DETAILED STATEMENT OF EXISTING AND INTENDED USE

This Detailed Statement of Existing and Intended Use describes the Emergence Community Arts Collective (ECAC) and its plan to use the first and second floor of 731-733 Euclid St. as a community service center. The first section provides general information on the ECAC mission and organization. The remainder of this statement describes ECAC's planned use of 731-733 Euclid St. and the relevant factors supporting its request for a special exception for use of the building as a community service center.

I. About The Emergence Community Arts Collective (ECAC)

A. Mission and Goals

ECAC is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide educational, recreational and social services activities in a community based setting. In the facility at 733 Euclid St., we will offer social activities, traditional arts classes, support groups and educational seminars in an effort to foster a spirit of community within the neighborhood.

The activities of the center will be focused around specific goals which we believe will accomplish this mission:

1) Increase social interaction and networking, particularly intergenerational gathering within the community.

2) Offer traditional forms of arts, crafts, dance or music that will facilitate the body/mind/spirit connection, and provide opportunity for education about the history and philosophy of the culture from which it came.

3) Facilitate inclusion of all individuals who desire membership regardless of race, religion, economic situation, age, or handicaps.

4) Offer support to community members that will allow them to move through pain, anger and conflict into empowered community contributors.

5) Encourage resource sharing among community members

6) Foster civic responsibility and a shared vision among community members

7) Raise the environmental consciousness of members.

8) Document the organization's activities such that it can become a model for other community building organizations.

We believe that with consciousness and focus, we can reestablish a culture of community in its members and the surrounding neighborhood.

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B. Population Served

ECAC intends to serve the immediate neighborhood of Pleasant Plains, Banneker High School and Howard University. Pleasant Plains is an area of the city bordered by Spring Rd. on the North, Barry Place and Florida Ave. on the South, 4th and Warder St. to the East and 16th St. to the West.

733 Euclid St., located on Euclid St. between Georgia Ave. and Sherman Ave., is in a unique location, situated a half block from Banneker High School and Howard University. These institutions bring a variety of age groups and priorities to the neighborhood to which ECAC programs can be tailored.

ECAC intends to focus on activities that will appeal to a variety of ages, races and economic backgrounds, offering them at times that will be amenable to as many as possible We will also strongly encourage residents to have input into the activities offered, making regular planning and organizational meetings open to resident participation. Through marketing, the ECAC website (www.ecacollective.org), a newsletter, and a constantly updated schedule of activities, we will attempt to make the center a gathering place for the exchange of resources, wisdom and social interaction.

C. Organizational Information

The Emergence Community Arts Collective was formed as a non-profit corporation located in Washington, DC. The current Board of Directors bring a wealth of knowledge in creating a community vision which includes:

- direct experience with youth in the US and Brazil,
- administration and management of a community arts space,
- experience in restoring depressed properties to functional use by the community,
- directing public arts projects,
- expertise in the arts and music of the African diaspora, and
- expertise in the martial arts.

The principal officers and staff members have extensive experience in providing community service:

Ms. Pamela Moore, President, has many years of experience as a health educator and supervisor in the areas of HIV/AIDS and substance abuse counseling. Much of her work is centered in the community, where she does extensive outreach. She also serves as a liaison between health programs and government organizations, raising their awareness of the services provided. Ms. Moore will serve as a part time Assistant Manager and Outreach Coordinator.

Ms. Sylvia Robinson, treasurer, has spent the last ten years involved in programs being proposed at ECAC, and has been a key person in developing two organizations. One is the International Capoeira Angola Foundation, a non-profit organization promoting the African-Brazilian art form of Capoeira Angola that has grown from a few practitioners in this area to an national organization with 7 affiliate groups nationwide and over 70 members in the Washington Metropolitan area. The second is the Wu Shen Tao Health and Martial Arts Center, a Tai Chi/Kung Fu school that has also grown rapidly, recently leasing a larger space in Takoma Park. She also has experience in substance abuse counseling and has facilitated recovery support groups. Ms. Robinson will serve as a resident full time General Manager of the center.

Ms. Charisse Williams, Secretary, has a law degree, is a member of the Maryland Bar and has experience working with human rights organizations, youth in detention and on criminal justice reform issues. Her expertise is in the areas of Criminal Justice and Disadvantaged Youth and she travels around the country learning about the work of various organizations. In the process she provides advice and technical assistance to groups on issues ranging from board development, fundraising, program design, implementation and evaluation. In addition, Ms. Williams is a dancer who studies and performs Afro-Cuban dance with Ashe Moyubba Folkloric Ensemble.

