



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Cynthia
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
Neeley
3. The cosponsoring representatives' names. All cosponsors must be listed. If none, please type 'n/a.' A signed letter from the sponsor approving the co-sponsorship and a signed letter from the member wishing to co-sponsor are required. Attach letters at question #9 below.
N/A
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
Friends of Berston
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
3300 N. Saginaw St. Flint, MI 48505
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
N/A
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
State Representative Cynthia Neeley
8. Purpose of the legislatively directed spending item. Please include how it provides a public benefit and why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funding. Please also demonstrate that the item does not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution. For over a century, Berston Field House has been a unique place for individual and community enrichment through education, athletics, the arts, and community service for the City of Flint. The Friends of Berston is renovating its historic site and building a new state-of-the-art recreation and community center to expand services, amenities, programming, and opportunities to serve more people.

This investment directly serves the public by increasing access to safe, ADA-compliant spaces for recreation, afterschool programs, health and wellness, workforce training, and entrepreneurship. It supports neighborhood revitalization, aligns with the state's goals for

community and economic development, and creates jobs while preserving a site of deep historic and cultural significance.

The renovation and expansion project will triple the size of Berston's existing field house - making it one of the largest recreational facilities in Genesee County. This includes an interior NBA-regulation basketball court, an elevated track, a fitness center, a boxing center, art and music rooms, dance studios, a bike room, locker rooms, conference and events spaces, a multi-purpose STEM trades workspace, and more. Exteriorly, the land surrounding Berston will feature new basketball and pickleball courts, a softball diamond, a little league baseball diamond, a multi-purpose sports field for football, soccer and lacrosse, an amphitheater for outdoor performances, a children's playground, and new parking areas.

As a result, the renovation of the historic site will enhance accessibility to meet ADA compliance and better serve seniors and individuals with disabilities and address safety concerns; and improve energy efficiency. The expansion will accommodate new and enhanced recreational, fitness, health and wellness programming, including afterschool education, and arts and cultural activities. Additionally, the completion of the project will support economic recovery and development by creating additional spaces for local entrepreneurs; new job creation necessary to support the facility's programs, events and services; workforce training; and supporting and hosting community events.

The project is currently in its first – out of two total phases - of construction that includes site preparation and the new construction of the expanded state-of-the-art recreation center. In addition to construction progress, the project has had a positive impact through continued programming and services, and job creation. During construction of the new recreation facility, Berston's historic site has remained open to continue serving Flint residents, of all ages, through year-round programming and partnerships specializing in sports, recreation, fitness, arts, education, entrepreneurial advancement, legal services and more. This has allowed community members to continue engaging in a variety of life-enriching, and self-empowerment activities without interruption.

Berston Field House is a public recreation facility that is operated, managed, and programmed by Friends of Berston, a Michigan-based nonprofit organization, and all funds will be used solely for public purposes. In compliance with Article IV, § 30 of the Michigan Constitution, no private individual or entity will receive direct financial benefit and all improvements will be publicly accessible and publicly beneficial.

9. Attach documents here if needed:

Attachments added to the end of this file.

10. The amount of state funding requested for the legislatively directed spending item.

5000000

11. Has the legislatively directed spending item previously received any of the following types of funding? Check all that apply.

["State","Local","Private"]

12. Please select one of the following groups that describes the entity requesting the legislatively directed spending item:

Non-profit organization

13. For a non-profit organization, has the organization been operating within Michigan for the preceding 36 months?

Yes

14. For a non-profit organization, has the entity had a physical office within Michigan for the preceding 12 months?

Yes

15. For a non-profit organization, does the organization have a board of directors?

Yes

16. For a non-profit organization, list all the active members on the organization's board of directors and any other officers. If this question is not applicable, please type 'n/a.'

James Avery- Executive Director, Alvern Lock- President, Joshua Freeman- Treasurer, Khalilah Mateen- Secretary, Madonna Bennett - Board Member, Judge Chris Christenson- Board Member, Loren Crandell- Board Member, Briana Mosier- Board Member, Jacqueline Nolden- Board Member, Judge Nathaniel C. Perry, III-Board Member, Jeff Tippet- Board Member, Dr. Sounya Walker- Board Member

17. "I certify that neither the sponsoring representative nor the sponsoring representative's staff or immediate family has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the legislatively directed spending item."

Yes, this is correct

18. Anticipated start and end dates for the legislatively directed spending item:

October 2023 - June 2026

19. "I hereby certify that all information provided in this request is true and accurate."

Yes