

History of Tillinghast Place

Hello, NCAD members, present, past, and future and friends of NC Deaf community! Hope you are doing good. I'm good! I wanted to retell and reflect one of the most important NCAD historical events, reflecting way back 35 years ago. First, let me tell you a little about myself, limited to NCAD not my personal life, family or career. I was NCAD President serving two terms for four years, 1989-1993, one term as Vice president, 1993-1995, then Director-at-Large, 1995-1997, for all combined eight years. (Pause)

Like what I previously mentioned going back 35 years ago, we, the NCAD emphasize the importance of NCAD history, was successful in obtaining grant from the federal funds for \$1.4 million, maybe exactly \$1.418 million from the HUD (Housing Urban Development Department) with the goal to build a low-income housing project for Deaf people. How was the grant granted to NCAD? It started with Hal Wright as President, myself as Vice President, getting together with the board in 1993 in response to the first and unsuccessful grant attempt with the HUD. We applied for HUD Section 202, aiming the goal to establish a nursing care center for Deaf Senior Citizens. The main reason for HUD's denial was that managing a nursing care center is very complicated and that the NCAD was not equipped nor qualified for the service criteria. Instead of this grant, the HUD suggested NCAD try their Section 811 low-income housing for people with disabilities, and that Deaf people would qualify under the disability definition. NCAD agreed to proceed with the same agency in Winston Salem to assist with writing a grant. The agency was Perry C. Craven Associates (PCCA) and their fee was for \$6,000.00 with the understanding of one condition from them that someone from NCAD be assigned to do the legwork necessary for their grant writing. President Hal Wright and the board agreed that I was the best person to do the job. I knew it was a challenging task but I accepted with huge honor to be selected for this project. Once getting it started,

there was a list of tasks that PCCA requested, such as letters of support, rationale for the need of the project, collecting demographics related to Deaf population, thus letters of support from lawmakers, legislators, leaders of Deaf community, leaders of interpreter community, leaders of National Association of the Deaf (NAD) and long list of tasks. All of these collected helped PCCA spearhead with the grant writing and took them a year to finally submit to the HUD. Once submitted, it was not long that the HUD approved, it was like a sudden approval and it was true biz!! Reiterated on the fact, 1,418 million dollars approved!! That is how it happened and how the project was built. Hey, not what the rumors I have heard, especially resulted from a \$500,000 lawsuit! Wave-no, I wanted to make sure that NCAD has factual information based on facts and protect NCAD History and Preservation. That is something to be proud of!! (Pause)

Ok, now that you already know about the awarded grant, the housing project itself has five phases. All five phases to getting it completed were for three years. Right now doing this video, I will not be able to cover all five phases just for one video. Each phase may be 5-10 minutes each. I would share the videos periodically, different times. So you will know the whole and factual story of Tillinghast Place as a part of NCAD History. I will also explain to you why and who the name Tillinghast was in the next video on Phase One. Thank you for watching me, and learn about the NCAD History. Stay tuned for Phase One video!!