

# HawkenSchool



## Rowing Club

August 23, 2009

### **TO THE SELECTION PANEL OF THE CLEAN OHIO FUND:**

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I write this letter on behalf of the Hawken Rowing Club in support of the Cleveland Rowing Foundation's application to the Clean Ohio Fund.

Founded in 1915, Hawken School is a college preparatory day school serving approximately 1000 students from throughout Greater Cleveland. Hawken strives to develop the character, mind, and body of its students at its campuses in Lyndhurst and Gates Mills and at a newly created learning center in University Circle.

The school has a long tradition of athletic and academic excellence – as well as commitment to the larger community. The Hawken Rowing Club began only last year and in its first year, had a single sculler qualify for the Scholastic National Championships.

The expansion of the Cleveland Rowing Foundation facilities will be essential to the growth and development of the Hawken Rowing Club. In the coming years we anticipate expanding the program; we will need a safe, accessible facility that can accommodate an increasing number of rowing shells and student athletes utilizing them.

But the Rowing Club's enthusiasm for the proposed Rivergate Recreation Center goes well beyond rowing. Hawken's school strategy calls for its students and faculty to become a part of the Greater Cleveland community and contribute to the city's renaissance. This commitment to community was the motivating force behind the recent opening of Hawken's University Circle facility. The RiverGate Center is an extension of this concept. Perhaps as much as any civic project under development, RiverGate promises to connect not only an increasing number of rowers, kayakers, and other rivercraft lovers to the Cuyahoga River Valley, but also to create a vibrant green space in the heart of the city that will generate excitement and pride for all of Cleveland's residents. And the Rowing Club looks forward to participating in the Cleveland

Rowing Foundation's planned community outreach programs to ensure diversity of opportunities and experience on the river for all of Cleveland's residents.

Elsewhere around the United States, state, county, and local governments have financially supported boathouses – and have seen them serve as a rallying point for environmentally-connected economic development. The RiverGate complex promises to move Cleveland, the city of the burning river, to the forefront of this movement and to demonstrate that a brighter future is on the horizon.

Thank you for your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bradley W. Whitehead". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "W".

Bradley W. Whitehead  
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Cc: D. Scott Looney, Hawken Head of School  
Jim Doyle, Hawken Athletic Director  
Sarah Mierke, Hawken Director of Community Partnerships and Service Learning