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Tiffany House Art Center (1963): Memorandum 03

Isabelle Leeds

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MEMORANDUM

FEBRUARY 7, 1963

TO: SENATOR
FROM: ISABELLE

cc: Sheila

I have investigated the Valley Art Association and its desire for funds to complete the renovation of the Tiffany House for use as an Art and Community Center. It seems to me that this is a project worthy of support. There is no building in the area that performs either the cultural or the general community functions envisioned by this group.

As Mrs. Costa's letter explained, the house originally belonged to the Crompton family, is of Tiffany design and a particularly good example of early 19th century architecture. The Rhode Island Heritage Foundation has bought the house, but additional funds are now needed for renovation and repair. (around \$8000) Once the center is in operation, there are local service organizations which have indicated their ability to take care of maintenance and upkeep.

I spoke to Senator Pat Nero, our local "cultural representative" and he will be glad to help. With your approval, I will write to Mrs. Costa telling her to send

all pertinent information and a request for assistance to Senator Nero. He assures me that he will then introduce appropriate legislation enabling this group to participate in allocations to cultural groups. If his own bill setting up a Cultural Agency in the Education Department passes, they will also qualify as a recipient of funds.

Before I managed to contact Senator Nero I had spoken to someone at U.R.I. who thought individual contributions were the best potential source of funds. He mentioned a few Rhode Islanders who might be contacted including the Aldrich family and Mrs. Danforth. He also thought that an excellent possibility was Huntington Hartford, since he felt this was just the sort of project in which he is interested (He did not know of your relationship.)

I find that only 5 % of all foundation grants go to the humanities, so that source does not look too promising. However, Sheila may well have other ideas along these lines.