

KWEISI MFUME  
7TH DISTRICT, MARYLAND

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
OVERSIGHT AND REFORM  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CIVIL RIGHTS  
AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

VICE CHAIR, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR OF CONTRACTING  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT,  
INVESTIGATIONS, AND REGULATIONS

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
AND LABOR

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CIVIL RIGHTS  
AND HUMAN SERVICES

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

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April 29, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

Pursuant to the processes outlined by the U.S. House Committee on Appropriations and the U.S. House of Representatives, I am requesting funding for the “Sanaa Center Project” in fiscal year 2023. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Pennsylvania Avenue Black Arts and Entertainment District, located at 1925-1945 Pennsylvania Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21217.

The proposed \$2,000,000 would be used to “fund the construction of the Sanaa Center, a newly-constructed 1 story building with a mezzanine, totaling 12,800 square feet plus 5,000 square feet of mezzanine. This will be a standalone building with offices, art-making spaces, indoor and outdoor performance spaces, as well as art incubation services. This project is a good use of taxpayer funds because according to a state-wide report from fiscal year 2018, events and new businesses in the twenty-five (25) Maryland Arts & Entertainment (A&E) Districts collectively supported more than \$1 billion in state GDP, approximately \$72.1 million in state and local tax revenues, and 9,987 jobs that paid more than \$320 million in wages. The Sanaa Center is a planned newly-constructed building totaling at least 13,000 square feet of affordable office space, co-working facilities, and business support services to assist entrepreneurs and small business owners within Baltimore’s burgeoning arts and creative industries sector, with emphasis on Black creatives. Finally, this project is a part of a larger, long sought after, community development effort in historic West Baltimore that will lead to the revitalization of areas that have long been neglected due to redlining and racialized systematic neglect. The Sanaa Center would fill a much-needed void; a unique development envisioned as a space that combines multiple uses: individual spaces for incubating arts-based businesses, artist studios, shared rental studios, performance spaces, and a potential film-television studio anchor tenant.”

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kweisi Mfume". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and a long, sweeping underline.

Kweisi Mfume  
Member of  
Congress