

## Project Background and FAQ – Please read before signing the Pledge Form



### Houston Maharashtra Mandal

### Community Center and Temple Project

#### 1. Can you give me an initial outline of the project? Scope, milestones etc?

- Within the next 5 years, i.e. by 2017, we plan to build a Community Center that can seat 425 people and a temple for our devotees. Currently, we are in the initial planning stage and seeking passionate and pioneering leaders within the community who can give both moral and financial support for this idea and coach the project team. Initial estimate of the project is in the range of \$2.5 million.

#### 2. Why do we need it?

- The community center is required to create a sense of belonging and pride for anyone who has lived or visited Maharashtra. A place which we can call “OURs” where cultural and religious events(munj, milestone birthdays/anniversaries, etc) can be held. Vaastu opens us to additional possibilities that can bond the community and pass on the rich heritage to the next generation.

#### 3. Why not Rent?

- We have been renting for so many years. There is no sense of pride or identity in renting and hence we need to have a place to call our own.

#### 4. Why now?

- Why not now?
- Better late than never
- Next generations can build on this

#### 5. What is the thinking behind a Pledge - why are you collecting these?

- There has been a lot of vocal support to this idea. In order to calibrate how that vocal support translates into financial support, we are asking select community leaders to give us an initial indication of their financial commitment. There is no scientific targeting but mostly based on personal network and knowledge about various individuals and families who may want to be involved and give an indication so that we can develop a detailed project report, plan. This will also help us judge if volunteers should continue to donate their personal time to this idea.
- Our interim target now is to get to \$1MM total and as much up-front to acquire the land.

#### 6. What will I get in return for a donation?

- Pioneering contributions will be prominently recognized – for example \$20,000 and above will be prominently recognized on a plaque on a wall of the Community Center entrance.
- We are in initial planning stage and open to ideas for various forms of recognition.

## **7. What will happen after I give a pledge? How soon will the money have to be given? What if I change my mind?**

- We would prefer you don't change your mind but understand any compulsion you may have. If you have certain expectations please mention them in the conditional pledge sections so we can make 100% effort to fulfill those.
- After you sign the pledge you will start getting a frequent email update about the project status.
- You can expect disbursement by 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2013 or 2014 depending upon the timing of the project and your commitment. These funds would be used for initial part of the project mostly for land acquisition but you will get a detailed project and business plan from the Core team.
- The plan is to acquire the land for the project in the early part of 2014 and hold the Bhoomi Poojan by within 2014.

## **8. What will "happen" in the next 6 to 12 months? Will we see some real progress?**

- (1) Go-no go decision taken by HMM General Body by voting as of 2013 Ganeshotsav
- (2) We are in the process of forming teams, defining the project and fund raising.
- (3) We hope to continue making progress and generate the necessary funding to purchase land in 2014.

## **9. This was started before and never took off? Why do we think this will be successful now?**

- While a lot of work and progress was made around ten years ago by a very passionate and committed team, we believe that the Indian/Maharashtrian community has undergone a fundamental change in terms of larger number of families, increased level of prosperity and ambitions for the community as well as a larger number of future generation that will demand more bonding and interaction within the community. These are some of the key drivers but we also plan to build a Core Planning and Execution Team, a volunteer team, a Board of Advisors and Key Donors. The overall philosophy would also be around treating this like a professionally run non-profit venture. We believe all these would drive successful achievement of our goal.

## **10. What happened to the money that was collected – will it be used?**

- The funds collected for the project have been kept in fixed deposit accounts. Those funds serve as the starting point for this effort and can be used with support from Board of Trustees of HMM.

## **11. How can I get more involved directly or send my comments/feedback? Who can I talk to if I have more questions?**

- HMM Division is being formed. Please contact the following: Samir Karandikar, Shirish Kulkarni, Jay Deshmukh, Vikas Moharir, Smita Chulki, Mahesh Jadhav and Bhagyashree Dixit.

# Pledge Form complete and email to samir.karandikar@yahoo.com



## Houston Maharashtra Mandal

## Community Center and Temple Project

### Contributor Information (please PRINT or TYPE)

Name	_____
Address	_____
City, ST Zip Code	_____
Phone 1   Phone 2	_____
Fax   Email	_____

I would prefer that this contribution and/or my name be kept confidential. Thanks!

### Pledge Information

2013-2014 Donation

\$10,000  \$20,000  \$30,000  \$ 50,000 Above 50,000: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Lump Sum Amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ (month) 2014.

Lump Sum Amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ (month) 2015.

A Repeating donation as follows,

A sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ once every  Month  Quarter  Year, amounting to a Total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Conditional or Milestone based Donation

Total Commitment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ but split by milestones  \$ \_\_\_\_\_ after Project Lead and Core Team is announced  \$ \_\_\_\_\_ After Project Plan and Business Case is provided  \$ \_\_\_\_\_ After Acceptable Land is procured  \$ \_\_\_\_\_ After Other Milestones of your choice.

- *This is a pledge to indicate your commitment to the Houston Maharashtra Mandal Building project. If for some reason the project turns out to be non-feasible and the project needs to be cancelled you will not be required to fulfill the pledge and any donated and unused amount shall be returned to you or donated to another charity of your choice or utilized for HMM community goals.*
- Contributions to the Houston Maharashtra Mandal are deemed charitable under section 501(a) of the internal revenue code as an organization described in Section 501(c)(3). U.S. Federal Tax ID 76-0547258. Please consult your accountant for any clarifications.
- Payments must be received before the end of the year to be eligible for a tax deduction in that year.
- **There is no minimum contribution amount.**