



August 27, 2010

P.O. BOX 1041 • INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46206-1041 • (317) 631-1870 • FAX (317) 631-0224
<http://www.freetownvillage.org>

Greg Taylor
Indiana State Senate
200 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

The Honorable Greg Taylor:

Freetown Village, Inc. is a proud recipient of the Indiana Arts Commission Regional Arts Partner funding support for 2010-11. On behalf of Freetown Village Board of Directors and staff, we want to sincerely thank you for your support of funding for the arts.

Organized in 1982, Freetown Village is Indiana's only African American living history museum. It was established to preserve the heritage of the African American experience and to ensure its proper interpretation in Indiana's history. Freetown Village tours the state and educates the public utilizing education and outreach strategies such as theater, storytelling, music, craft and heritage workshops, and summer enrichment programs. It is through these education and outreach strategies that the stories of Indiana's Freetown Village educate youth and adults of African American contributions to Indiana's history and advances cultural awareness.

As you may already know, the benefits and enriching effects that arts related programming have on youth is well documented by heightened academic standing, a strong capacity for self-assessment (accountability) and a strong sense of their own ability to plan and work for a positive future. Our programs not only impact youth's cultural competency, but also their academic, social and employment potential and overall quality of life and community. The IAC funding allowed us to hire additional human resources to help present these culturally enriched programs helping us to reach over 20,000 youth and adults last year. We are on track to reach those numbers again this year. A decrease in funding will negatively impact our ability to maintain the inroads of reaching our youth and building cultural bridges.

We do realize that there are many pressing issues before our legislature and that our state has experienced a drop in revenue. We sincerely appreciate knowing that you care that the lives of the people of Indiana are preserved and enriched through the arts.

Sincerely,

Ophelia Wellington
Founding Director