

APPENDIX A

Mississippi Renaissance Garden and Horticultural Center

(from the Historic Preservation Committee)

Our mission is to establish a Mississippi Renaissance Garden and Horticultural Center on the Mississippi Gulf Coast to provide a place for people to reconnect with the beauty of their environment, commemorate the Renaissance of the state of Mississippi and continually renew the spirit of the people and the volunteers who are making the Renaissance possible.

Objectives

- > To provide a non-profit horticultural and therapeutic garden for the survivors and volunteers of Hurricane Katrina consisting of various themed gardens such as a Memorial Garden, a Therapeutic Garden, a Children's Plant and Play Garden, a Sensory Garden, an Enabling Garden, a Cultural Garden and a Community Garden.
- > To promote the spirit of the Mississippi people in overcoming devastation by the planting and maintenance of this center as a symbol of their strength, determination and love for their family, community, state and country.
- > To increase and enhance the green space on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.
- > To develop a base garden and horticultural center in Biloxi with satellite gardens maintained by communities throughout the coastal area.
- > To provide an area in the Horticultural Center dedicated to the generosity and the recognition of the individuals and groups that are making the Renaissance of Mississippi possible.
- > To offer opportunities for the volunteers to continue their involvement with the garden by being a member or sponsor of

- the gardens and assisting in securing resources from their own local, national or international sources.
- > To provide locals and tourists an opportunity to enjoy Mississippi's beauty and educational opportunities as well as the Renaissance of its southern landscapes.
 - > To encourage business, civic, casino, school, church, club organizations and individuals to contribute their time, labor, expertise, materials, plants, and financial support to construct and maintain the gardens and horticultural center.
 - > To allow accessible participation throughout the gardens and center for people of all ages and abilities.
 - > To encourage the transport of visitors to the center utilizing public and casino buses and trolleys.
 - > To offer educational programs such as horticultural therapy, garden planning as well as environmental conservation taught by experienced volunteers to school students, groups and individuals in the coastal communities.
 - > To provide a place for art, photography, plant and environmental exhibits, festivals, concerts, theater, and community celebrations with a commission of any sales going to maintenance of the garden.
 - > To develop a resource library of volunteers and businesses to provide information, assistance and materials to individuals and groups wishing to develop neighborhood gardens.

Description

The Mississippi Renaissance Garden and Horticultural Center, MRGHC, will provide the people of Mississippi a place to reconnect with the beauty of their environment and to celebrate the spirit of the people who are making the renewal possible. As a community outreach program, the MRGHC will work closely with public schools, colleges, civic and private organizations, local citizens and tourists to promote environmental productivity and responsibility in a safe, peaceful, therapeutic, and beautiful environment. It will be a non-profit organization funded entirely from grants, trusts, sponsorships, memberships and visitor donations. The Mississippi Renaissance Garden and Horticultural Center will be open and accessible to

the public at no charge. The staff will consist of paid and volunteer personnel.

The Horticultural Center will consist of classrooms available for community meetings, educational seminars and workshops. A gift shop will sell items such as gardening books, seeds, nature related items, photographs, artwork and plants grown in the Garden. An area will be provided for local artists to exhibit nature-related works with a commission of the sales going to the MRGHC.

Areas will be available for indoor and outdoor exhibits, art, photography, concerts, festivals, and theater with commissions going to the MRGHC. Sculptures, donated from throughout the country, will be displayed.

Mississippi will set a precedent allowing future generations to observe and experience the true meaning of resiliency, generosity, gratitude, hope, determination, southern hospitality and pride in the midst of devastation.

The Mississippi Renaissance Garden and Horticultural Center will initiate the development of a "Horticulture For Humanity" movement to help return green space to areas of the United States that are destroyed by natural disasters.

Facilitator(s)

The Renaissance Garden and Horticultural Center will be under the guidance of a volunteer Board of Directors. The MRGHC Board of Directors includes Cheryl Bell, Martha Sanderson Boyce, Arlene Canaan, Amy DeHuff, Dr. John Guyton, Susan Hunt, Amy Nichols LeMein, Lynn McLean, and Linda Saxson Nix.

Funding

The cost of the Mississippi Renaissance Garden and Horticultural Center will be funded through grants, trusts, private donations, sponsorships and memberships.

Supporters

American Community Gardens Association
American Institute of Landscape Architects
American Public Gardens Association
American Horticultural Therapy Association
Betty's Florist
Countryside Roses and Perennials
Cox's Corner at Frazier's Nursery
Distinctive Designer Landscapes
Earth Core, Inc.
Echo, Inc.
Exterior Expressions of Denver, Colorado
Flash Printing
Hands On USA,
Keenan Nursery
Keep Mississippi Beautiful
Master Gardeners
Mississippi State University Extension Service
Mississippi Media Broadcasting, LLC
Mississippi Urban Forest Council
The National Gardening Association
Pine Hills Nursery
Pitalo's Garden Center
The Raintree Center
Southern Expressions, Inc.
The Toro Company

Action Steps | Timeline

Stage One: Spring 2006

- > Establish a non-profit organization
- > Establish Board of Directors
- > Spread concept of garden to develop local and national supporters
- > Secure permission from city governments
- > Develop a steering committee

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- > Secure a site(s)
 - > Develop a publicity campaign
 - > Seek assistance of Gulf Coast Gardening Societies and Master Gardeners

Stage Two: Summer 2006

- > Develop landscape plans
- > Continue publicity campaign
- > Write grants
- > Solicit contributions of supporters
- > Develop designated committees
- > Seek a temporary office, volunteer staff and equipment
- > Seek initial funding for planning and construction of the Horticultural Center

Stage Three: Fall 2006

- > Continue to seek grants and contributors
- > Continue publicity campaign
- > Plant garden
- > Begin conducting tours
- > Establish an Education Steering Committee for the gardens
- > Determine future action steps for Stage Four, etc.

Additional Information

The following activities are started or completed.

- > Hiller Park has been recommended as a site. This is not yet approved by the city of Biloxi.
- > Steering Committee members and volunteers have been asked to help develop a satellite garden in D'Iberville.
- > America Responds With Love donated seeds in the name of the MRGHC for distribution to Biloxi Public Schools. Wal-Mart Stores donated soil and cups. These were distributed to teachers on May 15, 2006.
- > Hands On USA will help with recruiting, training and coordinating volunteers.
- > The Mississippi Urban Forest Council donated over 300 trees to the MRGHC for planting in neighborhoods, parks and for individuals.

- These trees will be ready for planting in October and/or November.
- > The process of becoming a non-profit foundation has been started.

APPENDIX B

East Biloxi Community Center Expansion

(from the Small Business Committee)

As a redevelopment tool for downtown and East Biloxi, the new community center that is being planned and considered should serve several purposes in a multi-story facility. The facility would be located on the Dukate school site on Howard Avenue.

Ground level / 1st floor

A community center similar to the layout currently found on Howard Avenue would be the main use of the 1st floor. This facility would be used for Mardi Gras balls, city events, weddings, meetings, fundraisers, etc. The space would have a large open floor with a stage and other necessary amenities including restrooms, office space, dressing rooms, etc. A covered portico would provide protection from the weather when dropping of guests for weddings or school children for tours and field trips.

In addition to the community center space, rental retail space could take advantage of the storefront façade and traffic of Howard Avenue. Several rental spaces would be available for businesses that could also serve as vendors to the activities held at the community center. A restaurant that served meals during the week could serve as the caterer to a wedding held on the weekend. A kitchen would still need to be place in the center for other caterers to use. A florist, gift shop, business services store (like UPS store or Kinkos) would create traffic during the day when the community center might not have much activity.