Many of the services offered at ECAC not provided by staff will be provided by instructors, facilitators or counselors who will work on a volunteer or consulting basis.

ECAC will offer many of its activities free or at low cost depending on funding available through grants and donations. To facilitate inclusion of all members, regardless of ability to pay, the center will implement a volunteer exchange program where work at the center or in the community can be exchanged for participation in many of the center activities.

II. PLANS FOR 731-733 EUCLID ST. NW

A. Description of 731-733 Euclid St. NW

731-733 Euclid is a large building in the middle of a block of row houses on Euclid St. off of Georgia Ave. It is a unique presence in this block, due to its size and the unusual amount of land surrounding the property. It is a three story building plus a basement, with the first and second floors being significantly larger than the basement and third floor. There is also a front porch and rear deck. The building has a total of 6550 square feet, and sits on an 11,400 square foot lot. The land surrounding the building in the rear is paved and can be used for parking.

B. Previous Owners and Use of 731-733 Euclid St. NW

The property had been owned since the late 1800s by the National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children. This historic organization was chartered by an act of Congress in 1863. It was one of many relief organizations formed to deal with the aftermath of the Civil War and Emancipation. Its charter was to, "support such aged or indigent colored women and children as may properly come under the charge of such association; to provide suitable home, board, clothing, and instruction, and to bring them under Christian influence". (House Journal. 37th Congress, 3rd session. P. 373).

Based on annual reports from 1863-1927 and discussions with the most recent board chairman Dr. Joseph McKinney, the Association functioned successfully in this capacity until the end of 1999, functioning at one point as the Meriwether Home for women, and from 1975 to 1999 as the Key Day Care Center. Key Day Care attempted to address a nation-wide shortage of day care facilities which prevented many single parent families from getting jobs or job training.

C. Existing Use of 733 Euclid St.

733 Euclid St. has been abandoned since 1999. As a boarded up property, it has been a blight on the city block on which it sits, serving as a convenient location for drug addicts and squatters. The land surrounding the property was maintained periodically by the city. The building had been in a state of steady decline. A damaged roof and missing windows have exposed it to the elements, and a significant amount of rehabilitation is in process in order to restore the property. The work is expected to be completed by January 2004, at which time ECAC will lease the first and second floors.

D. Intended Use of 733 Euclid St.

ECAC would like to put the first two floors of this property to use as a community service center, with a focus on traditional arts, education and social interaction. No additions or changes to the footprint of the building are planned. There will be minimal changes to the internal layout of the building since the previous use of the building as a day care center provided an appropriate layout for community service activities.

The first two floors of the building provide space for three studio or classrooms areas (one large and two small), two meeting rooms, two offices, a kitchen, bathrooms and showers.

The third floor, a much smaller area than the other floors, will be a one-bedroom apartment occupied by the General Manager of ECAC.

Services Offered:

There are four different categories of activities that will take place at the center:

Community Activities:

Activities in this category are alternative and creative ways for social interaction. They are intended for all ages, but will be scheduled and promoted to attract the youth and elderly community members. Although the activities are largely recreational, there is an objective of encouraging communication and learning. It is expected that these activities will be held one to two times per month. The types of activities offered will include but not be limited to:

Monthly community pot-luck/games night – a regular gathering of the community for fun activities, discussions, presentations and other types of social interaction.

Walking Club – A gathering of members who, for exercise or enjoyment would like to walk on a regular basis but may have issues with motivation or safety that prevents them from doing it alone.

Mentoring Program – A way to transfer skills, either academic or artistic, to youth and encourage bonding among community members.

Field trips/travel opportunities – Organized excursions to local activities, (eg. museums, shows, events) as well as opportunity for travel outside of the US.

Family night – Regular activities specifically to facilitate interaction and communication between family members.

Garden Club/Food Co-op – Opportunity to share home grown food and gardening advice, or participate in a neighborhood supported buying club

Neighborhood cleanup – Organized outings to beautify the surrounding area.

