



May 25, 2005

We Shall Overcome Fund
Highlander Research and Education Center
1959 Highlander Way
New Market, Tennessee 37820

To Whom This May Concern:

Please accept this as my letter of support for the efforts of JoVita Wells to secure funding for the Morristown African-American Museum project from the We Shall Overcome Fund. JoVita, co-founder of the From Africa to Appalachia Foundation in Morristown, has been a partner in providing seventeen years of continuous programming in African-American art, history, and culture to Morristown and the surrounding community. One of her most important community involvements was with a National Endowment for the Humanities funded East Tennessee Historical Society community history project for which she served as the community director and editor in Hamblen County. The project resulted in the publication of *A School for Freedom: Morristown College and Five Generations of Education for Blacks, 1868-1985*. Funding from the We Shall Overcome Fund will support the expansion of the *A School for Freedom* community history project into a permanent exhibit to be housed in the Laura Yard Hill Administration Building on the former campus of Morristown College in Morristown. The City has donated 131,000 square feet of space in the Hill Building for this phase of a proposed five-year art gallery, museum, and transportation history building development effort.

JoVita has over twenty years experience as a grant writer, grants administrator, program developer, and research administrator with colleges and universities and non-profit organizations. Among her many accomplishments are a national fellowship awarded by the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, service as president of the National Sponsored Program Administrators Alliance of historically black colleges and universities, admission to the bar by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, graduate study in educational administration at Bryn Mawr College and Vanderbilt University, among other fellowship and scholarship awards.

Mrs. Wells has been a consistent supporter of efforts to enlighten and educate young people and others throughout her life and has the energy, commitment, and integrity needed to ensure success in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Kay Senter
City Councilmember
City of Morristown