

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 18, 2024

Ms. Maria Rosario Jackson
Chair
National Endowment for the Arts
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20506

RE: Afro Caribbean Cultural Center's Application Arts Here

Dear Administrator Johnson:

We write to express our full support for the Afro-Caribbean Cultural Centers (ACCC) Application to the Arts Here grant program. The ACCC is requesting 130,000 for the I.D.E.A. Initiative.

The Afro Caribbean Cultural Center (ACCC) is a vibrant home for Caribbean Taino and afro-descendent cultures, in Connecticut. The Center without walls philosophy means that they will perform their work in spaces (art and cultural institutions) that already exist. The ACCC is a multi-disciplinary center which integrates the arts, education, activism and cultural tourism. Their works include, public art exhibitions, performances, workshops, conferences and international exchanges.

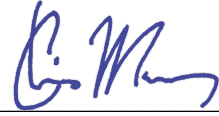
The I.D.E.A. initiative, through the Arts Here Funding would create a strategic framework which would support the ACCC in developing a long-term vision for the organization. The funding would also support stakeholder and community engagement activities like; listening sessions and need assessment survey's, to fully understand what the Black, Latino, Afro-Caribbean Diaspora from region hopes for the ACCC. The initiative also includes a marketing and promotional campaign which would include a short film and a targeted social media campaign. Finally, if awarded the funding would support staff development and leadership training for the founder and president of the ACCC, Rafael Feliciano-Roman.

We urge your full and fair consideration of the Afro-Caribbean Cultural Centers application to the Arts Here grant program. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senate



CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY
United States Senate



JAHANA HAYES
Member of Congress