Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for the below community project in fiscal year 2023 (FY23):

Name: Creative Workforce Development for Young People  
Amount Requested: $100,000  
Recipient: Arts on the Block  
Recipient Address: 900 Wayne Ave #1A, Silver Spring, MD 20910  
Purpose: Through its creative workforce development programs, Arts on the Block (AOB) actively identifies, recruits, and retains youth in the region with creative aptitudes who are unlikely to be introduced to creative training and jobs in their current environments. AOB’s apprenticeship program provides students with a well-rounded arts education and helps to prepare them for a future career in the creative arts industry. Through this apprenticeship program, young people are employed to create large-scale public art, working in teams to interact directly with clients and communities. Through this process young professionals: strengthen their professional and business communication skills; develop relationships with other professionals in the field; master technical and critical problem solving skills including peer/client design reviews and quality control; collaborate in project management, budgeting, and scheduling; excel in digital tools; build their resumes and obtain crucial skills through hands-on experience.  

Justification: This project empowers young people to join the creative workforce and get involved in their community. AOB achieves this through hands-on apprenticeship, offering young people the opportunity to learn about art, design, and business by engaging them in public art projects and providing entrepreneurial training.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Very truly yours,

Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress