

AGENDA ITEM 6.02

California Cultural and Historical Endowment Board Meeting
9/29/2011

STAFF REPORT

GRANTEE: Northern California Indian Development Council, Inc.
PROJECT: Carson Block and Ingomar Theater
LOCATION: Eureka
PROJECT SUMMARY: Reconstruction of the Ingomar Theater in the Carson Block Building
ORIGINAL FUNDING REQUESTED:
FUNDING RESERVED: \$1,100,000
FUNDING RESERVATION DATE: 04/28/2006
FUNDING APPROVAL DATE: 02/15/2007
IN GRANT AGREEMENT?: Yes
GRANT AGREEMENT TERM: 07/01/2007-12/31/2011
FUNDING ROUND: Funding Round 2

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Carson Block Building and the Ingomar Theater is a 51,544 square foot, three story historical building in Old Town, Eureka. The Carson Block building was designed by Samuel Newsom and constructed in 1892 of local redwood and pressed brick in the Queen Ann architectural style. It served as the hub of cultural and social activity of the region, until the first part of the 20th century. This project seeks to reconstruct the historic theater to its former glory, and make it a state-of-the-art venue for live theater and film. It will also create a venue for the display of much historical material on the role of the Northern Coast in California development, the significance of the local industries and showcase the contribution of the indigenous people of the region. The Project involves the seismic and foundation retrofit of the Carson Block Building and the rehabilitation of the historic Ingomar Theater located within it, and serve as a strong visual link with the past.

Grantees are requesting a one year grant term extension due to ongoing economic impacts on the City of Eureka's redevelopment agency budget. Redevelopment funds were the original source of match funds and the lack of City funding has significantly slowed, but not halted progress on the project. Grantees continue to seek other match funding sources including a \$500k USDA grant, loans and the use of New Markets and Historic Tax Credits to fulfill the match by alternate means.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of the additional one year extension to December 31, 2012, to enable grantees to proceed with the project and to obtain necessary match funding. The unfavorable and unavoidable economic circumstances in the state have severely impacted the project – through no fault of the grantee. The NCIDC has come forward with plans to subsidize the project match with their own cash reserves, in addition to a possible loan and some funding from the City.

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