



Rondo Community Museum  
1360 University Ave W, Suite 140  
St Paul, MN 55104

## Star Report

April 8, 2014



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## Summary Statement

### **Scope:**

The following information is submitted along with the completed Neighborhood Star Grant Application to provide a more detailed description for the Rondo Community Museum (RCM).

### **Rondo Avenue, Inc., (RAI) Mission:**

RAI is dedicated to preserving the core values of the former predominately African-American Rondo neighborhood and accurately interpreting the contributions of the residents to the City of St. Paul. This community was destroyed by the construction of Interstate I-94 in the late 1960's. Each July, for the past 30 years, RAI has sponsored the "Rondo Days" festival as a means to transmit the history and rich cultural traditions of old Rondo neighborhood and connect them with the new generations of an ever-evolving community.

### **The Rondo Community Museum Project:**

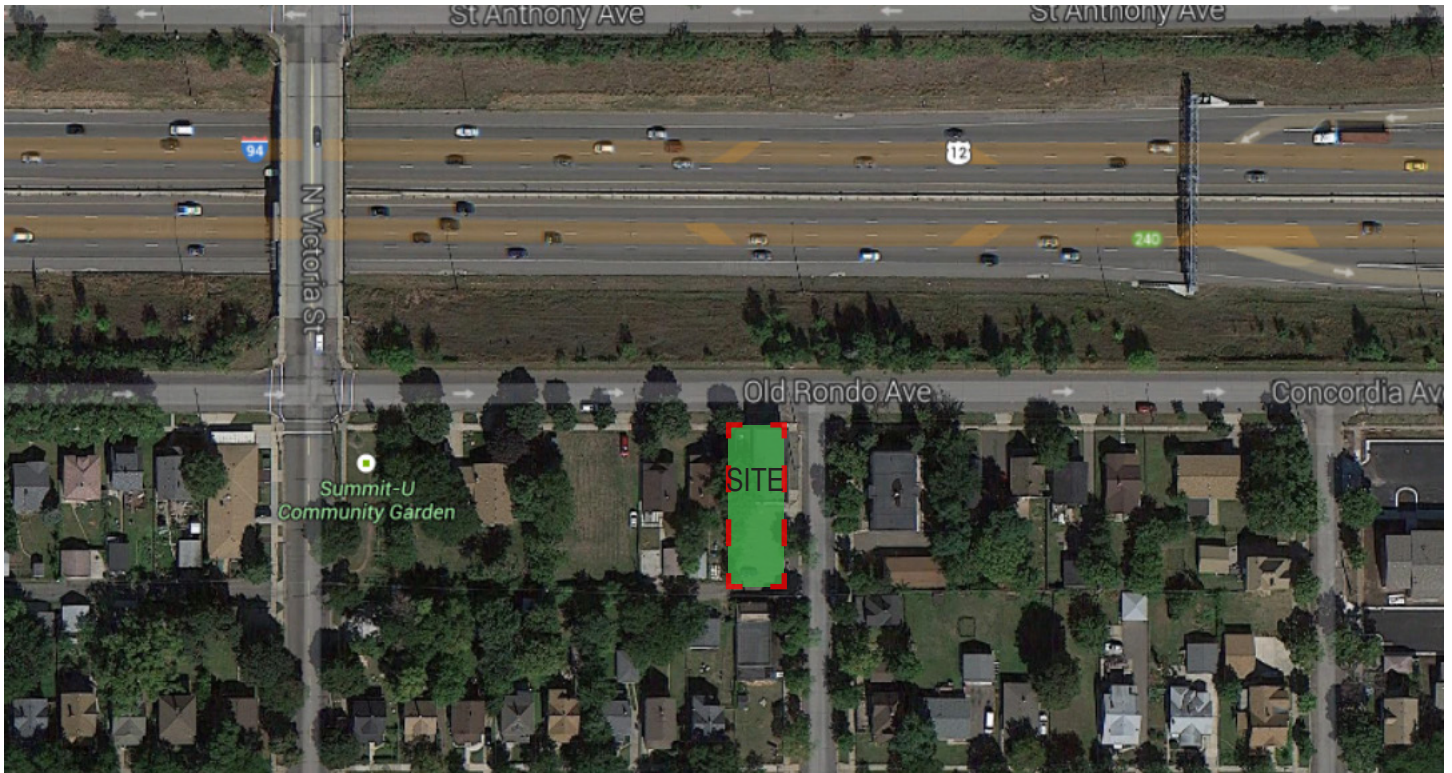
RAI is leading the effort to secure land in the Rondo neighborhood and raise funds for the construction of the (RCM) and offices for Rondo Avenue, Inc. The purpose of the RCM will be to create interactive programs of sight and sound that educate, inspire and demonstrate the core values of the former Rondo neighborhood. These core values are:

