

For Immediate Release
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Arts Millage Benefits Announced

Enhanced Access, Program Expansion and Organizational Sustainability among the Benefits to Genesee County should the Arts Education & Cultural Enrichment Millage Pass on the August 7th Ballot

Flint, MI — On behalf of the beneficiary organizations, The Flint Cultural Center Foundation today announced the slate of benefits and program expansions for County residents should the Arts Education and Cultural Enrichment millage pass on the August 7th ballot.

Through the millage funding, County residents will enjoy and have access to the following institutional benefits:

- The Flint Institute of Arts will offer free general admission.
- The Flint Institute of Music will offer a 30% discount on all Flint Symphony Orchestra "Classical Concert Series" performances and subscriptions, a 30% discount on all Flint Youth Theatre public performances and subscriptions and up to a 50% discount on special FIM performance offerings. The Flint School of the Performing Arts will waive registration fees (adults and children) on all persons enrolling.
- Sloan*Longway will offer free general admission to the Sloan Museum and a 50% discount to the Longway Planetarium shows.
- The Whiting will offer discounts of between 30% and 50% on all Whiting Presents performances and subscriptions at both the Whiting Auditorium and the Capitol Theatre.
- The New Floyd McCree Theatre will offer a 75% discount to all mainstage theatre productions, free After School Workshops in dance and drama, free enrollment in Drama Queens and Kings, free admission to Black History Film Series, free admission to Summer Performing Arts Camp (for 5 – 12 year olds) and reduced admission to all special events.
- The Friends of Berston will offer a 78% discount on Creative Expression Dance Studio (workshops in various dance genres), free admission to the Chosen Few Arts Council, offering instruction in pottery and visual arts, free admission to Motown Line Dancing, free admission to the Annual Anniversary Arts Festival as well as offering citizens access to non-arts operations such as free Open Gym (Outdoor and Indoor), free Berston Bicycling, free access to the Neighborhood Virtual Library and free access to the Computer Literacy and Learning Center.

The Flint Cultural Center Foundation also released the executed Memorandum of Understanding between the beneficiary organizations detailing the full and complete disbursement of all millage funds and defining the slate of benefits described above.

Flint Cultural Center institutions will each receive a funding allocation of between 25% and 30% of their current year budgets allowing for not only improved access to programs, exhibitions and performances, but also expanded engagement programs and operational sustainability. Noting the role that cultural institutions play in a community and the importance of that relationship, Sloan*Longway Executive Director Todd Slisher, on behalf of all Cultural Center institutions remarked:

“The Cultural Center and all of its member organizations have a long history of serving the Genesee County community with the utmost integrity and commitment to excellence. In like manner, we are and remain committed to transparency and accountability to all Genesee County residents when it comes to supporting the Arts millage. As we get closer to the election, we felt it was important to offer a detailed list of where the dollars will go, the manner in which it will help our member organization’s budgets and a tangible list of benefits to County residents should they vote to pass this millage on August 7th. We welcome the opportunities this millage funding will provide us in fulfilling our missions to serve the community, just as we welcome the community’s active participation in holding us all accountable for this meaningful investment in our County. The continued quality and vitality of our arts and culture community to our children, families and seniors is what this millage is all about.”

In addition to the Cultural Center institutions, the millage provides substantive funding to other organizations as well. Notably, the millage would also offer significant funding to the New Floyd McCree Theatre and the Friends of Berston Fieldhouse as well as increasing the granting making capacity of the Greater Flint Arts Council to arts organizations throughout Genesee County. Through this millage, both McCree and Berston will see an effective doubling of their funding allowing for growth in capacity, programs and access. The Greater Flint Arts Council’s granting capacity will grow more than ten-fold through this funding, allowing the benefits of the millage to extend throughout the entire County. Remarking on what the millage will mean to the institutions and the community they serve, New Floyd McCree Theatre Executive Director Charles Winfrey observed:

“This millage will directly and significantly increase access to the arts for serving the underserved population throughout Genesee County. It will allow us to offer things like free admission to our after school workshops in dance and drama, Black History Film series and to our Summer Performing Arts camps which can have a dramatic effect on our community.”

Should the millage pass, the Genesee County Board of Commissioners will have the authority of oversight and accountability on the millage dollars and could impose measures such as an annual audit to ensure taxpayer dollars are being spent appropriately.

Representatives of the beneficiary organizations as well as from Citizens for a Better Genesee County have scheduled two Town Hall sessions to discuss these benefits, and the millage proposal in general. Those sessions will take place on Thursday, July 19th at 7PM at the New McCree Theatre and on Tuesday, July 24th at 7PM at the Whiting Auditorium.

Observing what these institutions, and the benefits derived from this millage will mean to Genesee County residents, Randall Thompson, spokesman for Citizens for a Better Genesee County remarked, “There is tremendous County-wide support for all of these organizations, the services they provide and the contributions they make to our community. Our recent polling indicates a 66% approval rating for the upcoming Arts millage, and all of the benefits that will be offered to County residents. We are grateful for this support, and pleased that so many residents recognize the importance of supporting and sustaining these organizations.”

Genesee County residents will have the opportunity to approve the Arts Education and Cultural Enrichment millage on the bottom of their August 7th election day ballot.

