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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

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April 26, 2021

BUDGET COMMITTEE

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for the Houston Complete Communities Bethune Empowerment Center and East End Facility for Latino Arts (Talento Bilingüe de Houston) in fiscal year 2022. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Houston Texas, located at City Hall, 901 Bagby St, Houston, TX 77002.

The Complete Communities Bethune Empowerment Center project has received \$4,000,000 from the City of Houston to construct Phase I of the Bethune Empowerment Center. The funding requested for FY 2022 is for the Bethune Empowerment Center's Phase II, which will continue renovations of Bethune Empowerment Center to provide space for the incubation of small businesses, a location for small business owner management and technical assistance as well as classrooms and conference rooms, and an open space for the relocation of a neighborhood Farmer's Market.

The funding would be used for the East End Facility for Latino Arts and will allow the City of Houston to develop a sustainable long-term plan for the city-owned facility in the East End Cultural District. The facility was formerly operated by Talento Bilingüe de Houston (TBH), which ceased operations in fall 2019. An \$80,000 bridge grant from the Houston Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs (MOCA) allowed Multicultural Counseling and Education Through the Arts to temporarily take over the lease to maintain access for the community, until the COVID-19 pandemic caused severe disruption in services.

The East End Facility for Latino Arts (Talento Bilingüe de Houston) needs new curtains, tech upgrades, an updated ticketing system, rest room and dressing room updates, fly system repairs, seating and HVAC improvements, carpet, paint and other repairs. The East End District announced the adoption of a Cultural Arts Strategic Plan that will provide a framework for cultivating the cultural landscape of Houston's East End over the next ten years. The plan is the result of seven months of research, analysis and

community outreach to East End residents, business owners, artists, cultural activists, historians and more.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.”

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Sheila Jackson Lee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sheila" being the most prominent.

Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress