



Supporting the Planning & Construction: Quitman County's National Civil Rights Rhythm & Blues Hall of Fame

Background

Lamont Robinson, the founder of the official Civil Rights National Rhythm & Blues Hall of Fame has submitted a letter of intent dated May 10, 2021, to the Board of the City of Marks and the Quitman County Board of Supervisors for the permanent home for the Hall of Fame to be located in Marks, Mississippi, which is situated in the heart of the historic Mississippi Delta.

The National Rhythm & Blues Hall of Fame was founded in 2010, and has inducted many of the most notable figures in Rhythm & Blues in annual Inaugural Ceremonies held in various Cities since its inception. Robinson cited the tremendous history of the area related to music and Civil Rights among several reasons for deciding to place the Hall of Fame in Marks, Mississippi.

What we've done

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Marks submitted a letter of intent dated July 15, 2021. The City of Marks donated 5-acres of available land located in their industrial park site for this project based on economic and cultural improvement of the community. Quitman County Board of Supervisors' letter intent dated July 8, 2021, states the Board agrees to support this project and provide supportive assistance with fundraising efforts, and staffing through the County's Economic Development non-profit. The Board also consented to temporary office space for Mr. Robinson and staff during the planning and construction phases of this project.

What we need

The Mayor and City Board of Aldermen request assistance of State General Obligation Bonds in the amount of **\$500,000** to help with planning and construction of the Civil Rights Rhythm & Blues Hall of Fame, which will help to address pressing economic and community development needs within Marks and Quitman County.

Proposed Cost & Benefits

The construction costs and the project site would include; the facility for hall of fame, hotel, a restaurant, and a gift shop.

- Construction Cost:
\$15.M to \$25.M
- Size:
30,000 - 50,000 Sq. ft.
- Building Site:
Industrial Park located on Roger Road, Marks, MS
- Projected annual income:
\$405,000 to \$1.3.M
(hotel, restaurant, gift shop not included)
- Jobs:
75-125
- Average Delta attendance:
30,000 to 50,000 visitors
- Projected annual attendance:
50,000 to 100,000 visitors
- Ticket Cost:
\$12.00 to \$15.00, reduced for Quitman County residents
- Tax benefits to City of Marks:
The City of Marks will receive \$2 per admission ticket sales
- Target opening date:
Mid 2023-2024



CLEVELAND HAS THE ROCK & ROLL HALL OF FAME • NASHVILLE HAS THE COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME
BRING TO TOWN THE NATIONAL RHYTHM & BLUES HALL OF FAME

Why we need it

The most recent history of Civil Rights notoriety associated with the area is the role that Quitman County and the City of Marks played in the origins and implementation of Martin Luther King's "Poor People's Campaign (PPC)". The historic Mule Train Caravan also traveled from Marks to Resurrection City on the Washington Mall as part of the PPC in 1968.

Mississippi has established itself as the State that is the Birthplace of American Music, and has carefully researched and documented this history. The State has established official historic markers throughout the region recognizing birthplaces and other connections to more than two hundred (200) notable artists in the genres of Blues, Rhythm & Blues, Gospel, Soul, and Country music. Most of these Markers are actually located in the famous Northwest Section of the State known as the Mississippi Delta.

The location of the Civil Rights National Rhythm & Blues Hall of Fame in Marks and Quitman County will provide a natural, authentic, and historic platform for the Hall of Fame. The Founders intend to showcase the origins and future of Rhythm & Blues in a variety of specifically designed Educational and Interactive Experiences and Attractions, allowing visitors and tourists to partake in a truly historic setting.

