



COUNTY OF ERIE

CHRIS COLLINS
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

September 8, 2011

Hon. Betty Jean Grant
Erie County Legislator – 7th District
92 Franklin Street – 4th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202

Dear Legislator Grant:

As it has been sometime since our last written correspondence, I wanted to correct the record again regarding your misleading and false statements this morning to your colleagues at the Legislative Caucus.

This morning, you informed members of your conference that the African American Cultural Center did not request or apply for money to be used for a stage for their organization. I am attaching correspondence from Ms. Agnes Bain, which clearly states the following:

\$50,000 – Mobile Performing Stage

(Letter from Agnes Bain to County Executive Chris Collins, June 8, 2011)

Consistent with this request, the Administration awarded a grant in that amount for those capital purposes. As the Administration has stated from the beginning, this funding is designated for capital, not operational purposes. The Center's request was in accordance with that policy, and therefore the County Executive was proud to designate funds for that purpose.

Secondly, I also am compelled to address your incorrect statement that the Erie County Botanical Gardens was awarded \$200,000 out of the \$300,000 of these capital grants. At no point did the Administration ever allocate that funding for the Botanical Gardens. Perhaps this misunderstanding comes from the Legislature resolution dated July 21, 2011, Intro 15-10. A resolution "urging" the County Executive to take a specific action is within the purview of the Legislature; however, it has no legal or actual effect and is therefore non-binding.

It is regrettable that the Legislature misled this organization to believe funding was coming that it simply does not control. This allocation is solely directed to organizations at the County Executive's discretion, and the Legislature only approves or disapproves these items.

As always, I remain available to provide you factual and correct information as you weigh decisions on these Administrative items.

Respectfully Yours,

JON SCHMIEDER
Director, Intergovernmental Affairs

**AFRICAN
AMERICAN
CULTURAL
CENTER INC.**

gatekeeper for urban generations

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COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S
OFFICE

June 8, 2011

The Honorable Chris Collins, County Executive
95 Franklin Street, 16th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

Dear Mr. Collins:

The African American Cultural Center was founded in 1958 and today serves more than 3000 children and families in the heart of urban Buffalo, New York.

For more than 53 years, our programs and services have been a viable and critical resource for enhancing social behavior among African American youth through multidisciplinary training in the arts.

In keeping with our founding mission, our core programs – the AACC Dance and Drum Performance Company, Paul Robeson Theatre, Jumpin' Jambalaya Summer Program, Cultural Enrichment/Educational Directives for After School Program and Pine Grill Jazz Reunion, and sponsor 22 special programs that are presented throughout our community all of which – promote an appreciation and greater understanding of African American history and experience.

We are currently in need of funds for critically needed improvements to our physical plant at 350 Masten Avenue, which we have owned since 1969.

Funding to address the line items listed below will enable this agency to provide greater safety and comfort for existing patrons and clients. More importantly, it would also enable us to pursue audience development and capacity building strategies that will support a greater self-sufficiency.

We are in need of funding for

Steel Doors (4)	\$ 6,500
Upgrade of electrical system in the theatre	\$ 5,000
Security System	\$ 3,000
Rug for theatre floor	\$ 1,500
Collapsible risers	\$30,000
Mobile Performing Stage	\$50,000
Total	\$96,000

**AFRICAN
AMERICAN
CULTURAL
CENTER INC.**
(Since 1958)

AACC Dance
and Drum
Performance
Company

Paul
Robeson
Theatre

Jumpin'
Jambalaya
Summer
Program

AACC
Cultural
Enrichment
Program /
Educational
Directives for
After School

Pine Grill
Jazz Reunion

350
Masten
Avenue

Buffalo, NY
14209

Phone
716.
884.
2013

Fax
716.
885.
2590

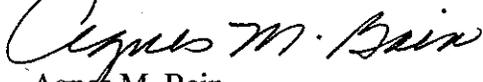
aacc@
wzrd.com

www.
africancultural.org

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Any consideration you can give to this request would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Agnes M. Bain
Executive Director

