



There's a bigger story to tell!

DORCHESTER HERITAGE CENTER, INC.

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Dorchester Heritage
Center, Inc. is a
501(c)(3) non-profit
organization, registered
with the SC Secretary of
State. Contributions are
tax-deductible to the full
extent of the law.

June 28, 2024

Sent via email only to tjames@scprt.com

Tonisha James

Grants / Accounts Payable Analyst

South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism

1205 Pendleton Street, Suite 517

Columbia, SC 29201

Re: Final Summary for FY 2022 / 2023 Funds

Dear Ms. James:

As you saw in our final report submitted earlier today, Dorchester Heritage Center, Inc. (DHC) has spent all of the \$575,000 awarded to it in fiscal year 2022 / 2023. Since DHC opened to the public as a museum showcasing the history of Dorchester County and the Inland Lowcountry, Board members recognized the need for a larger facility. In 2021, 81 acres of land on Highway 78 near Ridgeville were purchased for the purpose of constructing a 20,000+/- square foot facility. The new facility will have a larger exhibit space, a larger, more secure archives room, meeting spaces and event space. The property will be home to outdoor event and exhibit space, walking trails and nature areas. This funding was crucial in DHC's initial efforts to prepare the land for construction, obtain architectural plans, conduct fundraising efforts, hire needed personnel and raise awareness of DHC in general.

I am pleased to report that all of the initial goals for this funding were successfully reached. DHC worked with GPA to survey the proposed building site and with Cypress Engineering and Gilbert & Lee Construction to obtain 30% Design Development and Early Site Package drawings. Key personnel worked with architects at Compass Five Partners to develop schematic design drawings. DHC also worked with Rogge & Associates to conduct fundraising efforts and public relation firms to raise awareness of DHC and the new project.

DHC sees no greater way to fulfill its mission than to construct this new facility to house, protect, showcase and educate citizens on the rich and interesting history of Dorchester County and the Inland Lowcountry. This new facility will serve as an

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Tonisha James

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educational centerpiece for students, residents and visitors alike. It will provide meeting and event spaces for programs, cultural events, weddings, outdoor exhibits, festivals and numerous other opportunities. In addition, walking trails throughout the approximately 40 acres of wetlands will provide much needed and cherished green space for all. Dorchester Heritage Center's goal is to protect and preserve the area's history while preparing for a future generation who needs to know about their past. In order to do that, DHC has an archives to protect historical documents and a research library and museum that are open to the public. All funds from the State of South Carolina have been used to fulfill DHC's mission as it operates in its current location and as it prepares to construct its new location which will be able to serve, protect and present the area's history to even more individuals.

Dorchester Heritage Center, Inc. sincerely appreciates this funding and looks forward to making the new facility become a reality.

Sincerely,



LaClaire S. Mizell

Director

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