



**ELENI KOUNALAKIS**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Thursday, March 25, 2021

Honorable Speaker Nancy Pelosi  
1236 Longworth H.O.B.  
Washington, DC 2051

Dear Madam Speaker Pelosi,

As a fellow San Franciscan who has gained much inspiration, joy, and pride from our city's efforts to realize a vision for the Presidio as a cultural and educational destination for all, I would like to thank you for your leadership to ensure that everyone can enjoy all that the historic and beautiful Presidio has to offer. I am reaching out to request your support for \$1,000,000 in funding from the Department of Education, Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee for the first of its kind educational program that will accompany the Futures Without Violence (FUTURES) Courage Museum.

As you may know (FUTURES) is leading an innovative and landmark educational program as part of the Courage Museum, located on the Main Post of the Presidio. In bringing this groundbreaking educational experience to the Presidio, the Museum will provide classroom curriculum for middle and high-school students in our community that aligns with core curriculum standards. It will also provide professional development and training opportunities for educators and administrators, and place-based immersive learning for parents, caregivers and others who are influential in shaping the lives of students.

The Courage Museum will be an educational experience like no other – in fact, nothing like it exists anywhere in the world. The Courage Museum will engage students, teachers, and visitors in the possibility of a world in which violence is not an inevitable part of the human experience. Through evidence-based educational programming, personal storytelling, and tangible materials for long-term action, the Courage Museum will engage students in learning opportunities that challenge them to rethink the inevitability of hate, discrimination, and violence while inspiring them to activate their individual and collective power to create a safer, more just, and equitable world through empathy and action.

It is difficult to imagine more urgent or important time in our city, state, or nation's history to invest in the development of this evidence-based approach to trauma-informed learning and educational resources for our young people. When the pandemic hit, FUTURES was one of the first organizations I contacted. Together, we engaged in conversations with young people from San Francisco and across the state to learn about their experiences with trauma, suffering, isolation, and violence. Through these discussions I gained a clearer understanding of the urgent need for innovative approaches to educate and prepare our students for an unpredictable world. I strongly believe the Courage Museum and accompanying education program will be a critical resource for the development of resiliency, empathy, and action for future generation.

The curriculum, complementary lesson plans, and professional development programs offered by the Courage Museum will put public land to use for a public service. The educational program of the Courage Museum will not be limited to students and educators in the Bay Area. Through digital experiences, online curriculum and lesson plans, virtual professional development programs, and

traveling installations, the Museum's innovative curriculum can be utilized anywhere in the country and be immediately available to help healing in schools and communities impacted by sudden tragic events.

Working in collaboration with leaders in education across San Francisco and the Bay area, this unique educational program will contribute to the Presidio as an educational and cultural treasure that embodies the true spirit of the Presidio and San Francisco as a place of hope and possibility. I look forward to the impact this program will have on so many lives. Thank you for your consideration of my enthusiastic support for FUTURES' funding request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Eleni', with a small dot above the 'i'.

AMBASSADOR ELENI KOUNALAKIS (RET.)



Alliance for Girls

Emma Mayerson  
President & Founding  
Executive Director

Board of Directors

Mark Gunther (Chair)  
Managing Director, Eva  
Gunther Foundation

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& Projects, Silicon Valley Bank

Rachel Schneider  
Program Officer, Jim Joseph  
Foundation

Shuané Zunzanyika  
Senior Advisor, Tides  
Foundation

March 25, 2021

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

I am honored to write to you as the President & Founding Executive Director of Alliance for Girls, an organization that represents more than 100 nonprofits, schools, and government agencies that serve more than 300,000 girls throughout the Bay Area, to express my enthusiastic support for an appropriations request from the Department of Education Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee, Elementary and Secondary Education Innovation and Improvement fund for the Courage Museum educational program that is being developed by Futures Without Violence (FUTURES).

As a longtime colleague and fan of FUTURES, I appreciate the leadership and innovation that this organization has brought to the field of violence prevention and gender equity through policy, advocacy, professional development, and public education for decades. I have experienced first-hand, how FUTURES works in partnership with organizations throughout the Bay Area (Alliance For Girls included) and beyond to build diverse coalitions and to support the leadership and capacity of practitioners and advocates who work with survivors, educators, and advocates across many different fields to support the healthy development of our young people and their mentors.

When I first visited FUTURES on the Main Post of the Presidio, I was struck by the physical space and its location in such a beautiful public park. I immediately understood the importance of having a dedicated place for advocates, educators, and the general public to convene and collaborate. As I learned more about the vision of the Courage Museum and the educational programs that would be developed alongside the installations, I quickly understood the potential for this innovative approach to education and activism to transform lives.

The Courage Museum will serve as a new national landmark and destination for all who care about centering the needs of individuals and communities who are most impacted by violence, discrimination, and hate. In developing a multifaceted educational program that will both reach into classrooms with curriculum and resources, while also drawing teachers and students to the museum for interactive learning fills a much needed gap in our communities with respect to culturally relevant and desperately needed trauma sensitive educational programming.

It is with this understanding and a deep commitment to improving the lives of our community's most vulnerable girls that I enthusiastically lend support to this funding request. The ability to pair immersive learning with innovative strategies for classroom and virtual learning on violence prevention and gender justice will be a game changer for Bay Area students, teachers, and parents. I am excited about the possibilities for



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collaboration with our members, and I look forward to partnering with FUTURES and the Courage Museum to continue to amplify the stories and voices of girls throughout the Bay Area and beyond.

Thank you for your consideration, and for all that you do to advocate for the girls and gender expansive youth throughout San Francisco and the Bay Area.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emma Mayerson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Emma Mayerson  
President & Founding Executive Director  
Alliance For Girls