

Congress of the United States

STACEY E. PLASKETT
VIRGIN ISLANDS

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

2059 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

May 2, 2025

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Christiansted Old Barracks Property Rehabilitation project in fiscal year 2026. The non-profit entity project sponsor to receive funding for this project is the Virgin Islands Architecture Center for Built Heritage and Crafts (VIAC), located in the U.S. Virgin Islands at 1236 Strand St., Christiansted, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands 00820. The anticipated location of the project is 21, 22, 23 Hospital Street, Christiansted, St. Croix.

The requested funding would be used to restore the complex and deploy it as a center for education, training, workforce and small business development. This funding is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will create jobs and generate community economic development. This project would fulfill the needs of the Virgin Islands community by addressing socioeconomic challenges such as the aging of historic properties in Virgin Islands towns, the challenges of a high poverty rate, unemployment, crime and elevated drop-out rates, and the need for training and certification of a new generation in the historic building arts.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 7 U.S. Code section 1926(a).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Stacey E. Plaskett", written over a horizontal line.

Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress