



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE
Humanities

OFFICE OF CHALLENGE GRANTS

December 20, 2012

Madison Landmarks Commission
City of Madison
Department of Planning & Development
215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
P.O. Box 2985
Madison, WI 53701-2985

**RE: Invitation to Consult on the University of Wisconsin–Madison’s
University Club Renovation Project**

Dear members of the commission:

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), an independent Federal agency, has offered the University of Wisconsin-Madison (UWM) a grant to undertake renovations at 432 East Campus Mall in Madison, Wisconsin, to house the Max Kade Institute’s library and archives, sound archive, exhibit space, and offices. The intent of this correspondence is to invite you to become a consulting party under 36 C.F.R. Part 800, which implements Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Background

Section 106 requires Federal agencies to identify and assess the effects of any proposed action to historic properties (i.e. National Register-listed or -eligible properties) prior to the expenditure of Federal funds. If any proposed action will have an adverse effect on historic resources, a Federal agency works with the appropriate parties to seek ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects.

As part of NEH’s Section 106 review, the agency is currently identifying individuals and organizations that may have a particular interest in UWM’s proposed project and inviting them to become consulting parties. 36 C.F.R. § 800.2(c)(5). Should you wish to be involved in the process, you may be asked to assist NEH with its Section 106 review of UWM’s proposed project.

Description of UWM’S Proposed Project and the University Club Building

UWM proposes significant interior renovation of the fourth floor at 432 East Campus Mall in Madison, Wisconsin, known as the University Club, to house the

Max Kade Institute's library and archives, sound archive, exhibit space, and offices. The proposed renovations include:

- Demolition or removal of some walls, all flooring and window coverings, all bathroom fixtures, some radiators, and some light fixtures and outlets.
- New construction and installation of flooring (carpet, vinyl, tile); sound deadening panels for a listening room in the Sound Archive; voice-, data- and electrical lines and outlets; bathroom fixtures; window coverings and light shades; light fixtures; kitchen cabinets, sink, and refrigerator; fire alarm devices and exit signs; and patching and painting of walls.
- Mechanical improvements such as the installation of heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) for the proposed library, exhibit space, and conference room (the hot water converter will be located in the basement); bathroom plumbing; and new thermostats and valves in rooms 401-413.

The University Club is currently considered a contributing element to the Bascom Hill Historic District and was listed as such on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. The building in its current configuration was built in three stages: in 1908, 1912, and 1924. The fourth floor measures 5,340 square feet and is located directly under the roof. Its interior has been changed over the decades as it served different occupants and purposes, ranging from a dormitory to office space. This floor is currently not occupied.

Attached is a map indicating the Area of Potential Effects for the University Club undertaking.

Eligibility Determination by Wisconsin SHPO

The Wisconsin Historical Society, which serves as the Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), through an email dated October 18, 2012, has stated that UWM's planned renovation on the University Club will have an adverse effect on the building.

Proposed Actions to Avoid, Mitigate, or Minimize the Adverse Effects

In order to avoid, mitigate, or minimize the adverse effects to the University Club, some measures have been proposed, including:

- Photo documentation of the entire University Club building;
- The salvage of materials during demolition of the fourth floor for future use in other areas of the building;
- Research and documentation by UWM of the history of the entire University Club building;
- The archiving by UWM of the University Club's existing original building plans; and

- Review by the SHPO and UWM of the final draft construction drawings for the fourth floor project.

Procedures for Accepting NEH's Consulting Party Invitation and Request for Comments

If you wish to become a Section 106 consulting party for UWM's project, please provide NEH with written confirmation by January 20, 2013, indicating your desire to participate. Further, if you wish to be a consulting party, please provide by February 15, 2013, comments identifying concerns or issues pertinent to UWM's project. Specifically, NEH would appreciate comments reflecting knowledge of, or concerns with, historic properties in the proposed project area, including any issues relating to the project's potential effects on historic properties. Furthermore, NEH would appreciate any comments on ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects to historic properties.

You may submit your written confirmation and comments to NEH via e-mail at bjohnson@neh.gov or by regular mail to the National Endowment for the Humanities, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room 420, Washington, DC 20506.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to be a consulting party. If you have questions concerning this project or the Section 106 process, please contact me at 202-606-8369.

Sincerely,



Brandon Johnson
Senior Program Officer

Enclosure

cc: Andrea Anderson, NEH Federal Preservation Officer
Michelle Ghim, NEH Office of the General Counsel