

## Magnifico, Rose

**Subject:** Deputation from Human Endeavour  
**Attachments:** Michael Cranny Enhancement Plan\_0 3.pdf; deputation\_human\_endeavour.pdf

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**Sent:** Tuesday, September 18, 2012 12:54 AM  
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**Subject:** Deputation from Human Endeavour

C 4  
COMMUNICATION  
CW - Oct 16/12  
ITEM - Dep 4)

Dear Mr. Jeffrey A. Avrams, City Clerk, City of Vaughan

I would like to make a deputation to the Vaughan City Council, please see attached two documents;

1. Deputation: Ten years lease and full occupancy request of Michael Cranny House
2. Supporting document (Michael Cranny Enhancement Plan)

Please let me know if I have to complete any other formality for making this deputation.

Best regards.

  
**Noor Din**

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# Human Endeavour

Innovation in Economic, Health and Social Solutions

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Mr. Jeffrey A. Avrams, City Clerk, City of Vaughan

September 14, 2012

Deputation: Ten years lease and full occupancy request of Michael Cranny House

Respected Mayor and Members of Council:

Before Human Endeavour moved into historic Michael Cranny House November 2008, it was deserted and inaccessible to the local community who called it a ghost house. With Human Endeavour's efforts and City's support, now it has become a community hub with numerous activities taking place on a daily basis for all age groups. The Maple residents in particular are benefitting a lot from the services offered and according to their feedback have improved their sense of well being and involved them in positive, constructive activities and learning and utilizing their skills.

Currently, Human Endeavour is the main occupant of this facility and occupies 3 out of the 4 rentable rooms from the City of Vaughan through a monthly lease agreement. Human Endeavour apart from using it as an office space to accommodate its staff, placement students from Maple High and Seneca College, seniors and volunteers, has transformed the Michael Cranny House into a fully equipped innovative community service centre accessible to all.

List of some services from Michael Cranny House:

- Community based economic development program (social economy Incubator)
- Students Placement Service (4 from Maple high and 2-4 from Seneca in each term)
- Seniors Group (20 local Italian seniors meet twice a week in the evening)
- Green Energy Project
- Community Gardens / Green house project
- Numerous hands-on trainings and employment services for unemployed
- Research and knowledge exchange
- Participating in Doors Open/Culture Days for the last two years
- 100+ people use our services weekly at this location alone

Considering the demand for services Human Endeavour needs additional space for a number of important initiatives that are equally important for the City, its economy and residents.

Human Endeavour envisages key improvements to enhance the significance of the heritage site and make it a tourist attraction by exploring resources and funding options. It will help in promoting and reviving the heritage, generating awareness, increasing tourism and stimulating local economy. Human Endeavour is well respected with leading funders who can provide capital/site improvement funding provided that Human Endeavour has a long term lease which is a requirement from the funders.

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Hence, Human Endeavour is requesting the complete occupancy of the facility and its lease for next ten years with the vision of:

1. Making the Michael Cranny House a landmark innovative centre of excellence
2. Improving outlook of the building and much needed basement improvements
3. Increasing tourism with new attractions/activities at the site
4. Continuing & expanding existing services
5. Providing safe and uncongested work environment for staff & clients
6. Initiating new services to meet the emerging needs of the community

See attached Michael Cranny Enhancement Plan for more details.

We are hopeful that you will give due consideration to this request as it will allow us to respond to much needed services and improve health, social and economic wellbeing of community members in timely manner.

Noor ul Din

Noor Din  
Chief Executive Officer  
Human Endeavour

# Michael Cranny Enhancement Plan (Vaughan's 1<sup>st</sup> Centre for Social Innovation)



Submitted To  
**City of Vaughan**

Prepared By  
**Human Endeavour Inc.**

Version 0.3, May 3, 2012

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**Human  
Endeavour**

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# 1 Executive Summary

## 1.1 Objective

The objective of this document is to start a dialogue with the City of Vaughan to work together and formally establish its first Social Innovation Centre at historic Michael Cranny House, located at 439 Glenkindie Ave. Vaughan, ON, L6A 2A2.

