



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Tom
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
Kuhn
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:
Chaldean Cultural Center
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
5600 Walnut Lake Rd., West Bloomfield Twp, MI 48323
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:
Rep Noah Arbit 20th
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. Funds would be for the continuing development of the Chaldean Cultural Center. The Chaldean Cultural Center celebrates and explores the extraordinary history, arts, traditions, and contributions of the Chaldean people from ancient times to the present, serving as a repository for our collected history and stories. By forging relationships with other educational and cultural institutions, the Chaldean Cultural Center not only nurtures pride within the Chaldean community but also promotes greater understanding among communities as part of cultural diversity.

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.

1500000

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

["State"]

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.'

Mark Mukhtar (Chair), Wafa Bunney, Judith Jonna, Jennifer Gumm, and Mary Romaya (Executive Director)

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:

As soon as the funds are available.

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

Yes



Organization Mission and Impact

Established in 2003, the Chaldean Cultural Center (CCC) houses the world's first and only Chaldean Museum. The Center's mission is to celebrate and explore the extraordinary history, arts, cultural traditions, and contributions of the Chaldean people from ancient times to the present, serving as a repository for our collective history and stories. By forging relationships with other educational and cultural institutions, the CCC not only nurtures pride within the Chaldean community, but also exposes others to the Chaldean community and promotes greater understanding among communities as part of cultural diversity.



The museum, which opened in 2017, serves as a permanent home for the history and archival collection of the Chaldean people, the preservation of which is paramount given that Chaldea (Chaldean's land of origin) no longer exists.

Chaldeans originated in ancient Mesopotamia over 5000 years ago, and today many of them still speak the Aramaic language which was spoken by Jesus Christ. Ancestors of the Chaldeans are widely credited for the invention of the wheel, writing, chariots, hospitals, and the discoverers of astrology and astronomy.

Their history and culture are not well documented and not well understood by the communities in which Chaldean immigrants settled in the early 20th century until now. This is largely because Chaldeans were not allowed to record their history in Iraq and other Middle Eastern countries, and as new immigrants to the US and elsewhere, most were in survival mode.

The museum tells the Chaldean story through these galleries:

- Ancient Mesopotamia (from the Sumerian Empire to the Chaldean Empire)
- Faith & Church (starts in the 1st century A.D. when they embraced Christianity)
- Village Life (Chaldeans in the Nineveh Plains)
- Christian Genocide (this gallery will be added in the new museum)
- Journey to America (the immigration story)
- Chaldeans Today (Chaldeans in Michigan and the diaspora)

The CCC and Museum receive more than 2500 visitors per year. That number is expected to increase by five times when the Center is relocated to a newly renovated \$20 million community center that will house other Chaldean organizations. The new location will more than double the size of the current Museum and provide an opportunity to serve more people through education and expansion of programs such as the "Digital Storytelling" project. In this project, the CCC captures the life stories/history of elderly Chaldeans in the Detroit area via video so that their stories are not lost. Many of these stories are told in Aramaic and are then translated and subtitled.

The CCC has had a tremendous impact to date, not only on the local Chaldean community of Michigan, but also on Chaldeans elsewhere in the United States and in places as far away as Argentina, Austria, India, and Iraq. The Chaldean community contributes more than \$18 billion annually to Michigan's economy. Metro Detroit has the world's largest population of Chaldeans in the world, with more than 187,000 people. The Chaldean community is driven by its faith and close-knit family ties, with more than 10 Chaldean Catholic Churches in Metro-Detroit.