

## Community Project Funding requests

- Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
  - Bridging and Building Community: The YMCA & Albion College Initiative of the Washington Gardner Center Project
    - Requested \$1,800,000
    - Recipient: Albion College
    - Recipient address: 611 E. Porter Street Albion, MI 49224.
  - City of Battle Creek Dickman Road/Business Loop Interstate 94 realignment and bridge construction project.
    - Requested: \$2,000,000
    - Recipient: City of Battle Creek
    - Recipient address: 10 N. Division St. Battle Creek, MI 49014
  - Water Resource Recovery Facility Groundwater Treatment Project
    - Requested: \$1,700,000
    - Recipient: City of Grand Rapids
    - Recipient address: 300 Monroe Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
  - The Lyon Square Urban Park Renovation and Improvement
    - Requested: \$1,000,000
    - Recipient: Grand Rapids Kent County Convention and Arena Authority
    - Recipient address: 300 Monroe Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
  - Grand Rapids Public Museum redesign project
    - Requested: \$1,500,000
    - Recipient: Grand Rapids Public Museum
    - Recipient address: 272 Pearl St NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504
  - Butterworth Landfill Solar Project
    - Requested: \$3,500,000
    - Recipient: City of Grand Rapids
    - Recipient address: 300 Monroe Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
  - Lowell Youth Sports Complex Project
    - Requested: \$1,000,000
    - Recipient: Lowell Youth Sports Foundation
    - Recipient address: P.O. Box 292 Lowell, MI 49331
  - Emory Arts and Culture Hub Project
    - Requested: \$1,500,000
    - Recipient: The Diatribe
    - Recipient address: 334 Burton St SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507
  - West Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Headquarters Project
    - Requested: \$1,500,000
    - Recipient: West Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
    - Recipient address: 2007 Division South, Grand Rapids, MI 49507

PETER J.F. MEIJER  
THIRD DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

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COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY  
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RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for the Emory Arts and Culture Hub project. The project sponsor for this project is The Diatribe, located at 334 Burton St SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507.

The funding would be used to renovate an 18,342 square foot property located at 2040 Division S in the Burton Heights Business District in Grand Rapids, Michigan. This new facility is well positioned to boost community and economic growth in this underinvested neighborhood of southeast Grand Rapids. It will serve as a creative hub for the district, hosting The Diatribe's permanent home, affordable rental units for local artists, retail space for small business owners, and a performing arts venue that will attract local and national performers.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to have the following benefits: It will focus on one of the most underinvested areas in the city of Grand Rapids. It will offer a unique and affordable live/workspace for artists that will accommodate their creative processes, as well as revitalize an area of the City that has great potential for business and economic growth. It will also continue to build on Grand Rapids' robust art economy, supporting local artists and creatives, while simultaneously providing the community with new opportunities to engage with the arts community. This project works to activate the Burton Heights Business District. It has high walkability, with local businesses, schools, and residences all within proximity to one another. The Diatribe is committed to development without displacement and will work tirelessly alongside neighbors and business owners to create a thriving and flourishing neighborhood.

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

Sincerely,



Peter Meijer  
Member of Congress  
April 28, 2022

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Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

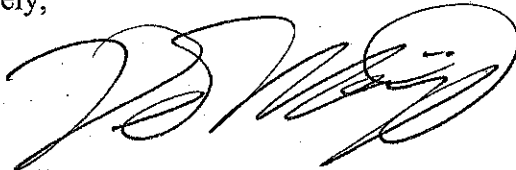
I am requesting funding for the Lowell Youth Sports Complex project. The project sponsor for this project is Lowell Youth Sports Foundation, located at P.O. Box 292 Lowell, MI 49331.

The funding would be used to to develop seven baseball/softball fields; a pavilion with concessions, restrooms, and office space; parking for approximately 350; and a walking trail around the perimeter of the facility that connects to the Lowell area trail network..

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to have the following benefits: As the Lowell community has grown, so has interest in and demand for youth recreation opportunities. This includes Little League, which engages girls and boys ages five and up in baseball and softball. Over the past years, Lowell Little League has experienced significant growth – from 2020 to 2021, Little League sign-ups grew by 100 players, reaching 380 in the spring of 2021. Beyond the immediate Lowell community, the local Little League also draws from nearby communities without their own leagues, including Belding, Saranac, Ionia, and Greenville. The project will increase capacity for sporting event hosting as well as ensure that all local youth have the opportunity to participate in community sports. Athletics are a vital part of the Lowell Community, which is oriented towards outdoor recreation and activities.

