

John E. Rogers African American Cultural Center, Inc.
P.O. Box 1931
Hartford, CT 06144-1931

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Connecticut Historical
Commission

December 8, 2003

Ms. Cora Murray
Connecticut State Historical Preservation Office
10 Prospect Street
Hartford, CT 06103

Dear Ms. Murray:

On behalf of the John E. Rogers African American Cultural Center, I'm writing to enlist the Connecticut State Historical Preservation Offices' support to help underwrite expenses in the amount of \$2,750 for our upcoming symposium titled "*New England's Black Governors 1740-1855*." This unique event will be held at the Museum of African American History in Boston, Massachusetts on Saturday, July 24, 2004. The program will feature formal presentations, artifacts and exhibitions highlighting the election of Black Governors and Kings by the colonial slave communities of Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New Hampshire.

Because the experience of colonial slaves electing their own leaders as black Governor/Kings was primarily a New England phenomenon, our organization reached out to the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society and the African American Resource Center of New Hampshire to participate in the symposium. Our goal is to significantly expand the historical record regarding Black America's first experiment with mass democracy—a history that most Americans are totally unfamiliar with and one that remains largely unwritten.

In an effort to maximize exposure of this significant gathering, we have selected the Abeil Smith School (the gathering place for Boston's colonial black activists) as the event venue. Moreover, the symposium will occur on the weekend before the Democratic Party's National Convention opens in Boston, and will be listed in the City of Boston's tour guide activities book.

With your organizations' support our recent programs on Connecticut's Black Governors at the Legislative Office Building and Capitol Community College were highly successful. We are hopeful that we will receive your assistance again for this most worthy historical endeavor.

Enclosed please find additional information on the Black Governors, the upcoming program, event budget, the Abeil Smith House venue, and participating organizations. Your donation can be made to:

John E. Rogers African American Cultural Center
Mail to: JERAACC
P.O. Box 1931
Hartford, CT 06144-1931

We look forward to hearing from you soon. If you need additional information, please contact Webster Brooks at 695-8415 or 209-2434. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Barbara Alleyne

Barbara Alleyne, President

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