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

April 30, 2021

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for the Youth Achievement Center in fiscal year 2022. The entity to receive funding for this project is Africatown Community Land Trust, located in Seattle, Washington.

The funding would be used for pre-development related activities for the development of the Youth Achievement Center (YAC) in Skyway. The YAC is a project being developed by a community-based coalition focused on addressing the various systemic obstacles that Black and Brown youth in South Seattle and King County are facing in their life. It will provide permanent and emergency housing for youth, community services and programming for youth, and space for commercial businesses.

The youth in this area face systemic inequality that makes them more likely to experience unemployment, criminal detention, violence, and housing instability. The YAC coalition is developing this project in collaboration with the youth in the community who are directly affected by these problems to begin taking steps towards addressing challenges created by historic and multigenerational inequities. Funding for the development of the YAC is an important step to help address these historic injustices.

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 "Adam Smith".

Adam Smith
Member of Congress