



City of Cambridge

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Agenda Item No. 5

Date: March 8, 2021

Andrew Bradshaw
Mayor

March 8, 2021

Jennifer Ruffner, Administrator
Maryland Heritage Areas Program
Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Department of Planning
100 Community Place, 3rd Floor
Crownsville, MD 21032

Dear Jennifer Ruffner,

I am writing on behalf of the Commissioners of the City of Cambridge to express our wholehearted support for Alpha Genesis Community Development Corporation's application for a Maryland Heritage Area Authority Project Grant, which would fund the purchase and permanent installation of a bronze sculpture to honor Harriet Tubman in the community that was her home.

The "Harriet's Journey Home" project was inspired by the traveling sculpture of Harriet Tubman that graced the Dorchester County Courthouse entrance in fall 2020. In the month that Wesley Wofford's dynamic statue "Harriet Tubman – The Journey to Freedom" was in Cambridge, hundreds of visitors shared time with Harriet. Often exuberant, always moving, people took pictures, held the statue's outstretched hand, and brought family members to visit. In celebrating Harriet, they were "inspired, their faith renewed and their commitment to community and family uplifted." It so moved the community that a grassroots movement immediately took hold to commission a permanent sculpture.

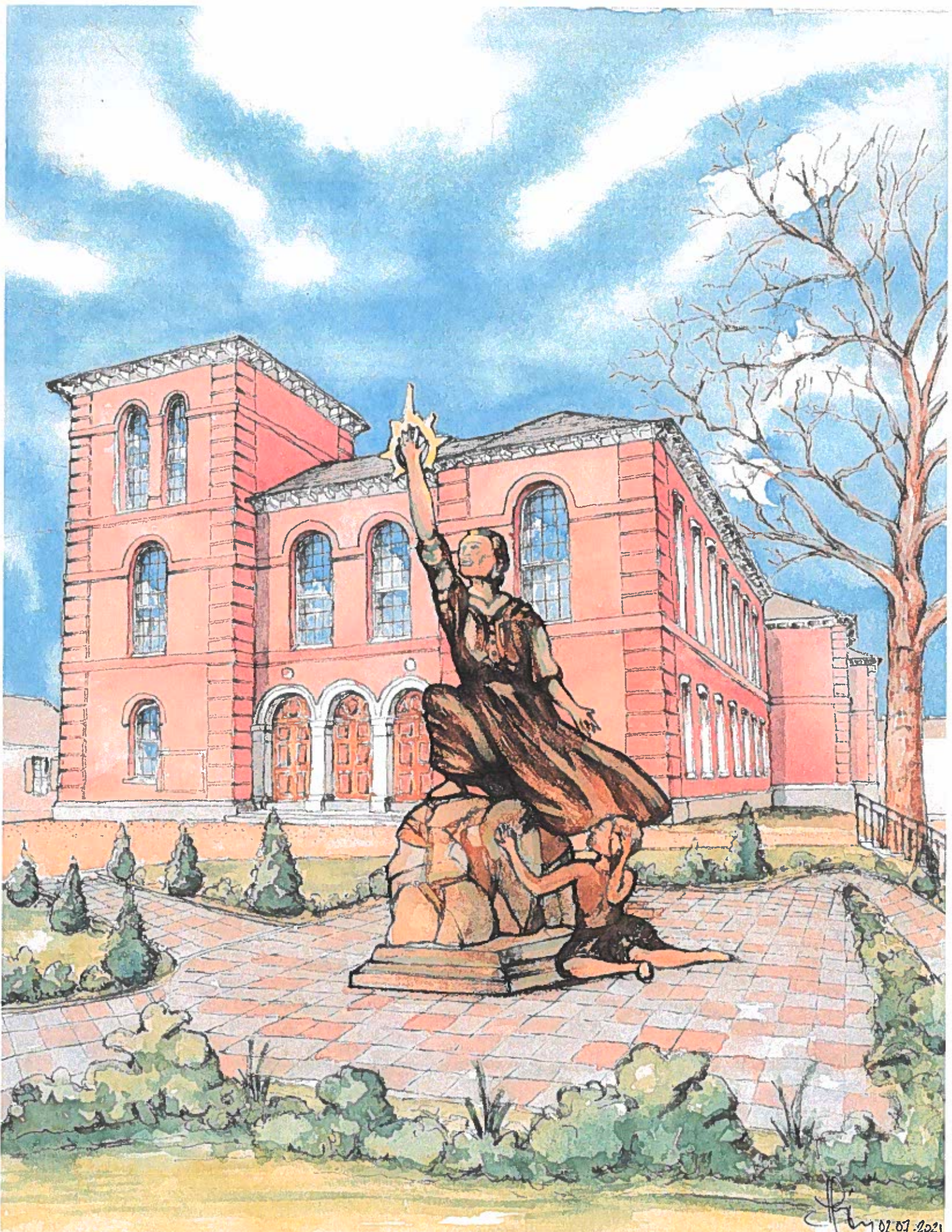
Welcoming Harriet home to Dorchester will continue building connections for the local community, as well as for the thousands of visitors who come to Maryland to experience the most powerful Underground Railroad storytelling destination in the world. Alpha Genesis is leading the drive to have the new statue created specifically for Dorchester County by the same Emmy and Academy-award winning sculptor, Wesley Wofford. A dedicated team of volunteers including members of state and local government, the county Chamber of Commerce, the local Heritage Area, community organizations and schools are all actively involved in the endeavor.

Honored with a local Heritage Area award in 2019, Alpha Genesis has repeatedly demonstrated their commitment to the power of art, culture, education and community – and in the synergy and collective creativity of that collaboration. They have been in the forefront orchestrating community conversations and producing public art projects that unite, enrich and uplift Dorchester County. Alpha Genesis has distinguished themselves as successful a legacy builders, empowering and inspiring a younger generation to carry on their commitment to better our community and celebrate our heritage.

Please endorse Alpha Genesis' significant accomplishments as culture keepers and community collaborators by awarding them funds for "Harriet's Journey Home." We emphatically support this application and ask that you fully fund their request. The Harriet Tubman sculpture will be a much needed contribution for the community and will provide a valuable impact for heritage tourism in this area.

Sincerely,

Andrew Bradshaw
Mayor



02.07.2021