



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Committee of Saint Lucie County

GRANT APPLICATION

Ruth Davis
Chairperson

March 22, 2018

Dianne Williams,
1st Vice-Chairperson

To: Allegany Franciscan Ministries
Common Good Initiative
Lincoln Park Council for the Common Good

From: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,
Commemorative Committee
of Saint Lucie County, Inc.

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Commemorative Committee of St. Lucie County, Inc., hereby submits its BOOM! Grant Application for the purpose of helping the Lincoln Park Community and its residents Build Community Infrastructure and Capacity, through the development of **THE LINCOLN THEATER RESTORATION CENTER.**

1. **Applicant Information**

- a. *Submitting Party:* address?
The submitting party is the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Committee of Saint Lucie County, Inc., a 501(c)(3) Not for Profit Corporation, which owns the Lincoln Theater. This African American Historic Theater was built in the 1940's in the Lincoln Park Community. The Commemorative Committee submits this application by and through Margaret A. Benton, Esq., Chairperson of the Lincoln Theater Restoration Committee.
- b. *Collaboration:* None in reference to this specific Application. However, the Commemorative Committee has conferenced with the City of Fort Pierce regarding their potential collaboration generally for the development of the Lincoln Theater. The Lincoln Park Young Professionals, a local non-profit organization, has expressed an interest in assisting with the restoration of the Lincoln Theater. Some of its members are also members of the Commemorative Committee.
- c. *The physical address of the Lincoln Theater:*
1132 Avenue D, Fort Pierce, FL 34950.
- d. *Email Address:*
Lincolntheater@mbentonlaw.com
- e. *Contact Phone:*
772-466-0995 (M. Benton)

- f. *Connection of Applicant to Lincoln Park:*
The Applicant, the King Commemorative Committee of St. Lucie County owns the Lincoln Theater, an African American Historic Theater, that was built in the 1940's in the Lincoln Park Community for entertainment and for cultural presentations in the African American Community. Further, the Commemorative Committee, recognizing the historic value of the Lincoln Theater, purchased the Lincoln Theater in 2001 and thereby saved it from demolition.

The Lincoln Theater was built in the late 1940's by physician Dr. Clem C. Benton and pharmacist Dr. Harry Center, partners in the venture. It is one of the few African American historic Theaters still remaining in this country. It is still dearly loved by those who have retained fond childhood memories of attending the Theater.

2. **The BOOM! Idea**

- a. *Description of the Idea:*

“THE LINCOLN THEATER RESTORATION CENTER”

The Lincoln Theater includes and houses not only the Theater's interior 500 seat auditorium, but also a separate drugstore/sundry which is situated in the very front of the facility, with a street front entrance. The sundry can be accessed from a window inside the Theater for theatergoers to buy concessions. But moreover, in the past, it served the community as a general drugstore. There, persons from the public could enter the sundry directly from the Avenue and purchase typical drugstore fare.

The sundry has already been partially restored by Applicant. The Applicant's idea is to now complete the restoration of the sundry area and thereby create The Lincoln Theater Restoration Center. The Restoration Center will be the headquarters for Applicant's restoration efforts and events. Applicant will thus have an on-site physical location for outreach to the residents of the Lincoln Park community and to the public generally. From The Lincoln Theater Restoration Center, Applicant will highlight, promote and disseminate information about fund raising events, provide updates to the residents on the ongoing restoration in the interior of the Theater, and hold restoration meetings for the Lincoln Park residents and public. Lincoln Theater restoration volunteers will be coordinated at the Lincoln Theater Restoration Center.

Through the Restoration Center, Applicant intends to keep the Lincoln Theater restoration efforts in the public view and in the public consciousness. This will enhance public support and fund raising.

In addition, when available, the Lincoln Theater Restoration Center may be used by community organizations as a general purpose small meeting - conference room.

