

Nancy M. Finegood  
Executive Director  
Michigan Historic Preservation Network  
314 1/2 N Walnut St.  
Lansing MI 48933-1124

Dear Ms Finegood:

Cityscape Detroit wishes to express our support of and commitment to the program that you are developing to enable and enhance the involvement of a diversity of ethnic and economic communities in historic preservation. Community stabilization and revitalization, when it comes from within the community, produces a stronger base than when compelled from the outside. This process depends upon access to information and resources acquired at the grass roots level. The practical preservation workshops and the handbook that develop out of this project will provide access to that critical information and empowerment.

As you know, Cityscape Detroit is dedicated to improving the quality of life of the citizens of Detroit through the built environment. We advocate for quality architecture, urban design, historic preservation, and urban planning as we are convinced that these activities directly impact how cities develop and grow. Our organization is dedicated to collaborating with the Network and other local participants in this project. We are excited that a target of the project is the residents of Detroit who are predominately African-American. This group often does not understand the potential for historic preservation to improve their communities, and Cityscape Detroit has had a difficult time outreaching to this group. We are confident that there is a great opportunity for success in Detroit.

We strongly support historic preservation as a key tool for urban redevelopment. It also dovetails into the new Michigan initiative that is championed by Governor Jennifer Granholm, dubbed "Cool Cities."

We are looking forward to developing a partnership with the Michigan Historic Preservation Network. We have recently begun efforts to further reach out to the African-American community in Detroit, and this program would be a great extension of that effort.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur Mullen  
President