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

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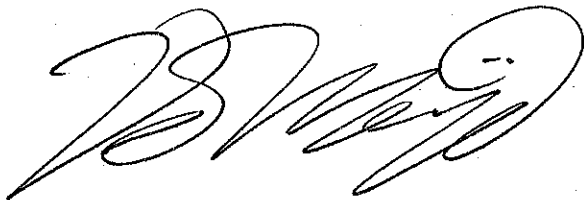
I am requesting funding for the Butterworth Landfill Solar project. The project sponsor for this project is the City of Grand Rapids, located at 300 Monroe Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

The funding would be used to install solar panels on a 190-acre closed superfund site that includes a protective cap – the Butterworth Landfill. Due to the consent decree with the U.S. EPA, the City has determined that installing solar is the most beneficial reuse opportunity for the site to support the City's 100% renewable energy goal.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to have the following benefits: Broadly, all residents of Michigan will benefit from this project as it will help the State achieve its carbon reduction goal. More specifically, the project can benefit between 450 – 2,000 low income residents with subscriptions to solar at Butterworth. A very important component of this project is the inclusion of a community solar garden for the benefit of low-income residents, which is a model that can be replicated across Michigan. In addition, this project will support the City of Grand Rapids in achieving our 100% renewable energy and net zero carbon goals – which is a benefit to all 200,000 residents.

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Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for the redesign of the Grand Rapids Public Museum. The project sponsor for this project is the Grand Rapids Public Museum, located at 272 Pearl St NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504.

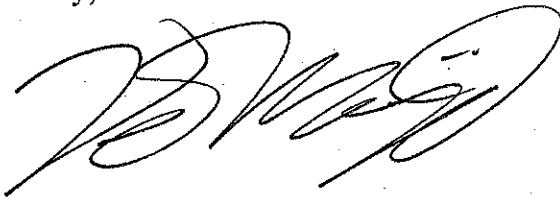
The funding would be used to support a proposed redesign that will include creating a new grand entrance and interactive space for school groups and the community. The new entrance will be fully accessible and built using universal design principles to welcome the public.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to have the following benefits: The Grand Rapids Public Museum (GRPM) sees over 330,000 visitors per year including students from over 340 different schools representing 38 counties in Michigan. This has increased by over 258% in the past ten years and currently the GRPM does not have room to accommodate this increased demand for programming. The Museum renovation will double the capacity of school groups to 60,000 students annually and create 6-9 additional jobs.

Additionally, this space will be used for summer camp activities, after school programs and weekend programming for the general public. Out of school experiences are increasingly shown to benefit education systems and those ties to curriculum improve learning and benefit the region. Many of the groups and visitors to the Museum are from low-income and underserved communities. Over 350,000 visitors will have access to this enhanced learning area. The GRPM is free for youth in Kent County, Michigan and participates in the IMLS Museums for All program. This project will ensure groups of all sizes and individuals of all capabilities will be welcome and can enjoy the full offerings of the museum.

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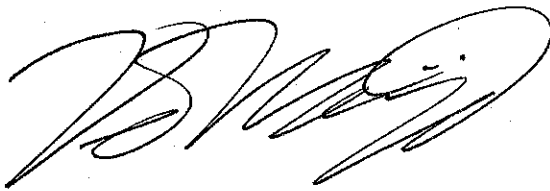
I am requesting funding for the Lyon Square Urban Park Renovation and Improvement. The project sponsor for this project is the Grand Rapids-Kent County Convention and Arena Authority, located at 300 Monroe Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

The funding would be used to renovate an aging and rarely-used park area downtown that overlooks the Grand River. This renovated park would offer the community a place to gather, as it would be year round, and would improve access to the existing Grand River trail. The park renovations would also improve utilization of the space by creating new public seating, an outdoor café, event space, outdoor lighting and new paving.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to have the following benefits: The area surrounding the Grand River is meant to be enjoyed by residents of West Michigan. Updating this park area will support recreational use of our outdoor areas in the community, as well as reinvigorate and improve access to an urban area surrounded by the Grand River natural landmark.

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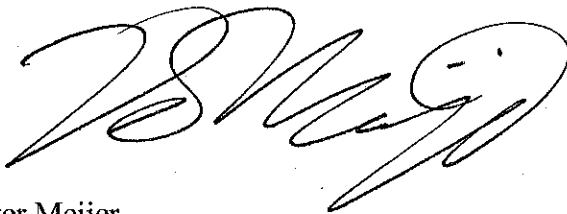
I am requesting funding for the Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) Groundwater Treatment Project. The project sponsor for this project is the City of Grand Rapids, located at 300 Monroe Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

The funding would be used for a groundwater treatment project that is planned to treat groundwater from work at the WRRF. This will support the WRRF meet the discharge permit regarding PFAS. The WRRF has been identified as a site of concern due to several chrome plating facilities and other sources of PFAS discharging into the WRRF. Additionally, WRRF's former lagoon was used primary to store ash from incinerated wastewater sludges, making PFAS contamination of the groundwater a concern.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to have the following benefits: PFAS contamination threatens the Grand River and Lake Michigan. This project will help mitigate that risk, as well as alleviate the financial burden of legacy contamination on rate payers in Grand Rapids. The funding will support the end goal of removing any PFAS contaminated soils and limiting PFAS entering the Grand River and the WRRF.

