April 27, 2022

Dear Appropriations Committee Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting $3,416,674 in funding for the Community Spaces for Additional Park Access in South Los Angeles program in fiscal year 2023.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Destination Crenshaw, located at 777 S Figueroa St. Ste. 4050, Los Angeles, CA 90017.

The project involves the creation of two adjacent pocket parks, which will provide a much-needed community amenity for the Crenshaw area of South Los Angeles. Destination Crenshaw’s capital undertaking is a community investment project that broke ground in February 2020 and will be completed in Summer 2023. The 1.3-mile stretch of Crenshaw Boulevard that is actively being transformed will contain architecturally stunning community spaces, over 100 commissioned works of art, hundreds of newly planted trees, and new pocket parks. Already suffering from decades of economic distress, South Los Angeles’ business ecosystem was severely disrupted by the recent Metro line construction, which devastated business on the corridor, while the removal of 400 mature trees has made it unbearable in terms of heat and air pollution. Destination Crenshaw is addressing this through a multi-sector partnership in culture, health, and economy that will holistically repair, revitalize, and sustain the Crenshaw corridor. Funding from this request will support the construction of two pocket parks throughout the corridor, which will feature stunning works of public art from local artists.

This is an excellent use of public funds because Los Angeles City Council District 8 (CD 8), where the project is situated, scores profoundly low on the California Healthy Spaces Index (HPI), which measures physical, social, and economic issues to summarize community health. The corridor also scored between 80-95% on the CaliEnviroScreen used to implement programs to reduce pollution and provide a healthier environment in CA’s most disadvantaged communities. This rating places the Destination Crenshaw project area in the highest category of environmentally disadvantaged communities in the state. CD 8 also only has .53 acres of recreational space per 1,000 people, compared to 8.10 in LA County, making the area “park poor.” This will be addressed through the project, providing a healthier, safer environment for the community.

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

Sincerely,

Karen Bass
Member of Congress