



July 12, 2023

Dear Community Connectors Grant Program Committee,

I am writing to you as the CEO of the African American Heritage Society of Pensacola, an organization that has been dedicated to preserving, promoting, and integrating African American history, heritage, culture, and diversity in Pensacola and the Greater Gulf Coast Region for nearly 35 years. Our mission is to support and promote cultural tourism through education and the humanities, and we believe that the proposed Bluffline project aligns perfectly with our goals.

The Bluffline project is a grassroots effort to reconnect Pensacola residents with their environment and each other by building a public greenway from Scenic Heights to West Pensacola. This initiative is not just about creating a multi-use path; it is about uniting Pensacola's diverse neighborhoods around a shared vision for the future.

We believe that the Bluffline can serve as a physical and symbolic connector, promoting safe transportation infrastructure, affordable workforce housing, economic opportunity, and a healthy environment. It will also provide a platform for cultural exchange and learning, as it knits together different neighborhoods, each with its own unique history and culture.

We are excited about the opportunity to collaborate with the Bluffline to develop interpretive displays and programming focused on the rich African American history along the route. This collaboration will allow us to further our mission of education and preservation, providing a tangible, interactive way for residents and visitors to engage with the history of our community.

The African American Heritage Society is proud to support and collaborate with the Bluffline project. We believe that it will not only enhance the physical landscape of our city but also enrich the cultural and social fabric of our community. We are confident that the Bluffline will serve as a testament to Pensacola's commitment to inclusivity, diversity, and environmental sustainability.

We urge you to consider the Bluffline project for the Community Connectors Grant Program. This project represents a significant step forward in our collective effort to create a more connected and inclusive Pensacola.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Howard  
CEO, African American Heritage Society of Pensacola  
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