



The Cleveland Dragon Boat Association strongly supports the goal of the Cleveland Rowing Foundation to bring public access to the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland's Historic Flats District for a wide range of recreational activity.

The Cuyahoga River is one of Cleveland's finest urban natural resources, and human powered watercraft on the river is eco-friendly and non-invasive to river plants and wildlife. Further, it supports and enhances Cleveland's economy and promotes eco-tourism with annual Festivals and Regattas, as well as club paddling and rowing leagues.

The annual Cleveland Dragon Boat Festival features Dragon Boat racing on the Cuyahoga River. The Festival attracts organized teams, individual paddlers and spectators throughout Ohio and bordering states. It continues to grow on a yearly basis, and can only benefit from the acquisition of land dedicated to public access for active and passive recreational activity. Additionally, paddling and rowing activity promotes river awareness and provides an educational experience to the general public regarding the environment and natural assets of our river.

We applaud the effort made by the Cleveland Rowing Foundation and Trust for Public Land to obtain financing needed to secure a permanently owned site that allows for public recreational activity on the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland's Historic Flats District.

It is our sincere wish that the application for grant assistance through the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Fund is granted for this worthy project.

In closing, receipt of requested grant funds will, without question, allow public access to the river from a broad and diverse population, enhance eco-tourism and spur economic development in the Cleveland area.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Ciccarello".

Michael Ciccarello, President
Cleveland Dragon Boat Association

PADDLES UP...PADDLE LONG...PADDLE STRONG!

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