The objective of this document is to highlight potential projects that will result in:

- making the Michael Cranny House a landmark innovative centre of excellence
- improved outlook of the building
- education, training and research opportunities, increased employment
- meeting space for local residents
- increased tourism

## 1.2 Michael Cranny House: Brief Historical Significance

- 100-acre land divided by Vaughan Township in 1802, and purchased by Thomas Cranny in 1832 for 100 pounds sterling
- City of Toronto and the Home District Commercial Directory of 1837, indicated Lott 22 was occupied by Michael Cranny (relationship to Thomas Cranny not clear)
- Built in Georgian style used for the majority of stone dwelling constructions in Vaughan during 1840-1850
- Cranny selected this architecture for aesthetic rather than economic reasons. According to 1851 census for Vaughan Township indicated that only 5 stone dwellings has been erected in the area.
- **It is one of two stone Ontario House style buildings still surviving in the City of Vaughan, and is thus one of Vaughan's most important heritage buildings**
- In 1861, members of the Cranny family and one female servant moved into the house. 9 children (5 sons and 4 daughters)
- House owned by Michael Cranny, an Irish-born Roman Catholic farmer, and occupied by his family, including his wife and six children
- House reflects mid-19<sup>th</sup> century transition from the English Georgian style houses to the unique Ontario House style; may have been influenced by work of Irish stonemason Henry Burton
- In 1953 the Cranny property was acquired by Canada Packers
- The house is attractive and well-maintained, and currently serves as Human Endeavour's head office, training and community centre

### **1.3 Human Endeavour utilization of facility 2008-2012**

Human Endeavour was established in 2004 and started working with the City of Vaughan on Seniors Wellness programs. From 2004-2008 Human Endeavour operated from its founder Noor Din's basement. However due to the rapid growth of its services, requirements by various funders and to better serve its clients, Human Endeavour requested the City of Vaughan to provide some office space.

Supported by space at the Michael Cranny House, Human Endeavour has been able to: provide a wide spectrum of services for the benefit of the marginalized communities from one location, expand its programs and initiatives and also accommodate staff, students, volunteers and community members.

Human Endeavour first engaged with the City of Vaughan in rental agreement in November 2008 by renting one room. **Before Human Endeavour moved into Michael Cranny House in November 2008, it was uninhabited and inaccessible to the community members whereas now it has become a colorful place of continuous activities, accessible to all, and full of life.**

With the ideas and efforts of Human Endeavour, from an abandoned building, today it has been converted to a state of the art service centre for community members. Before it was a place that had broken furniture, out of order equipment such as refrigerator, and of no real use for the community. **After 3 years when Human Endeavour started its services from this location, Michael Cranny house has become a fully equipped community service centre with latest technological equipments available to community members and other smaller groups. The equipment includes:**

- **Latest computers, laptops printers and other office equipment for public use (Thanks to City of Vaughan for making us a CAP Partner) and training**
- **Large LEDTVs for presentations and community events**
- **Multimedia Projectors for community meetings/seminars/workshops**
- **A fully equipped meeting room open to for the community**
- **Comfortable light weight folding chairs for seniors group**
- **Fully equipped training room**
- **Air-conditioning in rooms**
- **Sewing machines for training**
- **Small arts and crafts showroom (arts and crafts are made by community members here in this building)**
- **Community Gardens equipment**
- **Latest Cameras and Video cameras for community events coverage**

During the last three and half years Human Endeavour services and programs have expanded immensely and accordingly the need of office /program space. Currently, Human Endeavour is the main occupant of this facility and occupies 3 out of the 4 rentable rooms from the City of Vaughan through a monthly lease agreement. Here is a brief history of space use and programs delivery from this house by Human Endeavour:

- November 2008 Human Endeavour rented one room (upstairs)
- October 2010, it rented 2<sup>nd</sup> room (upstairs, east) from the City of Vaughan
- November, 2011, it rented 3<sup>rd</sup> room (downstairs, east) from the City of Vaughan
- Considering its growth of services needed for City of Vaughan and other York Region residents, we see the need of additional space in coming months for a number of important initiatives that are important for the City, its economy and its residents.