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ADDENDUM TO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

In consideration of disbursement and receipt of funds from the **GENESEE COUNTY ARTS AND CULTURAL EDUCATION & ENRICHMENT MILLAGE** by Flint Cultural Center Foundation (FCCF) the beneficiary institutions (the Floyd J. McCree Theatre, The Friends of Berston Fieldhouse, the Greater Flint Arts Council, the Flint Institute of Arts, the Flint Institute of Music, Sloan*Longway and The Whiting) agree to offer and provide the following minimum benefits to Genesee County residents:

- The Flint Institute of Arts will offer free general admission.
- The Flint Institute of Music will offer a 30% discount on all Flint Symphony Orchestra "Classical Concert Series" performances and subscriptions, a 30% discount on all Flint Youth Theatre public performances and subscriptions and up to a 50% discount on special FIM performance offerings. The Flint School of the Performing Arts will waive registration fees (adults and children) on all persons enrolling.
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- The Whiting will offer discounts of between 30% and 50% on all Whiting Presents performances and subscriptions at both the Whiting Auditorium and the Capitol Theatre.
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The Addendum will serve as a binding commitment among the organizations to the vested public with regard to the privileges and benefits provided to Genesee County residents through the funding provided by the **GENESEE COUNTY ARTS AND CULTURAL EDUCATION & ENRICHMENT MILLAGE**.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

The Flint Cultural Center Foundation

and

The Floyd J. McCree Theatre (The New McCree Theatre)

and

The Friends of Berston Fieldhouse

and

The Greater Flint Arts Council

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets forth the terms and understanding between the The Flint Cultural Center Foundation and The Floyd J. McCree Theatre and The Friends of Berston Fieldhouse and The Greater Flint Arts Council to allocate the disbursement of funds from the Flint Cultural Center Foundation should the proposed GENESEE COUNTY ARTS AND CULTURAL EDUCATION & ENRICHMENT MILLAGE be passed on August 7th, 2018.

Purpose

This MOU will delineate the disbursement of funds by the Flint Cultural Foundation in the event the proposed GENESEE COUNTY ARTS AND CULTURAL EDUCATION & ENRICHMENT MILLAGE is passed on August 7th, 2018.

Funding

As outlined below, the Flint Cultural Center Foundation will receive the **balance of monies available** based on .96 mills, per the passage of the millage for a countywide winter tax collection, from the Genesee County Board of Commissioners for a duration of 10 years beginning in December 2018 and will receive this sum annually until December of 2027.

The balance of monies available based on .96 mills will be lessened by \$500,000 in direct grants paid to the Greater Flint Arts Council and lessened by the the following local authorities are expected to capture and receive a disbursement of a portion of the millage, if approved: City of Clio Downtown Development Authority (“DDA”) and Neighborhood Improvement Authority (“NIA”); City of Davison DDA and Local Development Finance Authority (“LDFA”); City of Fenton DDA and LDFA; City of Flint DDA and Tax Increment Finance Authority; City of Flushing Corridor Improvement Authority (“CIA”) and NIA; City of Grand Blanc DDA and Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (“BRA”); City of Linden DDA; City of Montrose DDA; City of Mt. Morris DDA; City of Swartz Creek DDA; Genesee County BRA and Land Bank Authority; Davison Township DDA; Hill Road CIA; Mt. Morris Township Business Development Authority (“BDA”); Vienna Township BDA; Village of Lennon DDA; Village of Otisville DDA; and Village of Otter Lake DDA. The total amount of tax increment revenue projected to be captured in the first year of the millage is estimated to be **[\$193,941.96]**.

Millage total is .96 mills = \$8,775,654.56
minus \$193,752.96 to the local DDA and BDA (as required by state law)
minus \$500,000.00 for grants to be administered by the Greater Flint Arts Council

Equals total estimated millage amount of \$8,081,902.21 to be disbursed by FCCF annually as follows:

Flint Institute of Arts (0.2 mills annually) = \$1,792,413.11

Flint Institute of Music (0.2 mills annually) = \$1,792,413.10

Sloan*Longway (0.2 mills annually) = \$1,792,413.10

The Whiting (0.2 mills annually) = \$1,792,413.10

The Floyd J. McCree Theatre (The New McCree Theatre) (.0469 mills annually) = \$412,246.63

The Friends of Berston Fieldhouse (.0469 mills annually) = \$412,246.63

The Greater Flint Arts Council (.01 mills annually) = \$87,756.54

Legal Note: Set millage amounts cannot be guaranteed due to Headlee rollbacks and tax captures in future years. .96 mills only will be levied in 2018. In future years, the number of mills will be reduced by Headlee rollback and a portion of the levy always will be captured by tax capturing entities without a change in state law. The revenue stream can grow each year, but only marginally (roughly 2.5%). Headlee rolls back rates to prohibit revenue growth beyond an inflation factor. Unless voters approve a Headlee override.

All dollar amounts are projections based on the total mills collected via homestead taxes in Genesee County. Should the total mills either increase or decrease – the allocated mills numbers will be relied upon rather than the dollar amounts.

Duration

This MOU will extend for the duration of 10 years and may not be modified unless there is a change in state law to exempt the GENESEE COUNTY ARTS AND CULTURAL EDUCATION & ENRICHMENT MILLAGE from tax capturing entities or voters approve a Headlee override. In the event of these changes, the mill rates disbursement for each institution will not change. However, the dollar amounts may increase significantly due to increase in revenue stream.