

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3215

March 28, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for New York Public Library Tremont Branch Roof Replacement in fiscal year 2024.

The entity to receive funding for this project The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox, and Tilden Foundations, located at 1866 Washington Avenue, Bronx, NY 10457.

The funding would be used for a comprehensive roof replacement at the Tremont branch. The roof at this branch is currently past its useful life and patching has been required to address leaks and saturated areas. Leaks cause programming areas to close to the public, and risk damaging collections, technology, and other library assets. Roof replacement will provide enhancements for flashing, ductwork, and drainage. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the library serves approximately 30,000 patrons a year, hosting over 1,500 programs with over 17,000 attendees in fiscal year 2019 prior to Covid programming changes, and 277 programs with 2,082 participants in fiscal year 2022 as programming began to return to a more comprehensive scale. The Tremont library is located on Washington Avenue, a block south of East Tremont Avenue and just east of Walter Gladwin Park. The branch serves a community with a median income of \$27,964 and a poverty rate of approximately 41% based on 2020 ACS 5-year tract data.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program: 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(1), 5305(a)(2), 5305(a)(4), and/or 5305(a)(5).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress