

July 14, 2023

Dear Community Connectors Grant Review Committee,

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the Bluffline project, a transformative initiative that aims to connect and revitalize our Pensacola community.

As a long-time resident and active participant in Pensacola's civic life, I have witnessed firsthand the potential of our community, as well as the challenges it faces. The Bluffline project addresses many of these challenges head-on, proposing solutions that are both innovative and deeply rooted in our community's needs.

As the founder of the Studer Community Institute, I was instrumental in the creation of the Center for Civic Engagement, a joint partnership with the Pensacola News Journal that has brought public speakers to our city to educate residents on issues of land use planning, active transit, and related topics.

This effort culminated in the creation of the Pensacola Waterfront Framework Plan, a project I am proud to have been a part of. The Bluffline project seeks to extend the vision of the framework plan, integrating it with other public and grassroots initiatives to create one, continuous greenway that would reconnect east and west Pensacola and help to heal the wounds of divisive infrastructure that resulted from the construction of I-110 in the 1970's.

I have had the privilege of working closely with the Bluffline team and have been consistently impressed by their dedication, strategic vision, and commitment to community engagement. Their integrative thinking, public engagement and coalition building are testament to their capacity to successfully implement this project.

However, like many young, under-resourced organizations, they also face capacity challenges that this grant could significantly help overcome. With additional funding and support, I am confident that the Bluffline team can realize their ambitious vision for our community.

I strongly urge you to consider the Bluffline project for the Community Connectors Grant Program. This project represents a unique opportunity to make a lasting, positive impact on our community, and I am excited to see the transformative changes it will bring.

Thank you for considering my letter of support.

Sincerely,



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