Our programs are at no cost to participants and because of the need of services and innovative nature of programs, Human Endeavour's projects are continuously expanding. The place has become a community hub with Maple residents in particular benefitting from the services and activities offered; according to their feedback, these services and activities have improved their sense of well being and involved them in positive, constructive activities and learning and utilization of their skills.

I will list down the services and activities Human Endeavour provides from the Michael Cranny House:

#### 1.3.1 Social Enterprise Incubator

EPIC (Enterprise Promotion and Innovation Centre) is an incubator that assists prospective entrepreneurs and self/employment minded members from marginalized communities by providing support in market identification, technical support, training and launching community owned and/or operated low cost social enterprises. Vaughan Business Enterprise Centre (VBEC) is one of our key partners.

#### 1.3.2 Vocational Hands-on Trainings (open for all).

We advertise, and upon receiving enough registrations, run these trainings.

- Computers for Seniors
- Photography/Videography
- Computer training for MS Office
- Effective Communication
- Employment Support Services
- Stitching
- Solar Equipment Installer (New initiative)



### 1.3.3 Seniors Group

Monday and Thursday evenings we have Italian local seniors (approximately 20) come in for playing Bingo and recreation purposes. A member of this group received the City of Vaughan volunteer recognition award this year for her volunteer activities.

### 1.3.4 Placement Service to Students

Human Endeavour regularly provides placement for 5-6 students/ term from High Schools and Colleges. Currently we have two students from Maple High School and 4 from Seneca College.

### 1.3.5 Placement Service for Unemployed

Human Endeavour, working with Ontario Works, York Region and other settlement agencies provides placement & work experience to people on social assistance.

### 1.3.6 CAP (Community Access Program)site

We also have several volunteers and community members who come in daily during the day to use various services, learn computers, upgrade skills, use phone, fax and internet services at no charge. This program was supported by Learning Enrichment Foundation through the assistance of City of Vaughan's Business Services Coordinator Al Federici. The program ended March 31<sup>st</sup>, but we will continue to provide the services to the community.

### 1.3.7 Green Energy Project

With the financial support of the Regional Municipality of York Region and equipment grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation Human Endeavour is starting Solar Equipment Installer trainings for Ontario Works clients from York region. These trainings will start from May 2012 and continue for next one and a half year and will comprise of ten participants/ training.

### 1.3.8 Community Gardens

We launched our community gardens project last fall with the funding grant from Ontario Trillium Foundation. This project will also involve a number of community volunteers from Human Endeavour and other partnering organizations in spring and summer.

### 1.3.9 Human Endeavour Office Equipment for Community

Apart from offering phone, fax and internet services, Human Endeavour also helps youth and artists in their activities by providing them with equipment to make videos, documentaries and recordings.

### 1.3.10 Tax Clinics

Human Endeavour is offering free tax clinics for community members at the Michael Cranny House.

### 1.3.11 Book Club

Local seniors/residents have requested to start a reading club one evening/week. Human Endeavour is collecting donations of used books from the community and will launch this club soon.

### 1.3.12 Community Junction

Human Endeavour will soon be launching Community Junction, a place where community members and groups can get together for socialization/discussions over a cup of tea/coffee. Currently local seniors are taking advantage of this and we are extending it to other community members for discussions purposes.

Apart from these programs we have our social economy enterprises operating from this location. We have our permanent staff at the office from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm every day and including them we engage with approximately 60+ people / week.

During the Doors Open Vaughan event last year we had a number of visitors who were impressed with the history of the house and also of the fact that it is being used as a community junction. It was for the first time that Michael Cranny House was displayed as a historic/heritage site; occupying this historic building and making it accessible to the community has helped increase the exposure of the place. Considering our community engagement and mode of operation, Human Endeavour is already running out of space.

