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Hartford Preservation Alliance

Laura Knott-Twine

- The Community Investment Act money accumulated through land record filing fees has made a significant impact on the state of Connecticut. The funds are views as critical to the existence of those measures that ensure that Connecticut will maintain and build upon the enduring environment of its past. It is at this time of economic difficulties that we all must act prudently and with foresight. We must protect the quality of life that remains.
- The ongoing existence of a Commission on Culture & Tourism Historic Preservation & Museum Division, as it stands today, is vital to the ongoing existence of all preservation groups across the state. By having a professional team to rely on for dissemination of CIA grant funds and to offer guidance to our staff on critical issues of economic development efforts such as saving and reusing former factories in adaptive reuse projects, and helping to preserve and secure the thousands of low and modern income housing stock in our cities is imperative. People need and deserve decent affordable housing and it is crucial that we all understand that the housing that exists today in the many single and multi-dwelling buildings that were built at the turn of the last century are viable. Buildings that were built between 1880 and 1950 with substantial materials and with some living space around them can, and are, appreciated in the community. The materials in the packets that I have given you outline the type of projects that Hartford Preservation does on a daily basis. Without the financial assistance of the Basic Operating Support Grant or the Historic Survey Grant (both from CIA funds) we will be unable to serve our capitol city's residents in a manner in which they deserve.
- Another crucial entity in the state is the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation without whom there would be no real connection between all the diverse historic preservation entities. CT Trust provides the guidance, programmatic support, leadership and vision needed today.
- The Hartford Preservation Alliance views the over 4,000 registered historic buildings in Hartford's neighborhoods as community assets that play an important role in creating value and stabilizing neighborhoods. This is the time to act in preserving the assets that already exist.
- HPA believes that a key strategy for revitalizing the city and increasing the level of homeownership is to protect and subsequently rehabilitate Hartford's architecturally and historically significant buildings in the city's neighborhoods. The restoration of buildings in these neighborhoods will bring improved housing, less blight and a better quality of life to those who live and work in the city.

- HPA is interested in the preservation of the architecturally significant buildings downtown, our primary focus is on the architecture and streetscapes of Hartford's many neighborhoods, often at high risk for deterioration because of disinvestment in the older residential areas of the city.
- As Executive Director of HPA, I have played an active role on the board of CT Preservation Action (CPA) group and we worked hard to collaborate with many across the state to see that the Community Investment Act (CIA) passed. While we have accomplished much since 1997, we cannot do this job alone. Over half of our members and supporters—the 2,770 recipients of our newsletters and mailings— live outside of the city. Many people in CT have a strong desire to see Connecticut's state capitol thrive. Maintaining the Community Investment Act funding will help ensure that wish.

With much appreciation for your time and attention.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Knott-Twine".

Laura Knott-Twine, Executive Director

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