

For Immediate Release

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The Ray Township Public Library has been awarded a grant of \$30,800 from the State of Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) towards the Renovations for Resourceful Spaces project which involves the redesign of the Library's interior. The grant was awarded through the MCACA peer review process and was one of 559 applications to compete for MCACA fiscal year 2016 funding.

According to State Representative Ken Goike, "The Ray Township Public Library is a historical and signature piece of the community. With the support of the MCACA, Ray Township will be able to provide much needed improvements to the library to better serve the local community. This will allow the library to continue to play a role for education, entertainment and community growth."

Organizations receiving a MCACA grant award are required to match funds with other public and private dollars. Local support of the project included the Township of Ray, the Friends of the Ray Township Library and Historical Society, and the Ray Township Lions Club. The Ray Township Public Library also receives significant support from the community through various activities, including the annual Simply the Finest Fest Art in the Park and used book sales, and fundraising events at local businesses, such as Panera and Alex and Ani.

The Renovations for Resourceful Spaces project will be done in two phases. Phase One will redesign the interior of the main area of the Library, which was built in 1863 as a one-room schoolhouse, providing a welcoming, accessible, and comfortable atmosphere for services, programs, and meetings. This includes painting the tin ceiling, walls, and wainscoting while upgrading the bookshelves and work areas for materials and technology. The modifications to the space will improve accessibility compliant with ADA guidelines. The work is planned for April of 2017.

In Phase Two, the Suzanne Graham Children's Room will be redesigned with 50% more shelving and two dedicated children's computers. The project also provides for a secure cabinet for the Friends of the Ray Township Library and Historical Society's archival collection increasing public access to historical and genealogy documents.

The MCACA peer review process allows for each grant application to be competitively considered by a panel of in-state and out-of-state arts and culture professionals. This ensures the taxpayers, who support this project through legislative appropriations, and all other visitors or residents in Michigan will have access to the highest quality arts, educational, and cultural experiences.

A complete list of grant awards around the state is available by contacting MCACA at (517) 241-4011, or by visiting the MCACA website, [www.michiganbusiness.org/community/council-arts-cultural-affairs](http://www.michiganbusiness.org/community/council-arts-cultural-affairs).