Human Endeavour has been using the Michael Cranny House since the last three and a half years and during this time had made a positive contribution to improve and enhance the look of the house and engagement with local residents. Human Endeavour wants to further enhance the beauty of this historic site and fix the basement for community use. We have the capacity to explore resources and funding options for this purpose. For this we need the support of the City and complete occupancy of the house by having the lease for next ten years, as this is a requirement by the funders.

## **1.4 Proposed Enhancement Plan**

The potential enhancement program would include finishing the basement to make it usable for additional office space, improving the exterior and interior look of the house, adding solar panels to make it a complete green energy house and improving the community gardens and setting up sitting space for community.

Human Endeavour envisages following key improvements and establishments that will further enhance the significance of this historic building.

### **1. Building Improvements including basement**

#### **a. Stop water seepage during rainy season**

- b. Install floor and make office / storage ready
  - c. Increase the occupancy capacity of the building
- 2. Green Energy Centre of Excellence
  - a. Convert it to a fully self sufficient green energy generation building
  - b. Expand its green energy training services to raise awareness and train community members to avail high tech well paying jobs
  - c. Establish a research centre of excellence
- 3. Social Economy Innovation centre (EPIC)
  - a. Human Endeavour is currently running this place as a community economic development centre
  - b. Establish a research centre of excellence
- 4. Community Junction / Hub for local residents
  - a. Provide services and space for Vaughan residents
- 5. A touristic attraction
  - a. Beautification of outside space through flowering and lights, putting a landmark structure or sculpture that can highlight the building as a historic place
  - b. Setup innovative community exhibition space (open on weekends if needed)
  - c. Provide guided tours (can be arranged by the city of Vaughan's tourism department)
  - d. Adding the house to more of the tourist attraction events such as Doors Open Ontario
  - e. By providing above mentioned services, we will work with City's Tourism Department to promote, Michael Cranny as a Tourist attraction.

Human Endeavour is already carrying out several activities but building improvements and further promotion and expansion of existing services to become centre of excellence requires city's involvement and support through active participations.

Based on the approval of our request for full occupancy and lease of Michael Cranny House, we would recommend establishing a committee for developing a maintenance and improvement plan. Human Endeavour will search for funding opportunities, develop the proposal, get approval from City and apply for funding. When funding is secured, Human Endeavour and the City will work together through appropriate departments to implement the project.

Human Endeavour has always had a wonderful relationship with the Recreation Department of the City of Vaughan and with its support we want to continue and expand our services for the community and make the partnership beneficial for the City as well.

### **1.5 Steps to move forward**

- Human Endeavour and City of Vaughan to have a dialogue on this proposal and improve it based on feedback from the City of Vaughan staff.
- Human Endeavour and City of Vaughan to establish a stronger partnership and develop a collaborative.
- Human Endeavour and City (building & maintenance department) to form a facility improvement plan committee and have an improvement plan/schedule and expected cost.
- Human Endeavour needs full occupancy of the building to ensure it has space to deliver necessary services and meets funders minimum lease requirement.
- Human Endeavour to discuss / enter in a 10 year lease from the City that will enable it to apply for provincial & federal building improvements/center of excellence setup grants.
- Human Endeavour in partnership with City of Vaughan will apply for the joint funding for facility improvement as well as for services.
- Human Endeavour and City to finalize roles and funds distributions for every joint funding application. Any construction work will be carried out through City of Vaughan's building and facilities department.
- Human Endeavour and City's tourism department to develop a plan and activities to make it a tourist attraction.
- Monthly/Quarterly meetings between Human Endeavour and City staff to discuss and oversee improvements plan.
- Suggestions from the City of Vaughan

## 2 Change History

Version	Comments	By	Date
0.3	Release to Rec. & Culture, Building & Facilities departments for review and further discussion	Noor Din	May 3, 2012
0.2	Updates	Noor Din	April 27, 2012
0.1	Initial Draft	Noor Din	March 30, 2012