

May 10, 2013

Mrs. Cindy Schneible, Executive Director  
McKinney Community Development Corporation  
5900 S/ Lake Forest Dr., Suite 110  
McKinney, Texas 75070

Dear Mrs. Schneible,

We are writing to you in support of the Heard-Craig Centers request for Grant funding which we believe the MCDC will be hearing on May 23, 2013. We are long time McKinney residents, Mark and Debbie Denissen. Debbie currently serves on the Heard-Craig Board and Mark served for several years on the MCDC.

The Heard-Craig Center for the Arts has submitted an application to the McKinney Community Development Corporation asking for grant funding in the amount of \$119,582 for the installation of a fire suppression system in the historic Heard-Craig House.

The Heard-Craig House was built in 1900 by Stephen and Lillie Heard and has served as a landmark in McKinney since that time. It is unique in that it contains original furnishings, family memorabilia and more than 400 pieces of art from the collection of the Heard's daughter, Kathryn Heard Craig. The collection includes paintings by early Texas artists, American masters and artists from Japan, China, and Europe.

The home was designated by the Texas Historical Commission as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark in 1975 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1985. The proposed fire suppression system was reviewed by and has received the endorsement of the Texas Historical Commission. The board has been working through the complexities of fire suppression in an Historic Landmark for several years. A system able to protect the Heard Craig House properly is quite expensive.

The loss of the Texas Governor's Mansion in 2008 by fire attributed to an arsonist is a case in point for the protection of this historic structure and its contents. Arson is always a concern for historic properties and another case in point is the loss locally of the historic Collin McKinney homestead in 1980.

The Heard-Craig has a three-fold mission: to continue Kathryn Heard Craig's vision to foster the arts through exhibits and educational programs, extend meeting privileges to historic/educational clubs, and preserve the Heard-Craig properties and collections. We feel that it is important that the members of the M.C.D.C. Board understand that members of our community value the Heard-Craig House as an iconic historic landmark. Beyond the home's historical significance, the Heard-Craig venues hosted **550 events**, meetings and activities with more than **42,400** people attending during 2012. As a whole, the Heard-Craig Center for the Arts contributes to the economic well-being of McKinney through tax revenues generated by our patrons when they stay

in motels, dine in restaurants and shop with McKinney retailers.

We hope that you and the MCDC board will be able to support the Heard-Craig House as requested in the Grant application. If you would like to reach us for any reason our home phone is 972-547-4962.

Thank You for your thoughtful consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

*Mark + Debbie Denisse*

Mark and Debbie Denissen

May 14, 2013

Dear Cindy,

I am asking you and your board to please consider approving grant funding for the Heard-Craig Center for the Arts.

I will not list the attributes of this historic home, as they are well known to residents of McKinney and to those in the surrounding areas.

This unique home, and the treasures that it houses, is irreplaceable.

The Heard-Craig is a destination for visitors to our fair city, and a place that residents speak of with pride.

The instillation of a fire suppression system would certainly help to assure that this jewel will serve as the historic landmark that it is for years to come.

It is my hope that members of the M.C.D.C. Board will approve grant funding in the amount of \$119,582 for the Heard-Craig Center.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to this community.

Judy Howell Cox

May 10, 2013

Dear Mrs. Schneible,

As a member of the Heard-Craig Center for the Arts and a former board member, I am requesting that you grant the Center \$119,582 for the installation of a fire suppression system in the historic Heard-Craig House. The proposed fire suppression system was reviewed by and has received the endorsement of the Texas Historical Commission. Arson is always a concern for historic properties as was the local loss of the historic Collin McKinney homestead in 1980. I remember fondly visiting the Collin McKinney log cabin in Finch Park when I was a child, and I am sorry that children today miss that adventure.

As you know, the Heard-Craig Center is home to numerous women's clubs to foster the arts through exhibits and educational programs. In addition, the Heard-Craig Center is an iconic historic landmark that in 2012 has hosted 550 events, meetings, and activities with more than 42,400 people attending. The Heard-Craig Center for the Arts contributes to the economic well-being of McKinney through tax revenues generated by patrons when they stay in hotels and motels, and dine in restaurants and shop in our downtown retail establishments.

For all the above reasons, I ask you to grant \$119,582 for the installation of a fire suppression system in the historic Heard-Craig Center to preserve it for generations to come. Thank you for your consideration to this matter.

Sincerely,

Sandra Reins  
7111 Round Hill Road  
McKinney, Texas 75070

**From:** Nancy Morian  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 16, 2013  
**To:** Cindy Schneible  
**Subject:** Grant/Heard-Craig

Let me encourage your approval of the sum for fire protection of the Heard-Craig house. The Heard family has preserved and shared the historic family home for our community. The tours and meetings in the house introduce generations of McKinney and of Collin County to a lifestyle of the past. This historic home deserves to be protected.

Nancy Bush Morian