

JUDGE WALTER H. RICE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
200 WEST SECOND STREET
DAYTON, OHIO 45402
(937) 512-1500

November 3, 2023

RE: Recommendation for funding needed repairs and rehabilitation of the historic site of the Dayton Women's Club

Dear Sir/Madam:

It is my honor and pleasure to submit a letter of endorsement for the grant submission of the Dayton Women's Club building.

This historic building, the grand dame of downtown Dayton, built in the 1840s, exists as one of the few remaining gems of pre-civil war Dayton. It has housed the Dayton Women's Club for a period of over one hundred years. Founded at a time when women were less than welcome in the mens' clubs and boardrooms of the era, the club has had a proud history of accomplishments throughout its existence on the Dayton scene. The women members have literally transformed the physical, economic, and cultural landscape of the greater Dayton area, by helping women improve their skills, thus enabling them to equal the men in moving our community forward through learning to read and write, by promoting literary clubs and public education for all. The club has promoted gender equality and endeavors such as gaining the right to vote for women and largely destroying (or making serious dents and cracks in) the glass ceiling. Founding members of the club read like a "*Who 's, Who*" of significant members of the community. Consider: Marie Kumler, first President of the Dayton Federation of Women's Clubs and first President of the Dayton Women's Club; Electra Dorn, long-time librarian, credited with miraculous work during the 1913 flood in saving many books and priceless collections; Katharine Wright, sister of the Wright Brothers and community contributor in her own right; Julia Patterson Cornell, Co-Founder of the Dayton Branch of the NAACP and founder and financier of the Dayton Art Institute; and Annae Barney Gorman, who saw a need and influenced the creation and development of the forerunner of the Dayton Childrens' Hospital.

The mission today remains that of the founders - - - preserving the best of the past by relating and showing the accomplishments of women's leaders who advanced the quality of life in our community and continue to do so today by guaranteeing a better future for all by training the leaders of tomorrow.

As impressive as is the history of the Dayton Women's Club, the future is even more exciting. The club and its historic structure, for which funding is sought, is envisioned as the future home of the Miami Valley Women's Hall of Fame whose inductees will be, as the name implies, persons who have shaped the greater Dayton area over the last two centuries and more.

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The Hall of Fame will showcase the contributions of all women, including the contributions of African American women and those of other minorities, women who were giants in their times and in their communities but who, because of the eras in which they lived and, sadly, even today to a lesser extent, have never been celebrated or acknowledged in the greater Dayton community.

This goal is achievable! Volunteers are numerous and fundraising success is highly probable, if and only if, desperately needed repairs and rehabilitation of this historic building are accomplished.

I have had several tours of this building and can vouch, from firsthand observations, that the structure is at the tipping point. If needed repairs are not made within the very near future, the building may well reach a point where repairs and rehabilitation become, if not impossible, then at the very least far too expensive to realistically undertake. Funding is necessary if the Dayton Women's Club is to survive and achieve the goal of celebrating the historic and present contributions of women, with emphasis, on those of equal accomplishment, but sadly unknown in or forgotten by communities other than their own.

I cannot express my appreciation for your consideration of this funding request.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Walter H. Rice". The signature is written in a cursive style with a distinct dot over the 'i' in "Rice".

Walter H. Rice

WHR/br



The Presidents Club of Dayton

November 1, 2023

Veronica Bedell-Nevels,
President

RE: Recommendation for Funding the Dayton Woman's Club

I am writing to unequivocally recommend the preservation and renovation of the Dayton Woman's Club, a historical gem that is not only an architectural treasure but also a vital community resource. This beautiful mansion, built in the 1840s by Robert Steele, stands as a testament to the rich history of Dayton, Ohio. As the last mansion in downtown Dayton, it holds a unique and irreplaceable place in our local heritage.

The Dayton Woman's Club serves as a hub for numerous organizations, providing a much-needed space for meetings, events, and gatherings. The Presidents Club of Dayton finds the historic charm and timeless elegance of the property as an ideal venue for our monthly lunch meetings. The large ballroom that we use offers a user-friendly environment that has been updated with internet service, the ability to show PowerPoint presentations, have great catered meals and is versatile enough for meetings and various community activities.