- b. *Inspiration for the Idea*

The continuing effort of the Applicant to complete the restoration of the Lincoln Theater inspired the idea of the Lincoln Theater Restoration Center. The Applicant feels that the build out of the sundry area will enhance the community, support the general build out of the interior Theater and bring attention and support to the marketing of the overall completion and restoration of the Lincoln Theater.

- c. *The Idea is Creative, Out of the Box and Innovative for Lincoln Park*
The idea of the Lincoln Theater Restoration Center is innovative for Lincoln Park in that the Applicant is “creating two birds with one brush” by seeing that on one hand the sundry has to be restored anyway as a part of the overall restoration of the Lincoln Theater, but that it should be restored right now and used right now in such a way as to promote the completion of the total Theater restoration.

3. **How This BOOM! Idea will Impact Lincoln Park**

- a. *Which of the Three Lincoln Park Priorities Addresses the Idea*
Priority 3 addresses the idea of the Lincoln Theater Restoration Center in the following way: The idea is designed to help build and preserve actual historic real estate Infrastructure and Capacity, and in doing so Applicant can achieve its mission. In addition, the Lincoln Park Young Professionals who are community change agents, have expressed an interest in the development of the interior of Lincoln Theater and in using it for events that will support the that development. Their interest gives Appellant an opportunity to inspire and train these leaders, and others.
- b. *How this Idea Will Change Lincoln Park and the People Who Live in Lincoln Park*
Long-term, The Lincoln Theater Restoration Center will lead to the full restoration and revitalization of the Historic Lincoln Theater. It is historic and old, but the Lincoln Theater is still dearly loved by those who have retained fond childhood memories of attending the Theater. To date, the Commemorative Committee has completed renovation of the exterior facade with funds that were provided by the Florida Legislature. Also, the City of Fort Pierce granted funds for the interior clean out, stabilization of the Theater, and for the installation of a new roof. The people of Lincoln Park are looking for something to assist Applicant with completing the restoration. Applicant submits that the Lincoln Theater Restoration Center will act as the tool to do just that.

Economically, as in the past, the Lincoln Theater will be an anchor on the Avenue and a business anchor in Lincoln Park. It will provide jobs and spur small business creation in the Lincoln Park community.

4. **The Anticipated Cost for the Boom Idea**

- a. *Rough Budget of Anticipated Costs; Including Description of Key Budget Items*
The anticipated cost for the BOOM! Idea is on the attached estimate, provided to the Applicant by Sunrise City CHDO, dated March 16, 2018. The estimate is \$208,500.

5. **Length of Time to Implement the BOOM!, Including Planning Time and Cost**

The estimated time for completion of this project is 30 to 60 days.

Respectfully submitted,



MARGARET A. BENTON, Chairperson

Lincoln Theater

Restoration Committee

772-466-0995 (office)

772-708-6034(cell)

mbenton@mbentonlaw.com



Sunrise City CHDO
 PO Box 3582
 Fort Pierce, FL 34948

Estimate

| | |
|-----------|------------|
| Date | Estimate # |
| 3/16/2018 | 6321 |

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|---|
| Name / Address |
| 1132 Ave D The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Committee of St Lucie County Lincoln Theater |

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|---------|
| Project |
| |

| Description | Qty | Rate | Total |
|---|-----|--------------|--------------|
| Interior Renovation (Phase 1 Meeting Area) | | | |
| Architect Design (Plans Office and Bathrooms) | 1 | 20,400.00 | 20,400.00 |
| HVAC | 1 | 25,700.00 | 25,700.00 |
| Plumbing | 1 | 33,200.00 | 33,200.00 |
| Electric | 1 | 42,600.00 | 42,600.00 |
| Build Bathrooms | 1 | 38,300.00 | 38,300.00 |
| Bathroom Fixtures and Accessories | 1 | 48,300.00 | 48,300.00 |
| State Licenses CGC1515114 CCC1327208 | | Total | \$208,500.00 |