



LEWIS & CLARK
EXPLORATORY CENTER

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Received

OCT 29 2015

**County of Albemarle
Board of Supervisor's Office**

October 29, 2015

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Hon. Jane Dittmar, Chair
Members of the Board of Supervisors
County Office Building
McIntyre Road
Charlottesville, VA 22902

Re: EDA Loan-LCEC

Dear Ms. Dittmar, Ms. Palmer, Ms. McKeel, Ms. Mallek, Mr. Sheffield and Mr. Boyd:

I write this letter to respectfully request that the County forgive the County's Economic Development Authority loan to the Lewis and Clark Exploratory Center.

As you know, we have doggedly and relentlessly pursued completion of our new building while continuing to offer enriching programs to the community. We have obtained our occupancy permit, and as I believe all of you know, have planned an opening reception for November 8.

Importantly, while we have focused on getting into our new building, Alexandria Searls, our executive director, our board members, and many volunteers have continued offering year-round activities since the beginning of construction of our replica, historically accurate and river ready, 52-foot long, 20,000-pound Keelboat in the Winter of 2001. We have literally reached and enriched thousands of lives, young and old.

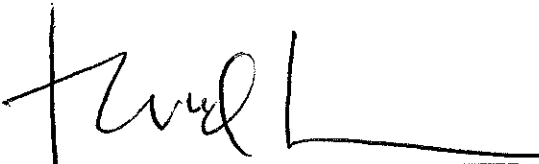
Our construction delay, resulting in an occupancy permit that came three years later than planned on and expected, has not stopped our programming, but has dramatically affected our ability to fund raise and it will take us some period of time to get back on track. Forgiveness of these loans would truly propel us forward as the hands-on history museum on the Rivanna River, a local asset and regional attraction.

We are making this same request of the City of Charlottesville.

I have enclosed a copy of Ms. Searls' October 19, 2015, letter to the EDA for more background on our request.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

Very truly yours:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Lawrence', written over a horizontal line.

Francis McQ. Lawrence
Immediate past president

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Heather Moore Riser', written over a horizontal line.

Heather Moore Riser
President

FML/dkm
Enclosure