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April 25, 2022

The Honorable David E. Price
Chairman
U.S. House of Representatives
Subcommittee on THUD

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives
Subcommittee on THUD

Dear Chair Price and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart,

I am requesting \$423,670 under the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Economic Development Initiative (EDI) program for Sunnyside Foundation to implement and execute art and mobility reactivation activities at the El Pueblo Neighborhood Center in fiscal year 2023 that will have a lasting impact in the community.

Sunnyside Foundation is requesting funding to begin the historical registry and restoration process for existing murals at El Pueblo Neighborhood Center, to create two new community murals at El Pueblo Neighborhood Center, to establish a community bike lending library for southside neighborhoods and to establish mobility services that include bike repair and safety clinics.

As infrastructure investments are being implemented in the City of Tucson and City of South Tucson, it is equally important to invest in human infrastructure. Providing access to equipment such as bikes and inviting the community to engage in free mobility events are important ways to bring awareness on how to safely navigate streets using other modes of transportation. The project will also uplift and revitalize El Pueblo Neighborhood Center by restoring art murals and thereby creating a safe, attractive, and more welcoming space.

The budget items include: \$32,835 for project coordination and community outreach for murals, \$30,000 for project materials and equipment including paint, \$148,000 to contract artists and community-based professionals, \$32,835 for coordination and community outreach on the mobility and transportation project, \$60,000 for bike equipment including a bike fleet, bike racks and tools, and \$33,500 in installation and tax fees. The project can obligate all appropriated funds within 12 months after enactment.

The project has broad community support and is located in a predominantly low-income area. The median average income for many of the zip codes that will be serviced is around \$31,000 and 41.3% of its residents identify as Hispanic/Latinx and 14.4% as Indigenous. The project is supported broadly by local stakeholders, including residents, businesses, and elected officials. Project supporters include Familias Unidas Ganando Accesibilidad/Families United Gaining Accessibility (FUGA), a grassroots coalition, Avenidas Inc., a non-profit based within the City

of South Tucson, City of Tucson's Mayor's Office, Vice Mayor/Ward 1, and Ward 5, Transportation and Mobility Department, and El Pueblo Neighborhood Center, Pima County Health Department, Pima County Public Library ,Pima County Supervisor Adelita Grijalva's Office, City of South Tucson's Mayor's Office and City Manager Office, Sunnyside Unified School District, The University of Arizona - Office of the Provost/Hispanic Serving Institution Office & Mexican American Studies Department, BICAS (Bicycle Inter-Community Art & Salvage), and Galeria Mitotera among others.

This project is a good use of taxpayer funding because it will improve the health, mobility, safety, and interconnectedness among hundreds of individuals in the area. It will expand awareness and access to mobility options, such as the Laos Transit Center and will bring cultural awareness, uplift historical narratives, and cultivate pride through the public mural projects. It will address structural inequities such as the lack of clean and safe streets, transportation options, and preservation of art and culture. Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress