

November 14, 1964

Mr. Vincent De Forrest
1710 15 St. NW
NEE Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. DeForrest:

I recently put out a call to Cynthia Washington and others for architects, and she gave me your name and address. We need architects very badly to give us advice and guidance on building community centers. Besides overcoming the problems of the centers, such as using mostly volunteer labor and making them reasonably fire and bomb proof, we would like to build buildings of some beauty and imagination. We have a contractor's sketch of a building which meets our space requirements, etc. and which can be either built of frame ~~for~~ with unskilled labor or built of masonry with skilled labor--all for less than \$10,000, labor excepted. But we need people to adapt this basic plan to each community, and, perhaps, to give it more distinction than the L-shaped row of rooms the present sketch shows. I think that the lack of beautiful buildings in the "egro community is a major cultural shortcoming, and also a demoralizing factor in a person's ambition to make and keep something nice. The only nice buildings you're likely to see in the "egro part of town are the new schools which the state is frantically building (to maintain the segregated system).

I would like to see good architects come to Mississippi for ~~at~~ as long as they can afford, spend some time in the community where people want to build, find out from them what their particular specifications are, and design the kind of building that they want (within our budget, though). We have projects where the land has been selected and where people want to build right now, and we have other projects where people are moving, but are not ready for an architect yet. So we would like to have architects visiting our projects all through the winter, going to whichever projects are ready to build. I hope that you and/or any ~~one~~ body else that you know who would respond to this appeal can come to Mississippi for a week or more to work on this part of our project. Thank you very much.

Yours truly,

(Miss) Lois Chaffee