generously supported by the Ford Foundation. AAHPI was launched in 2002 to highlight the significance and importance of African American historic places across the country. Initial efforts focused on assessing the needs of African American historic places and identifying strategies to support collaborations between the preservation community and colleges and universities. From this initial work, NTHP identified two major challenges that African American historic places face nationally:

1. A general lack of visibility for and public awareness of African American historic places.
2. The need to enhance education and interpretation programs, particularly those dealing with difficult issues such as race.

In 2007, NTHP began work to enhance the visibility of African American historic places, build capacity of these historic places by increasing access to historic preservation resources, and support reciprocally beneficial educational programming opportunities between historic sites and colleges and universities

DISCUSSION: If grant funds are awarded, the Office of Historic Alexandria will retain an interdisciplinary team of college/university scholars, historians and interpretive specialists to expand its research and interpretive programming efforts at Fort Ward Park. The focus of this team will be to identify the major themes associated with the residency of African American families in what is now Fort Ward Park following the Civil War period until City acquisition of the property in about 1960, and to create interpretive program opportunities at the site. Total project cost is estimated at \$15,000.

FISCAL IMPACT: No matching funds are required.

STAFF:

Mark Jinks, Deputy City Manager

Lance Mallamo, Director, Office of Historic Alexandria