



CITY OF DANBURY
155 DEER HILL AVENUE
DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

DAVID W. ST. HILAIRE
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

(203)797-4652
FAX: (203)796-1526

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: 5/21/09
TO: HON. MARK D. BOUGHTON VIA THE COMMON COUNCIL
FROM: DAVID W. ST. HILAIRE, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE *DWS*
RE: CT CULTURE AND TOURISM GRANT-PALACE THEATER

Attached for your review is a resolution that will allow the City of Danbury Planning and Zoning Department to apply for and accept funding from the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism through the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation.

If awarded, this funding, not to exceed \$45,000, will be used for a study that includes site and needs analysis of the Palace Theater. There is no local match required.

The Common Council is respectfully requested to consider this resolution at its next meeting.

DWS/sk

cc: D. Elpern

RESOLUTION

CITY OF DANBURY, STATE OF CONNECTICUT

_____ A. D., 200_



RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Danbury:

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism has made a funding opportunity available to the City of Danbury through the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation; and

WHEREAS, if awarded, this funding, not to exceed \$45,000, will be used by the City of Danbury Planning and Zoning Department to conduct a study which includes site and needs analysis and potential uses and impact of underutilized cultural and historical assets; and

WHEREAS, the City of Danbury has identified that the Palace Theater is the location that will most benefit from this study; and

WHEREAS, there is no local match required.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Mark D. Boughton, Mayor of the City of Danbury, or Dennis I. Elpern, Planning Director, as his designee, is authorized to apply for and accept this funding and execute on behalf of the City of Danbury all contracts, agreements or amendments and to take all actions necessary to accomplish the purposes of this funding.



CITY OF DANBURY
155 DEER HILL AVENUE
DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

(203) 797-4525
(203) 797-4586 (FAX)

May 18, 2009

To: David St. Hilaire, Finance Director
From: Dennis I. Elpern, Planning Director
Re: Palace Theater
Application for Funding from the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

We were recently advised that grant funding is available through the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation to conduct planning studies for underutilized cultural and historic assets in Connecticut communities. Funding is through a Special Initiatives Grant from the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism.

This is a competitive grant. The Trust is accepting applications by June 5, 2009 and will select only two municipalities in the state for the funding. The maximum amount for each municipality is \$ 45,000.

After discussion with the Mayor, the owner, and others, we feel that the Palace Theater is our best candidate at this time for such a study. The Theater, constructed in 1926, is located within the Main Street Historic District. Although some preliminary restoration work has been completed recently by the owner, much remains to be done. If awarded, it is our intention to use the grant to conduct a planning study which will provide (1) a site analysis to determine the setting of the Theater in our historic downtown, (2) a needs analysis for restoration of the Theater, (3) a study to determine potential uses of the Theater, and (4) the impact the Theater would have on the City and region, including the contribution the Theater could make in promoting the downtown as a cultural, educational and entertainment destination. The study would become the basis for complete restoration plans of the Theater.

We intend to apply for the full \$ 45,000. There is no City match required.

Given the deadline for applications, I must get this request before Common Council on their June 2, 2009 agenda. A copy of the announcement is attached. Thank you.

c: Mayor Mark D. Boughton
Susan Kaminski
Laszlo Pinter

Attachment

G: Palace Theater Grant

Grant Funds for Community Cultural Planning and Action Plans
Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation
Funded through a Special Initiatives Grant from Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism

**Project Name: Urban/Town/Village Center Visioning and Revitalization:
Community Cultural Planning and Action Plans**

The Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation has Grant Funding available to support two municipalities in their efforts to produce action plans for underutilized/unrecognized cultural and historic assets (i.e., buildings, historic districts, town greens and parks, etc) in their communities. Selected proposals will include a team of professionals who will assist the municipalities in producing a focused strategy on the use of certain cultural, economic and historic assets in a given area. The CT Trust will work closely with municipalities in the assembly of the needed team members as well as to help organize a general approach to meeting the goals of the Grant Funding.

Applicants are invited to submit an "Application" (attached as Exhibit A) by Friday June 5, in triplicate, by 4 pm at the CT Trust offices at 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden. Up to \$45,000 will be made available from the CT Trust to each of the two municipalities selected by the CT Trust based on the review of the Application. Funding will be used for planning. The two selected municipalities will work with the CT Trust on a Final Work Plan that expands on the concepts contained in the Application. Working in conjunction with the CT Trust, the municipalities will have up to 9 months to complete their Action/Revitalization Work Plan.

Process: For those who are planning to submit an Application, the CT Trust will sponsor a presentation/information meeting at 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden on Thursday, May 21 at 10 am to address questions pertaining to the overall concept and specifically to the Application process. At this meeting, Robert McBride, founder and director of the Rockingham Arts and Museum Project, Bellows Falls, Vermont, will discuss how the revitalization of historic and cultural assets can revitalize a community. Mr. McBride is also an advisor for the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The presentation will serve to assist potential applicants in focusing Applications around historic/cultural assets.

The CT Trust believes that vibrant communities are those that mix historic buildings with a variety of cultural, commercial/retail and natural resources. What places, sites, cultural amenities exist in our communities? Do residents value them? What do residents want their communities to be like, given their historic, cultural and natural assets, what assets could be invested in, what could be marketed?

The CT Trust, a 501c3 non-profit organization, was chartered by the Connecticut General Assembly (PA 75-93) to stimulate the preservation of historically and architecturally significant sites and districts, as well as to assist state and local governments and private agencies in fostering such preservation.

Criteria:

- Historic and/or cultural assets are included in the proposed project area.
- Municipalities identify and will work with non-profit and other stakeholders who reflect community interests.
- The project will produce regional cooperation with adjacent towns.
- The project will discourage sprawl.

Application forms can be obtained from the CT Trust via email to circuitrider@cttrust.org. Selection of two municipalities to continue to the Final Work Plan stage will occur within three weeks of Application submission date. Contact Brad Schide, CT Circuit Rider for the CT Trust and the National Trust @ 860-463-0193.