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Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for the City of Battle Creek Dickman Road/Business Loop Interstate 94 realignment and bridge construction project.

The project sponsor for this project is the City of Battle Creek, located at 10 N. Division St. Battle Creek, MI 49014. The funding would be used to support the larger Battle Creek White Water Project to naturalize the concrete channel portion of the Kalamazoo River in downtown Battle Creek, MI. Specifically, the funding will be used to realign and replace a section of road adjacent to the concrete channel portion of the Kalamazoo River.

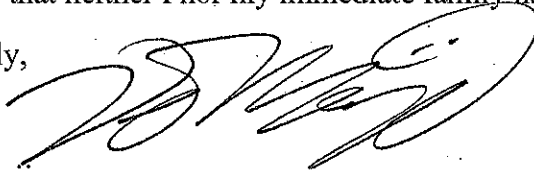
The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to have the following benefits:

The realignment and bridge construction project will provide the following benefits:

- Improved vehicle traffic flow
- Jurisdiction swap from MDOT to the city for the new road
- Increase neighborhood accessibility/ pedestrian access to downtown
- Added infrastructure:
  - non-motorized pathways and bridges
  - public greenspace
  - public access to river for recreational activities
- Re-establish wildlife ecosystems and related environmental benefits
- Environmental mitigation
- Improved aesthetic of downtown attracting new residents and investments
- Connect the previously industrialized south end of downtown to its core

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

Sincerely,



Peter Meijer  
Member of Congress  
April 28, 2021



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Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for the Bridging and Building Community: The YMCA & Albion College Initiative of the Washington Gardner Center Project.

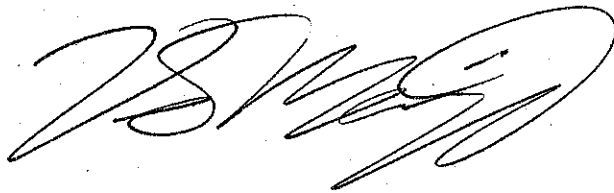
The project sponsor for this project is Albion College located at 611 E. Porter Street Albion, MI 49224.

The funding is designated to help renovate and build upon an existing space, the Washington Gardner Center, to create a community center focused on education, wellness, childcare, and behavioral health. The project will support the community of Albion, with Albion College providing community arts and academic services, as well as space for behavioral health programming, wellness programming, and community-based childcare. The renovation will also include a wellness community center in collaboration with the local YMCA.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to have the following benefits: . Albion College has created plans to renovate the historic former Washington Gardner Center. These funds will be used for renovation and building of facilities that will provide increased access to critical community-based wellness, behavioral health and childcare programming in the Albion region. This project will also foster economic development and community based educational opportunities

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

Sincerely,



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Member of Congress  
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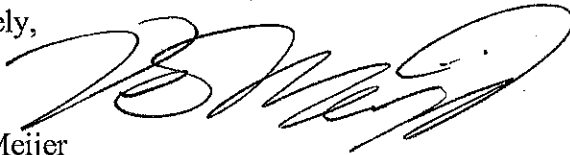
I am requesting funding for the West Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Headquarters project. The project sponsor for this project is the West Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, located at 2007 Division South, Grand Rapids, MI 49507.

The funding would be used to renovate existing property to establish a new headquarters within the Southwest side of the City of Grand Rapids. The new facility will be a home for the organization's growing staff and serve as a hub where the Latinx entrepreneurial community can access business resources and support. The headquarters will provide space for workshops, educational programs, one-on-one consultations, and drop-in workspace.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to have the following benefits: The West Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce has advanced economic opportunity for Hispanic/Latino owned businesses for 18 years. The organization has been able to convene leaders to address the most pressing issues facing their community and develop intentional solutions to creating wealth within communities of color. An expanded headquarters allows the WMHCC to expand programs that impact more Latin/Hispanic businesses and talent. Having a strong Hispanic Chamber makes the region more attractive to companies seeking expansion, driving economic development of West Michigan. The southwest portion of Grand Rapids is home to a large percentage of the region's Hispanic/Latino population, the fastest growing group in West Michigan. The new WMHCC headquarters will anchor commercial development in the area, enticing other organizations and businesses to redevelop in the area, a stronghold of Latinx businesses and culture.

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

Sincerely,



Peter Meijer  
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