



Henri B. Marchand
Director
Office of Cultural Affairs and Special Events

TO: Eileen Donoghue, City Manager *EMD*
FROM: Henri Marchand
DATE: April 24, 2019
RE: C. Cirillo - Req. City Manager have the proper department look into the City of Lowell forming a partnership with the Kerouac Project of Orlando, Florida.

The Kerouac Project of Orlando, Florida is a writer in residence, non-profit program in its twentieth year of operation. Its mission is to “incubate” the careers of writers and poets and to “build a literary community that honors the spirit of Jack Kerouac’s legacy.”

The Kerouac Project purchased a house that Kerouac lived in for about a year in 1957-58 when *On The Road* was published and where he worked on *Dharma Bums*. Four writers are selected each year to spend three months at the house without charge which allows them to focus on their literary projects. There are also quarterly literary readings and writing workshops at the house. The Kerouac Project is a volunteer-run, non-profit organization whose mission is to link and encourage writers locally and nationally as well as internationally.

CASE has reached out to the Kerouac Project to explore their interest in and options for creating a partnership and they “open to partnering with (Lowell) in some way.” We have also reached out to Lowell Celebrates Kerouac (LCK) as this group is the primary group sustaining and advancing Kerouac’s legacy in Lowell. Each October LCK organizes the Lowell Celebrates Kerouac festival with a weeklong program of performances, talks, historical tours and more. There appears to be enthusiastic, early interest by LCK in exploring the possibilities of creating some form of joint endeavor with the Kerouac Project.

One possibility that has piqued the interest of both the LCK and Orlando people is to invite one of the Orlando writers in residence to participate in the October Lowell Celebrates Kerouac Festival. Another possibility suggested by LCK is to have someone from the Kerouac Project present a Parker Lecture next season.

CASE will continue to communicate with both groups and follow up on discussions in the hope that we can formalize an initial partnership for this October’s LCK festival.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like additional information regarding this matter.