Classes

ECAC will offer classes in traditional arts which will involve movement, stretching, energy balancing, meditation and dance. We will specifically offer art forms that will provide opportunity for education about the culture, history, people and values from which it came. It is expected that the classes will be offered two to three times per week. The types of activities offered will include but not be limited to:

Capoeira Angola – An African-Brazilian art form that combines movement, music and singing and provides opportunity for education on African history and culture. It is a high impact, acrobatic art that appeals to African American youth.

Tai Chi – A slow moving, meditative martial art form practiced today to increase the internal energy flow in the body. As a low impact, stress reducing activity it is ideal for older adults who are looking for ways to relax, stay active and energize the body.

Chi Kung/Meditation – Chi Kung offers focused breathing and meditation practices that can easily be used at home and throughout the day to rebalance the body's energy.

Yoga – slow stretching and relaxation exercises that will help keep the body limber and flexible.

Seminars/Workshops

ECAC will actively seek experts in the community to share information on different topics. The frequency will depend on the availability of presenters, but we expect to have at least one per month. The types of presentations we are seeking include:

Artistic – instruction in hands on crafts such as quilting, instrument making, poetry, or making natural products.

Educational – seminars on citizens rights, tax laws, financial planning, local history, environmental issues, or diet and health concerns.

Experiential – workshops that facilitate communication and interaction among the participants.

Support Groups/Counseling Services

The value of emotional support in these times cannot be overstated. Addictions, stress, anger and conflict affect a significant percentage of the community and getting help has become less affordable and available. Many times it is difficult to know where to turn when life becomes overwhelming. ECAC plans to address these needs through the following services:

Resource Center – an area of the center will be set aside for flyers and information about the counseling and support services available in the DC Metropolitan area, and staff will be available to help steer those in need to an appropriate resource.

Discussion groups – Regular discussion meetings specifically for certain groups (eg. men, women, teens, new mothers) or for those dealing with particular life issues (eg. anger management, conflict resolution, grieving) will be held.

Support groups – Group meetings following the 12 Step or similar models for emotional recovery from addictions, codependency and other issues will be held regularly.

Rite of Passage – Programs for adolescents designed to assist them through the difficult transition into adulthood. It emphasizes self awareness, cultural awareness and societal awareness, fostering a sense of belonging to a larger community.

Counseling – Individual counseling will be provided depending on the availability of qualified staff.

Hours/Occupancy

Although it is impossible to provide a set schedule of all activities at this time, the general intention is for the center to be used in the following manner:

Weekdays

6:30 – 9:00am	Meditation sessions, Tai Chi or yoga classes and support groups to help people prepare for the work day
12:00 – 2:00pm	Afternoon classes, social activities and support groups meetings for retirees and college students
3:30 – 5:00pm	After school activities for area elementary and high school students – classes, discussions and support groups
6:00 – 9:00pm	After work activities for adults and families – classes, discussions and support groups

Weekends

12:00 – 9:00pm	Activities for all ages - social gatherings, outings, outreach, community meetings, educational seminars, discussion and support groups.

Given the size and intended use of spaces at the center, the maximum capacity would be approximately 60 people, however it will be rare that the center will have that many people present at one time. With activities spread out through the day, there would typically be about 25-30 people present at any given

time. All activities will take place inside of the center; any classes held outside would take place at the Banneker field across the street from the center – a popular location for outdoor activities in the neighborhood.

Security

Since the general manager will be a full time resident of the center, there is a great incentive for ECAC to keep the building secure and well lit. People not directly involved with the center will not be allowed to loiter or congregate in the front steps or back area. No activity at the center will promote alcohol or drug use, and no one visibly intoxicated will be allowed on the premises. The back parking area will be well lit during the times the center is open. The gate to the parking area will be locked when the center is closed to discourage people from congregating in the back parking lot, and motion lights will be installed in the front and back of the building.

Parking

ECAC does not expect the parking on Euclid St. to be impacted by the center. The property has a large paved lot in back of the building that can hold at least 10 cars, meeting the zoning requirements for one space per 600 sf of occupied space. It is also located near major bus lines (the 70, 66 and 68 buses), and is less than one mile from three metro stops – Shaw/Howard Univ., Georgia Ave. Petworth and Columbia Heights.

Furthermore, ECAC's focus is on gathering and unifying the residents of the neighborhood, as opposed to providing services for a select subgroup. The marketing plan is specifically focused on the residents and institutions in the immediate area – those who are close enough to walk or who can easily take public transportation.