

**GERALD L. IGNACE
INDIAN HEALTH CENTER**



September 6, 2022

Patricia Keating Kahn, Chair
Historic Preservation Commission
City of Milwaukee
200 E. Wells St.
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Shekóli (Oneida greeting) Milwaukee Historic Preservation Commission Members,

I am writing this letter in of support of the Wisconsin Native Vote application for the Certificate of Appropriateness to install a mural on the north (rear) wall of the Gerald L. Ignace Indian Health Center (GLIHC), located at 930 W. Historic Mitchell Street.

The Vote for the Seventh Generation mural by renowned artist Christopher Sweet, of the Ho-Chunk Nation, is part of a statewide, nonpartisan effort to have our Native voices heard and increase voter turnout at the polls. Sweet has captured our Native pride in our Mother Earth, our traditions, and the need to protect our culture and way of life for future generations.

Milwaukee is home to the largest Native American population in Wisconsin. This population has literally been ignored. Since GLIHC is the hub of this community, Wisconsin Native Vote's Urban Organizer Anne Egan-Waukau initiated mural discussions in April with the GLIHC Board and CEO Lyle Ignace, MD, MPH. Anne has assured us that Wisconsin Native Vote and the artist will maintain the quality of the mural. This led to our unanimous approval to have the mural installed at GLIHC.

Our Native American Indian communities face many threats. Decisions are made in every election that will impact the course of our history. Native-led campaigns like Wisconsin Native Vote that include initiatives like the mural will help to educate and ensure Indigenous people's voices are heard.

GLIHC's mission is to improve the health, peace, and well-being of urban Indians in the Greater Milwaukee Area and treatment encompasses the whole family, including the community. We support Wisconsin Native Vote's goal to increase voter turnout because it will help us to achieve our mission.

On behalf of the GLIHC Board of Directors, I am submitting this letter in support of the mural Vote for the Seventh Generation.

Yawλko (Oneida thank you),

Steve Ninham, Chair
Gerald L. Ignace Indian Health Center, Inc. Board of Directors

09/06/2022
Date