

For Immediate Release

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Rep. Darryl Owens Announces Funding for Portland Museum State funds will complete capital campaign

Frankfort, KY: Rep. Darryl Owens (D-Louisville) announced today that he has secured \$150,000 in the state budget to complete renovations at the Portland Museum in Louisville. The museum, located at 2308 Portland Avenue, is in its final stages of a more than \$1 million capital campaign that is a matching grant program with the J. Graham Brown Foundation.

According to Nathalie Andrews, Executive Director of the Museum, the \$150,00 will “put us over the top in terms of completing the campaign.”

The capital campaign, which coincides with the 25th anniversary of the Portland Museum, will create proper storage for collections, add more exhibit space, complete repairs on the back part of the building and make the Museum handicapped accessible.

“I’m very proud to have secured this funding for the Portland Museum,” said Rep. Owens. “Preserving Portland’s heritage will educate others about the neighborhood’s important contributions to Louisville’s establishment as a major U.S. city. The renovations will also make it a must-see vacation destination, bringing tourists’ dollars into the Portland neighborhood.”

“We’re so grateful to Rep. Owens for this appropriation, which means that the Portland Museum has successfully completed its campaign by raising \$1,075,000 to improve facilities, increase exhibit space and take better care of our collections of artifacts,” said Andrews.

Former football star and hometown hero, Paul Hornung was surprised that the Portland Museum reached its goal so quickly and now will make good on a promise to allow the museum to house his sports memorabilia from Flaget High School and the University of Notre Dame which includes his Heisman Trophy Award in a permanent exhibit.

Hornung, calling himself an ‘honorary’ board member of the Portland Museum, said, “My mom and I grew up two doors down from the museum in an upstairs apartment and it’s really a part of my heritage. It’s fitting that the museum should become the stewards of my sports collection, because it feels like home to me.”

Hornung graduated from Flaget High School in 1953 and starred at the University of Notre Dame, under legendary Coach Vince Lombardi. Hornung won the Heisman Trophy while at Notre Dame, the only player ever to win playing for a team with a losing record. Hornung was the first pick of the 1957 draft and played with the Green Bay Packers.

“Stories like Paul Hornungs add to the rich heritage of Portland that includes the development of the Portland Wharf Park, the restoration of the Squire Earick House and the U.S. Marine Hospital,” said Rep. Owens. “I am particularly pleased that this funding will enable school children, Louisville residents and tourists to listen to African American oral histories or experience the heroic response of citizens to the Great Ohio River Flood of 1937.”