The history of this Dayton Woman's Club dates back to 1916 and the volunteer efforts of women of that time supporting Civil War and Post Civil War advancements in this community. The emphasis of the club was to promote music, art, education, civil rights, and suffrage. Later progress in the Dayton community was cultivated in this home by formidable women leaders. Our wonderful Dayton Art Institute, our Children's Hospital, the NAACP were all envisioned, influenced, and financed, by women leaders of the Dayton Woman's Club.

Everyone realizes that maintaining the integrity of this remarkable building requires financial support for renovation and ongoing upkeep. The support that our organization and other organizations gives on a monthly basis, and other sponsorships is not enough to manage the upgrades and preservation efforts required for this historical treasure.

By investing in the restoration of the Dayton Woman's Club, we can protect not only a significant piece of our local history but also provide a venue that enhances the cultural and social life of our community. The Dayton Woman's Club is a unique and invaluable asset to our community, and its preservation is a worthy cause.

Sincerely,

Veronica Bedell-Nevels, President

525 W. Riverview Ave.

Dayton, Ohio 45405

Tel: 937-540-0088

November 2, 2023

Chair, Priority Development and Advocacy Committee
1401 S. Main St., Suite 200
Dayton, OH 45409

Dear Chair,

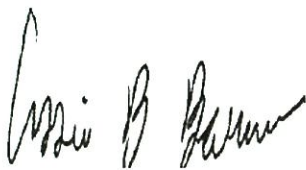
I'd like to highly recommend the Dayton Woman's Club PDAC project to preserve the beautiful mansion build in the 1840s by Robert Steele. The Dayton Woman's Club has a very important mission in today's environment to empower women and strengthen our community educationally, professionally, and individually through historical preservation, public engagement, cultural activities, and educational programming.

The Woman's Club of Dayton is one of the last homes from the 1800's remaining in downtown Dayton and is a true gem in our community. The Dayton Woman's Club is used for various purposes such as educational purposes, social events, and organizational retreats and conferences. For the last several years, the Dayton Woman's Club has provided the event space, training and lunch for the Girl Scouts of Western Ohio Miss Manners Badge. This event is open to all Junior Girl Scouts in the Dayton, Ohio region and is well attended by several different troops and their leaders.

The Dayton Woman's Club has several events each month, open to the public, providing a speaker during our lunch and learn events. Some of the topics have been Women in Aviation, Stress Management, and Insights on Traveling. They also have many events throughout the year hosted by different organizations throughout the community.

The Dayton Woman's Club recognizes the need for families to be together during special holidays such as Thanksgiving and Mother's Day and they invite different caterers to present their best meals for these events. The facility is used as a meeting space for several different groups ranging in size from 4 people to 200 people. They have a beautiful ballroom with a stage and piano that can be used for various purposes.

Let's preserve this amazing gem in our community for future generations to enjoy!



Cassie Barlow, PhD
President, Strategic Ohio Council for Higher Education



Courage

Confidence

Character

10/31/2023

PDAC Community Reviewers,

Girl Scouts bring their dreams to life and work together to build a better world. Through programs, Girl Scouts of all backgrounds and abilities can be unapologetically themselves as they discover their strengths and rise to meet new challenges. Backed by trusted adult volunteers, mentors, and millions of alums, Girl Scouts lead the way as they find their voices and make changes that affect the issues most important to them.

Girl Scouts of Western Ohio serves over 11,000 girls in the 14 county Miami Valley area. Supported by 4,300 caring adults, we are committed to building the region's next generation of female leaders.

GSWO supports the repairs at the Dayton Women's Club. Dayton Women's Club hosts a one of a kind program for Miami Valley Girl Scouts, "Miss Manners" two times a year. At each event, 40 girls learn conversational skills, how to make introductions and etiquette while appreciating the history of the club. In addition, the Dayton Women's Club has proven to be an excellent venue for Girl Scouts to hold donor events.

We look forward to seeing the repairs come to fruition to even better serve our Girl Scout community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Aimée Sproles".

Aimée Sproles

Chief Executive Officer

Girl Scouts of Western Ohio