

June 9, 2011

Chris Collins
Erie County Executive
95 Franklin Street
16th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202

Dear Mr. Collins,

It is my understanding that a "pot" of money is available to cultural organizations for capital projects.

As you may know, Locust Street Neighborhood Art Classes has just completed our 51st year. Over that time, we have purchased and renovated our own building, which is a 3-story brick former convent at 138 Locust Street, Buffalo.

Much of the repair and renovation work was done in the 1980s, soon after we purchased the building free and clear. Given that timeline, there are currently repairs which need to be done to keep the building in proper condition. Particularly, new repair work needs to be done at the eaves and roof area, as well as repainting of trim and some interior work, particularly bathroom area and storage areas. Because of the press of parking from the Medical Campus, we are also considering paving the front half of an empty lot we already own next door to provide parking for our staff and some visitors.

We are located 3 short blocks from the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus, in the Fruit Belt neighborhood. We are one of the most substantial buildings on that area of blocks. Our building is also an historic structure, having been built in the 1880s as the convent for St. Boniface Church. As such, we are an asset to both the visual aesthetic surrounding the Medical Campus, and as a community asset immediately accessible to the Medical Campus.

For these reasons, we suggest that investing in the condition of our building would be an appropriate use of some of these available funds. We already have an estimate for the most visible part of the work on the eaves, which is close to \$5000 for that one repair. We request \$20,000 be made available to keep our building in the kind of shape that is an asset to both the Fruit Belt neighborhood and the community of the Medical Campus as a whole.

Thank you for your consideration of these pressing needs.

Sincerely,

Molly Bethel
Director/Teacher
Locust Street Neighborhood Art Classes

SUSPENSION

September 13, 2011

Erie County Legislators
c/o James J. Cerroni Jr.
Deputy Clerk of the Legislature
92 Franklin St., 4th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202

Attached is our original request letter to Collins, as requested by members of the Legislature.

Our specific priorities are:

- Repair windows
- Some plumbing work
- Replace fluorescent light ballasts as needed, throughout the building
- Any supplemental work on eaves/gutters/roof area beyond what is covered by \$ 5000. grant from the Western New York Foundation
- Improvements to storage areas

It does not appear that there would be enough money left from \$ 6000. to address creating parking in the adjacent empty lot we own. However, this would be our *next* priority, after the above. Repairs directly affecting our building are obviously most important for good maintenance to keep the building operational for students.

Thank you,

Molly Bethel
Director
Locust Street Art