

**OUTGOING
CORRESPONDENCE**

SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY



26022 Administration Center Drive
P. O. Box 400
Courtland, Virginia 23837

757-653-3015

Fax: 757-653-0227

February 28, 2011

National Endowment for the Arts
1100 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 729
Washington, DC 20506

RE: Statement of Interest
Our Town

Dear Sir or Madam:

In regular session earlier today, the Board of Supervisors of Southampton County, Virginia authorized and directed me to provide its exclusive letter of support for the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribal Heritage Foundation's statement of interest in the *Our Town* grant program.

The Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) organization devoted to preserving and perpetuating the ideas, culture and traditions of its Native American ancestors. To that end, they acquired 100 acres of real property in Southampton County in March 2009 for the purpose of developing a Historical Cultural Center and Museum. Since then, they've worked with a professional engineer to master-plan the site in order to accommodate a Tribal Educational Center and Museum, a replica of a 1580's Iroquoian village, a 14-acre area for powwows and other ceremonial events, and an 80-acre system of interpretive trails that will showcase the diverse local ecosystems including wetlands, streams and forests.

It is my understanding that they intend to utilize *Our Town* grant funding to assist them in clearing the 14-acre powwow site and in developing the system of interpretive trails. The Board of Supervisors has previously served as a sponsor of the Foundation's annual powwow each of the last four years and is pleased to offer its support of their efforts to develop the Educational Center and Museum. I'm confident that this project matches your program goals by emphasizing our proud community identity and sense of place while helping to revitalize our local economy with dollars associated with expanding tourism.

Sincerely,

Michael W. Johnson
County Administrator