

FY 2015 Budget Request for the Mt. Vernon Historic Preservation Commission

Dues/Membership/Permits/Subscriptions	250
Travel/Mileage/Meals/Lodging	200
Ads/Publications	35
Support Payments to Other Agencies	0
Computer Equipment, Software, Support	500
Contract/Labor/Services	3500
Refunds	0
Supplies/Materials	1000
Postage and Shipping	50
Miscellaneous	515
Web Page/Email/Internet	200
Total MV Historic Preservation	6250

DATE SUBMITTED: 11/25/2013  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
FY2015 SUPPORT

CHAIR/DEPARTMENT HEAD: Leah Rogers, Chair

1. The amount requested for FY2015 from the City of Mount Vernon is: \$6250
2. Did your support request from the City of Mount Vernon increase from the previous year? No
3. If you answered yes to the above question, please explain what specific purpose those funds will be used for:  

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4. Provide a summary of your revenues from last year (see attached)
5. Please provide a summary of your expenditures from last year (see attached)
6. Does your organization plan to raise or solicit funds differently in this next year?  
No, the MV Historic Preservation Commission will continue to seek additional and matching funds for projects and seminars to further historic preservation activities and educational opportunities of benefit to business owners and residents of this community as the Commission has done since its inception. The Commission has raised funds through posters, Christmas cards, and historic postcards sales and through solicitations of private donations at public events. Commission members have been among those to donate not only their time but their private funds as well to various projects. The Commission has also applied for, and been granted, funding from the Certified Local Government grants program, the Historic Resources Development Program (regular and emergency grants), the Linn County Historic Preservation Grants program, and the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation Grants program. Nearly every grant requires some type of match, usually some percentage of cash match. We currently have an application in to the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation for the Mickey Woods mural conservation project.
7. Does your organization have plans to end its request for City assistance? Why or Why Not?  
No, the Commission needs to receive funds from the City in order to continue with the many programs and projects that have been undertaken and are planned for the community. While Commission members donate many hours of time and expertise to support projects and activities, projects like the website, the archives assessment, the conservation of the Mickey Woods mural, the update to the Commercial Historic District, and educational seminars all cost money for the hiring of technical assistance, expert consultants and paying for web server support, advertisement, and producing educational handouts.
8. Do you agree to provide the City with information or documentation, as requested, in order to verify how allocated funds were spent? Yes. The City manages all of our budget expenditures as supported by invoices, receipts, and other supported requests for reimbursement as needed.

## Summary of Revenues and Expenditures from FY 2014

Total amount budgeted for FY 2014	=	\$6250
Total expended as of October 2013	=	\$1618
Remaining balance through June 2014	=	\$4632

The amount requested for and budgeted for FY2014 is the same amount as currently being requested. The money was earmarked for projects including the annual hiring of a summer intern (either a Cornell College student or a local high school student) to conduct various Commission projects, including recent projects to scan and upload historic photographs to the website and an assessment of the Commission's archives housed in the basement of City Hall. Other funds were earmarked for assisting with the conservation of the Mickey Woods mural, specifically to help cover the costs of framing and hanging the piece in the Council Chambers.

The expenditures to date have been for the hiring of the summer intern (the archives assessment project), which was completed in August 2013. While we have only expended 26% of our budget as of October 2013, there are a number of projects planned for completion before June 2014 that will utilize the remaining balance. These projects include:

- Conservation of the Mickey Woods mural – The Commission has applied for a Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation grant of \$7700 to hire a professional conservator to complete the conservation and stabilization of the historic mural painted by local artist Mickey Woods. We will not know if the grant is funded in part or in whole until December 2013. If the grant request is not fully funded, then the Commission will need to make up the difference between the grant amount and the amount needed for hiring the conservator in order to complete this project. There have been some funds raised through the sale of Christmas cards and postcards and through the solicitation of private donations, but that amount has not been sufficient to fund the entire project. However, if the grant is funded in full, the Commission will still need to cover the costs associated with framing the mural for hanging in the Council chambers and other miscellaneous costs that may arise. It is anticipated that framing will cost at least \$500.
- Hiring of a summer intern – Last year we were able to hire a graduating Cornell College student beginning in May to conduct a comprehensive review and assessment of the Commission's historical archives housed in the basement of City Hall. It is anticipated that the intern for summer 2014 will also begin working prior to July, thus we anticipate needing to expend funds from FY2014 to pay for the intern's May and June hours.
- We still need to purchase archival materials to help preserve the historical collections per the recommendations of the intern, who submitted a report to the Commission in August with her recommendations to better preserve the archival collection.
- We anticipate needing to expend funds to help maintain the Commission's website, on which an extensive collection of historic photographs of Mount Vernon has been digitized and made into a searchable database that anyone can access.
- We are also planning on a Historic Windows Restoration Seminar to be held early spring 2014, for which an expert in this type of restoration will be hired to present the seminar. Other funds will be needed for advertising the seminar, and producing educational materials and handouts for participants.

The Mt. Vernon Historic Preservation Commission through the years has served the historic preservation of this community in the following ways:

Providing technical assistance and expertise from professionals on the Commission to the City, private property owners, and Cornell College on historic preservation projects for which someone would otherwise have to hire such assistance/consultation through Design Review and pre-reviews;

Assisting property owners in emergency situations, such as the fires at the Pizza Palace and Scorz, to find and obtain emergency grants from the State Historical Society of Iowa and the experts needed to recover from these catastrophic events;

Assisting property owners with information and contacts for state and federal historic preservation tax credits and available grant funding;

Spearheading a historic masonry evaluation of all the brick buildings in the Commercial District and assisting with brick restoration projects on several buildings including Bauman's, Big Creek Market, and Chameleon's, and the removal of the slip covers formerly on Lee's Town & Country building and the current Right Frame of Mind;

Working with Cornell College in the development of the Commission's website, which now contains an extensive collection of historic photographs that are searchable for research purposes;

Working with the City and other groups in getting the City's cemetery records preservation project underway and supporting the digitization project of the Mt. Vernon/Lisbon Sun newspaper collection, both also resulting in searchable databases accessible to the public;

Developing a good working relationship with Cornell College resulting in early pre-review consultations of all building restoration, landscape, and sign projects proposed by the College within the Cornell College Historic District;

Conducting seminars in Mt. Vernon to assist property owners in proper preservation techniques including seminars on porch restoration, historic paint colors, window restoration, masonry repairs, design review, and historic preservation funding and tax credits; and (among other activities)

Conducting historic tours during community events and scheduled bus tours and supporting local artists in historical themed events such as the Lincoln Highway Arts Festival and Heritage Days.