

**CC. SCHS - George E. Franchere Education Center (W487)**

September 14, 2010

- Grantee:** Schenectady County Historical Society (the “SCHS”)
- ESD Investment:** A grant of up to \$50,000 to be used for a portion of the cost of design and pre-construction documentation for the George E. Franchere Education Center (the “Center”).
- Project Location:** 1080 Main Street, Rotterdam, Schenectady County
- NYS Empire Zone (or equivalent):** N/A
- Project Completion:** June 2010
- Grantee Contact:** Edwin D. Reilly, Jr., President  
32 Washington Avenue  
Schenectady, NY 12305  
Phone: (518) 374-0263 Fax: (518) 688-2825
- Project Team:** Project Management Linda Dillon  
Affirmative Action Laverne Poole  
Environmental Soo Kang

**Project Description:**

Background

The Schenectady County Historical Society was chartered in 1905. Its mission is to store and preserve books, documents and other materials pertaining to the history of Schenectady County, disseminate historical information and conduct educational programs. In 1993, the Mabee Farm, a 300+ year old Dutch farm site, was donated to the SCHS by George E. Franchere, the last descendant of the Mabee family. The property includes the Mabee Stone House (the “House”), which is the oldest standing home in the Mohawk Valley, and other historical structures such as a public inn, slave quarters and several barns and outbuildings. The property is listed on the National and State Historic Registers.

The SCHS developed the site as a museum and educational center and offers workshops, tours and educational programs to approximately 17,000 visitors annually. The historic buildings are also used for operations, offices, classrooms, and storage, and are unable to accommodate growing visitor traffic. In addition, the buildings have no heat, which restricts operations to warmer months, and the second floor of the House can no longer support the weight of the artifacts collection. To address these issues, SCHS is constructing the George E. Franchere Education Center, a 13,000-square-foot, \$2.1M building, adjacent to the House. The Center will blend with the site’s historic buildings and provide additional space for expanded programs and operations. Financing has been identified, and construction is expected to be complete by April 2011.

## SCHS - George E. Franchere Education Center (W487)

September 14, 2010

### The Project

The project involved the completion of design work and preconstruction documentation for the Center, including the final building design, design of mechanical systems and development of construction documents and final construction cost estimates. The SCHS selected three firms to oversee design and construction. AKW Consulting, Inc., a professional construction management firm based in Schenectady, is managing the entire design and construction process. Stracher, Roth, Gilmore Architects, also based in Schenectady, provided additional design support, and SpringLine Design, Inc., a structural engineering firm located in Nassau, NY, approved structural plans and performed necessary reviews and site testing. The project was completed in June 2010, and construction, which does not involve additional ESD funds, is underway.

Upon completion of the project, the Grantee will furnish a final report describing the impact and effectiveness of the project.

Financing Uses	Amount	Financing Sources	Amount	Percent
Design and Pre-construction Documentation	\$135,000	ESD Grant	\$50,000	37%
		SCHS Equity	\$85,000	63%
Total Project Costs	\$135,000	Total Project Financing	\$135,000	100%

### **Statutory Basis – Community Capital Assistance Program:**

The project was authorized in accordance with Chapter 84 of the Laws of 2002 and reappropriated in the 2010-2011 New York State budget.

### **Disclosure and Accountability Certifications:**

The Grantee has provided ESDC with the required Disclosure and Accountability Certifications. Grantee's certifications indicate that Grantee has no conflict of interest or good standing violations and, therefore, staff recommends that the Corporation authorize the grant to the Grantee as described in these materials.