

Vivian Filer
Cotton Club Museum and Cultural Center
837 SE 7th Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32602

Re: Support for grant application

Ms. Filer,

Please accept this letter in support of the Cotton Club's Open Spaces Sacred Places grant application.

As you know, the City of Gainesville and the Gainesville Community Redevelopment Agency support the rehabilitation of the historic Cotton Club and your plans to use the site as a museum and cultural center. We are proud of the results you have achieved so far with the Community Redevelopment Agency's partnership in previous grant applications and our direct contributions of tax increment funds.

We understand that the award from the current grant application would result in funding for green space on the Cotton Club grounds. These grounds could better serve as a site to conduct educational programs for local organizations and schools, a place for cultural and social events within the community, and as a vibrant embodiment of history within the neighborhood and city as a whole.

These goals are consistent with the City of Gainesville and Gainesville Community Redevelopment Agency's goals to improve the Eastside Community Redevelopment Area, to develop the nearby Power District - located just one block west of the Cotton Club, to preserve the heritage and history of the surrounding Southeast Historic District, and to generally make our city center a desirable place in which to live and to visit.

The City Commission discussed this application at its June 7, 2012 meeting and, recognizing the importance of the proposed ground improvements, agreed by consensus to send this letter of support.

Sincerely,