1. The dignity of work,
2. The value of education,
3. The importance of religion,
4. The pride of home ownership,
5. The necessity of social interaction, and
6. Respect for self and others

RCM will provide a foundation for the formation of a lively, complex community that will draw upon the wisdom of old Rondo to empower the residents to improve their own lives with a special emphasis on inspiring today's youth for tomorrow challenges.

In addition, the RCM will: construct a stand-only building to house the museum and the offices of Rondo Avenue, Inc.; chronicle the important historical contributions of African Americans to the City of St. Paul, Ramsey County and the State of Minnesota; attract artists, artisans and performers for exhibits, demonstrations and/or workshops; complement St. Paul's other cultural heritage sites; create active partnerships to realize mutual benefits of collaboration with local schools and historical institutions and create a bridge to help future generations grow together based on a shared past and a united future

## Project Site



### Site Info

Address: 820-822 Concordia Ave/Old Rondo Ave

Site Area: 5,662.8 sf (0.13 Acres)

Zoning: RT-1 Two-Family

## Precedent Examples

### **John G. Riley House & Museum**

[www.rileymuseum.org](http://www.rileymuseum.org)

The John G. Riley Center/Museum is a historical and cultural gem that sits at the bottom of a hill in downtown Tallahassee, at the corner of Meridian and Jefferson Streets.

The Riley historic home represents the thriving black neighborhood, known as Smokey Hollow, that once existed in what is just east of downtown Tallahassee. It is especially significant when compared to other such historical sites in that it is the last vestige we have of the accomplishments of an entire group of people, the black middle class, which emerged in the latter part of the nineteenth century.

The mission and purpose of the John G. Riley Center/Museum of African American History & Culture is to discover, archive and illuminate the blended interrelationship of African American, Native American and European history and preserve African American landmarks and legacies throughout the State of Florida as an enduring public resource through tourism and education. Established in 1996, the museum's programs provide an environment and means to encourage and empower participants to develop an awareness of and gain an appreciation for the educational and social contributions of African Americans to Florida's history.

### **Stiles African American Heritage Center, Inc**

[www.stilesheritagecenter.org](http://www.stilesheritagecenter.org)

The Stiles African American Heritage Center, an outgrowth of African American History on Wheels founded in 1992, is located in Five Points, the heart of Denver's historic African American Community.

An uplifting museum experience in every sense, the Stiles African American Heritage Center celebrates the positive contributions made by African Americans through guided tours, cultural exhibits, artifacts and memorabilia. Located in Five Points, the heart of Denver's historic African American community, the Center's stated mission is to teach African American history and to encourage young people to go forward with dignity and pride. Diversity workshops and lectures are offered on a regular basis.

### **International Civil Rights Center and Museum**

[www.sitinmovement.org](http://www.sitinmovement.org)

The International Civil Rights Center & Museum is an archival center, collecting museum and teaching facility devoted to the international struggle for civil and human rights. The Museum celebrates the nonviolent protests of the 1960 Greensboro sit-ins that served as a catalyst in the civil rights movement.

The Museum complex features educational exhibits, a gallery, auditorium, archival center and Joint Center for the Study of Human Rights.

The International Civil Rights Center & Museum was founded by Melvin "Skip" Alston and Earl Jones in 1993 under the auspices of the Sit-In Movement, Inc.



# Schedule

The turn-around time will be determined by several factors. However with reasonable and timely access to the property and authorization to proceed, and required agency approvals we are confident the following schedule can be maintained:

