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NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
RANKING MEMBER

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD, ELEMENTARY, AND
SECONDARY EDUCATION

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Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on THUD, Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives

Mike Quigley
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on THUD, Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chair Cole and Ranking Member Quigley,

I am requesting \$2,800,000 under the FY 24 Economic Development Initiative program for the City of Tucson's El Pueblo Multi-Generational Outdoor Activity Complex proposal to enable a transformation of current open and underutilized open space that will revitalize the area and become a nexus for activity, economic development, recreation, education, leisure and quality of life needs.

The El Pueblo Center serves an important role in the Tucson community; it began as a neighborhood center and has grown to include a Pima Community College (PCC) Adult Education campus, a library run by Pima County, non-profit services provided by Clinica Amistad, EMERGE, Interfaith Community Services, a senior center that provides meals and the Laos Transit Center. The El Pueblo Center is an important resource especially serving residents in Wards I and 5. This area is ripe for neighborhood investments that will engage children, youth and people with differing abilities and mobility. As El Pueblo already has a number of amenities aimed at adults, this will support the multi-generational opportunities that will help to keep this area vibrant and alive.

This project is a part of the City of Tucson's plan to invest in areas that have experienced historic disinvestment, higher levels of violence and crime, and a need for area residents to feel safe and able to use their amenities and parks. It will revitalize the building left vacant by Department of Economic Security (DES) and have a multi-generational and multi-use purposes.

The funding would be used for the construction of the community plaza, skatepark, pump track, outdoor fitness court, playground and walking path that would encompass the Multi-Generational Outdoor Activity Complex.

The shaded community plaza will host activities such as farmers markets, community events, fairs, and resource events. It will allow the community to come together while satisfying their needs for access to quality food, and social services among others. This is one of the ways increased resources, services and revenues will help to revitalize this important area.

Teens within this community are historically under-programmed. Within two miles of the park 19,180 youth under the age of 18, are living within the ideal proximity to walk, bike or skateboard to this park. However, an analysis of where currently teens have access to biking and skateboarding opportunities, the Southside of Tucson is lacking in this type of recreation resource. Building a liner street style skate park and pump track for bikes will allow low-income teens to be more active well into their adult lives.

To ensure that equal access to outdoor recreation and healthy fitness opportunities, the proposal will also include an outdoor fitness court that would be comprised of outdoor fitness units that are safe for anyone ages 14+ to use, and includes inclusive, wheelchair accessible equipment that increase the span of access and feasibility of use to those in the older population and with mobility challenges. This amenity would provide those in the community to free access to outdoor fitness equipment under a shaded canopy to ensure year-round usability.

To include families and positive engagement in the park environment, the complex would also include a new playground for children and families. The inclusion of a walking path, that can have play modes along the course, can involve the entire family through a common purpose.

Finally, this space is located near the rodeo grounds and on one of the most utilized roads to the Tucson International Airport. It is important to continue to invest in areas that make Tucson a safer place for residents and tourists alike.

This project requires \$2,800,000 and the budget is detailed below.

El Pueblo Multi-Generational Outdoor Activity Complex				
Project Element	Quantity	Unit	% Share	Total Cost
Linear Street Style Skate Park and Pump Track	1	sf		\$ 1,600,000
Shaded, Inclusive Fitness Court	1	sf		\$ 200,000
Shaded Plaza and Outdoor Event Space	1	sf		\$ 1,000,000
Walking Path with Play Nodes	1	sf		\$ 800,000
Lighting and Security Features	1	sf		\$ 500,000
Playgrounds	2	sf		\$ 1,170,000
Total Cost				\$ 5,270,000
Local Match			% Share	Funds
City of Tucson Proposition 407 Bond Funds				\$ 2,470,000
Total Local Match Funds			47%	\$ 2,470,000
Federal Funding Request			53%	\$ 2,800,000

This is a shovel-ready capital project, and additional funding has already been committed, showing strong community support. The funds can be expended in the appropriate time frame, it does not require an environmental review as it's with-in existing perimeters, and it will primarily serve low-income individuals. I greatly appreciate your consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress