April 5, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
The Speaker of the House of Representatives  
United States Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: FY 2023 Appropriations Request for The Friendship House Association of American Indians,  
The Village SF Urban Indian Project

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

Because of your decades-long support of the Friendship House Association of American Indians and the thousands of Native families who access our services, San Francisco's urban Native community is as strong and resilient as ever. As our founder Helen Wackazoo demonstrated, you can arrive with $35 in hand to an unfamiliar place, forcefully separated from your home and people, and still create a support system where you reconnect with each other and with your traditional ways. Her spirit is evident in the continued growth of Friendship House.

In 2020 Friendship House launched its third community development project - "The Village SF", which will be a new six-floor building next to Friendship House serving San Francisco's 9,000+ American Indians and Alaska Natives. The Village SF will offer medical, dental, behavioral, youth and elder services. Programs will include interim supportive housing, workforce development, urban farming and nutrition. U.S. policy has displaced many Native peoples from their homes, in part due to forced relocation programs. Organizations like Friendship House are leading the way in helping Native peoples in our cities reconnect with their culture, while also providing critical services.

We respectfully request $4 million to help support the construction cost of The Village SF. Friendship House has secured and continues to secure additional sources of revenue such as a new market tax credit, corporate and philanthropic donations. Friendship House also has a long-term financial viability plan that includes an expansion of its current programs so that they may qualify for reimbursable behavioral health services.

Friendship House, a nonprofit residential substance abuse treatment center established in 1963 to serve AIs/ANs arriving in San Francisco as a result of Termination and Relocation policies, is an Indigenous-led organization guided by the belief that our culture is our medicine. Without culture, community connection, or a physical place to call "home," many urban Indians have struggled to hold onto their identity. We believe that every urban Indian deserves a community that centers their health and cultural needs.
While the COVID-19 pandemic has brought to light the greater disparities between Native peoples and the broader population, it has also shown us what is possible when Native people are provided with the resources to address needs in their own communities. As vaccines were rolled out, Native Americans had the highest COVID-19 vaccination rate of any other demographic in the country. Success rates increase when people receive care and information from their own community.

More than 70% of AI/ANs in the United States live in urban areas. In California, nearly 90% of AI/ANs live in or near cities. And yet, urban Indians remain largely invisible and lack access to critical health services and economic opportunities— in large part because urban Indian organizations have historically been underfunded and undervalued.

In San Francisco, AI/ANs are 17 times more likely to be unhoused, have the highest unemployment rate, and have the lowest homeownership rate. With our partner Native-led organizations, we have been providing a continuum of services that build resilience by providing evidence-based programming, incorporating traditional ceremonial practices, and fostering reconnections with family and community. For example, Friendship House:

- Has served nearly 6,000 clients recovering from substance abuse via two residential treatment centers since 1963;
- Supported 500 children, youth, and young adults with academic, wellness, and cultural programming in school- and community-based settings this past year alone;
- Has contracts and/or MOUs with 10 tribes and 14 Indian Health Clinics & Organizations;
- Is expanding the capacity to screen for and reaching out to sex trafficking victims, and provide them with comprehensive services (research shows that 84.3% of sex trafficking victims are diagnosed with substance use disorders).

Opening its doors in 2025, The Village SF on an annual basis will:

- Serve over 3,700 Native Americans with health/social services and cultural programming;
- Provide medical, dental, and behavioral health services to 2,670 patients;
- Provide program and cultural space for 500 Native youth;
- Provide program and cultural space for 200 Native elders;
- Provide interim supportive housing for 10 Native mothers and their children in recovery;
- Provide interim supportive housing for 10 recovery program graduates pursuing social work;
- Employ 24 professional staff.

The construction of The Village SF will employ over 200 people of which at least 60 will be hired locally.

We are honored to have the support of community, philanthropic and government partners such as San Francisco Mayor London Breed. The Village SF will provide an excellent catalyst for the overall revitalization plan for urban American Indians and Alaska Natives who live in the San Francisco Bay Area, and will result in a vibrant and thriving community, in particular the San Francisco American Indian Cultural District. We hope that you and your colleagues advocate for investing in this critically important work on behalf of all Californians.

Sincerely,

Anthony Tam
Acting Chief Executive Officer
March 30, 2022

We recently asked for letters of support for Friendship House’s The Village SF as part of our budget request to the California State Legislature. We are honored to have the support of the following tribal, community, philanthropic and government partners.
March 22, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Skinner  
Chair, Senate Budget Committee  
State Capitol, CA

The Honorable Phil Ting  
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
State Capitol, CA

I am writing in support of the $15 million budget request submitted by the Friendship House Association of American Indians for the Village SF community development project. Since 1963, Friendship House has been a center of strength, connection, ceremony, and culture for the Bay Area’s American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) population. Friendship House has a proven track record in developing facilities for the AI/AN community. The Village SF will be the second community project opened by the Friendship House in San Francisco and third in the Bay Area. The original site, located at 56 Julian Avenue in San Francisco’s Mission neighborhood, currently operates as the organization’s headquarters and serves as a 80-bed substance abuse disorder residential treatment facility.

The Village SF will be a new six-floor building that will offer medical, dental, behavioral, youth and elder services, with access to counseling and case management. One floor will be dedicated to “The Women’s Lodge,” which will combine American Indian cultural practices with Western methodologies and provide residential substance abuse treatment for Indigenous Women and their children. In partnership with the City, Friendship House has been invaluable in delivering comprehensive health, wellness, and recovery services to the AI/AN population. The Village SF will be built at 80 Julian Avenue, located in the recently dedicated American Indian Cultural District, also in the Mission neighborhood.

Friendship House is leading the way in helping Native peoples in our cities reconnect with their culture, while also providing critical services to help families, seniors, and children. Once complete, Village SF will support San Francisco’s 9,000+ American Indians and Alaska Natives and serve as an excellent catalyst for the overall revitalization plan for urban American Indians and Alaska Natives who live in the Bay Area.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

London N. Breed  
Mayor
3/3/2022

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Budget Committee
State Capitol, CA

The Honorable Phil Ting
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol, CA

I am pleased to support the 2022 Budget request for "The Village SF", submitted by the Friendship House Association of American Indians in San Francisco.

The Mayor’s Office of Housing and Community Development (MOHCD) is responsible for providing San Franciscans with affordable housing opportunities and essential services that build strong communities. MOHCD has three primary divisions - Housing, Community Development, and the Homeownership and Below Market Rate (HBMR) programs.

The Community Development division of MOHCD administers funding to a broad network of community-based partners to create an inclusive and equitable City where all residents can thrive. MOHCD has been a long-term funder and partner with the Friendship House and has seen great success in the investments. MOHCD has funded Friendship House’s residential program for decades and more recently initiated a new contract that will convene community-based service providers to work together and prepare for the launch of "The Village SF". MOHCD is inspired by this endeavor and will continue our partnership and investment in the years to come.

In 2020 Friendship House launched its third community development project - “The Village SF”, which will be a new six-floor building next to Friendship House serving San Francisco’s 9,000+ American Indians and Alaska Natives. The Village SF will offer medical, dental, behavioral, youth and elder services. Programs will include interim supportive housing, workforce development, urban farming, and nutrition. U.S. policy has displaced many Native peoples from their homes, in part due to forced relocation programs. Organizations like Friendship House are leading the way in helping Native peoples in our cities reconnect with their culture, while also providing critical services.

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- Provide program and cultural space for 200 Native elders;
- Provide interim supportive housing for 10 Native mothers and their children in recovery;
• Provide interim supportive housing for 10 recovery program graduates pursuing social work;
• Employ 24 professional staff.

The Village SF will provide an excellent catalyst for the overall revitalization plan for urban American Indians and Alaska Natives who live in the San Francisco Bay Area and will result in a vibrant and thriving community. I am in full support of this bold and culturally driven vision and proposal, and we hope that you and your colleagues advocate for the California Legislature investing in this critically important work on behalf of all Californians.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brian Cheu  
Mayor’s Office of Housing and Community Development  
Community Development Director
March 21, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Skinner  
Chair, Senate Budget Committee  
State Capitol, CA

The Honorable Phil Ting  
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
State Capitol, CA

I am pleased to support the 2022 Budget request for “The Village SF”, submitted by the Friendship House Association of American Indians in San Francisco.

I am the Chief Health Equity Officer for the Department of Public Health in San Francisco. The health disparities of the American Indian and Alaska Native community in San Francisco and across the country are well known. These disparities led to devastating impacts of COVID-19 on these communities. The underlying problems that lead to disparities stem from broad structural racism that impacts the social determinants of health (the environment, social supports and resources) and health care access. These problems do not exist in isolation and our long-standing efforts to address them in silos has not succeeded. Friendship House takes a comprehensive approach to community and family wellness. This includes health services, but also the social and cultural programming and resources that are needed for true wellness.

In 2020 Friendship House launched its third community development project - “The Village SF”, which will be a new six-floor building next to Friendship House serving San Francisco’s 9,000+ American Indians and Alaska Natives. The Village SF will offer medical, dental, behavioral, youth and elder services. Programs will include interim supportive housing, workforce development, urban farming and nutrition.  
U.S. policy has displaced many Native peoples from their homes, in part due to forced relocation programs. Organizations like Friendship House are leading the way in helping Native peoples in our cities reconnect with their culture, while also providing critical services.

Opening its doors in 2025, The Village SF on an annual basis will:

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- Provide interim supportive housing for 10 recovery program graduates pursuing social work;
- Employ 24 professional staff.

The Village SF will provide an excellent catalyst for the overall revitalization plan for urban American Indians and Alaska Natives who live in the San Francisco Bay Area, and will result in a vibrant and thriving community. I am in full support of this bold and culturally driven vision and proposal, and we hope that
you and your colleagues advocate for the California Legislature investing in this critically important work on behalf of all Californians.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Ayanna Bennett MD, MSPH, FAAP
Chief Health Equity Officer
San Francisco Department of Public Health
March 4, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Skinner  
Chair, Senate Budget Committee  
State Capitol, CA  

The Honorable Phil Ting  
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
State Capitol, CA  

I am pleased to support the 2022 Budget request for "The Village SF", submitted by the Friendship House Association of American Indians in San Francisco.

The Yurok Tribe is the largest surviving Tribe in California and has a long and enduring relationship with Friendship House who continues to serve as our main referral point for inpatient treatment ofReservation and urban Yurok Tribal members. The Court supports expansion of their programming which will continue to encompass the Tribal Nations of this State and all Indian Country.

In 2020 Friendship House launched its third community development project - "The Village SF", which will be a new six-floor building next to Friendship House serving San Francisco's 9,000+ American Indians and Alaska Natives. The Village SF will offer medical, dental, behavioral, youth and elder services. Programs will include interim supportive housing, workforce development, urban farming, and nutrition. U.S. policy has displaced many Native peoples from their homes, in part due to forced relocation programs. Organizations like Friendship House are leading the way in helping Native peoples in our cities reconnect with their culture, while also providing critical services.

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- Provide program and cultural space for 500 Native youth.
- Provide program and cultural space for 200 Native elders.
- Provide interim supportive housing for 10 Native mothers and their children in recovery.
- Provide interim supportive housing for 10 recovery program graduates pursuing social work.
- Employ 24 professional staff.

The Village SF will provide an excellent catalyst for the overall revitalization plan for urban American Indians and Alaska Natives who live in the San Francisco Bay Area and will result in a vibrant and thriving community. I am in full support of this bold and culturally driven vision and proposal, and we hope that you and your colleagues advocate for the California Legislature investing in this critically important work on behalf of all Californians.
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Abby Abinanti, Chief Judge of the Yurok Tribe
March 16, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Budget Committee
State Capitol, CA

The Honorable Phil Ting
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol, CA

The Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians is pleased to support the 2022 Budget request for “The Village SF”, submitted by the Friendship House Association of American Indians in San Francisco.

In 2020 Friendship House launched its third community development project - “The Village SF”, which will be a new six-floor building next to Friendship House serving San Francisco’s 9,000+ American Indians and Alaska Natives. The Village SF will offer medical, dental, behavioral, youth and elder services. Programs will include interim supportive housing, workforce development, urban farming and nutrition. U.S. policy has displaced many Native peoples from their homes, in part due to forced relocation programs. Organizations like Friendship House are leading the way in helping Native peoples in our cities reconnect with their culture, while also providing critical services.

Opening its doors in 2025, The Village SF on an annual basis will:
- Serve over 3,700 Native Americans with health/social services and cultural programming;
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- Provide program and cultural space for 200 Native elders;
- Provide interim supportive housing for 10 Native mothers and their children in recovery;
- Provide interim supportive housing for 10 recovery program graduates pursuing social work;
- Employ 24 professional staff.

The Village SF will provide an excellent catalyst for the overall revitalization plan for urban American Indians and Alaska Natives who live in the San Francisco Bay Area, and will result in a vibrant and thriving community. I am in full support of this bold and culturally driven vision and proposal, and we hope that you and your colleagues advocate for the California Legislature investing in this critically important work on behalf of all Californians.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Kahn,
Tribal Chairman
March 15, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Skinner  
Chair, Senate Budget Committee  
State Capitol, CA

The Honorable Phil Ting  
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
State Capitol, CA

On behalf of the Hoopa Valley Tribe, I would like to express strong support for the 2022 Budget request for “The Village SF”, submitted by the Friendship House Association of American Indians in San Francisco.

As someone whose sister turned her life around after going to the Friendship house, I know there is an extreme amount of value in this program. In fact, the Friendship House has helped turn the lives of many Hoopa Tribal Members around.

As you know, in 2020 Friendship House launched its third community development project—“The Village SF”, which will be a new six-floor building next to Friendship House serving San Francisco’s 9,000+ American Indians and Alaska Natives. The Village SF will offer medical, dental, behavioral, youth and elder services. Programs will include interim supportive housing, workforce development, urban farming and nutrition. U.S. policy has displaced many Native peoples from their homes, in part due to forced relocation programs. Organizations like Friendship House are leading the way in helping Native peoples in our cities reconnect with their culture, while also providing critical services.

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- Provide program and cultural space for 200 Native elders;
- Provide interim supportive housing for 10 Native mothers and their children in recovery;
- Provide interim supportive housing for 10 recovery program graduates pursuing social work;
- Employ 24 professional staff.

The Village SF will provide an excellent catalyst for the overall revitalization plan for urban American Indians and Alaska Natives who live in the San Francisco Bay Area, and will result in a vibrant and thriving community. I am in full support of this bold and culturally driven vision and proposal, and we hope that you and your colleagues advocate for the California Legislature investing in this critically important work on behalf of all Californians.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,

Joe Davis
Chairman
Hoopa Valley Tribe
March 4, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Budget Committee
State Capitol, CA

The Honorable Phil Ting
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol, CA

Subject: Letter of Support for Friendship House’s 2022 Budget Request for “The Village SF”

I am pleased to support the 2022 Budget request for “The Village SF”, submitted by the Friendship House Association of American Indians in San Francisco.

Native American Health Center, Inc. (NAHC) has been a long-standing partner of Friendship House in providing culturally-informed, community-based and resiliency-focused comprehensive health, wellness and recovery treatment and support for American Indians in the San Francisco Bay Area. Friendship House has helped many of NAHC’s members to overcome substance use and addiction. The Friendship House and NAHC have collaborated for many years in embracing, advocating and achieving a community in recovery, annually celebrating their recovery, and engaging our Native community in healthy and positive community events and activities.

In 2020 Friendship House launched its third community development project - “The Village SF”, which will be a new six-floor building next to Friendship House serving San Francisco’s 9,000+ American Indians and Alaska Natives. The Village SF will offer medical, dental, behavioral, youth and elder services. Programs will include interim supportive housing, workforce development, urban farming and nutrition. U.S. policy has displaced many Native peoples from their homes, in part due to forced relocation programs. Organizations like Friendship House are leading the way in helping Native peoples in our cities reconnect with their culture, while also providing critical services.

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- Provide interim supportive housing for 10 Native mothers and their children in recovery;
- Provide interim supportive housing for 10 recovery program graduates pursuing social work;
- Employ 24 professional staff.

The Village SF will provide an excellent catalyst for the overall revitalization plan for urban American Indians and Alaska Natives who live in the San Francisco Bay Area, and will result in a vibrant and thriving community. I am in full support of this bold and culturally driven vision and proposal, and we hope that you and your colleagues advocate for the California Legislature investing in this critically important work on behalf of all Californians.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Natalie Aguilar
Chief Administrative Officer
March 11th 2022

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Budget Committee
State Capitol, CA

The Honorable Phil Ting
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol, CA

As the Parent & Community Coordinator of the San Francisco Unified School District Indian Education Program, I am pleased to support the 2022 Budget request for “The Village SF”, submitted by the Friendship House Association of American Indians in San Francisco.

In 2020, Friendship House launched its third community development project – “The Village SF,” which will be a new six-story building next to Friendship House serving San Francisco’s 9,000+ American Indians and Alaska Natives. The Village SF will offer medical, dental, behavioral, youth and elder services. Programs will include interim supportive housing, workforce development, urban farming and nutrition.

U.S. policy has displaced many Native peoples from their homes, in part due to forced relocation programs. Organizations like Friendship House are leading the way in helping Native peoples in our cities reconnect with their culture, while also providing critical services.

Opening its doors in 2025, The Village SF on an annual basis will:

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- Provide program and cultural space for 200 Native elders;
- Provide interim supportive housing for 10 Native mothers and 12 children in recovery;
- Provide interim supportive housing for 10 recovery program graduates pursuing social work;
- Employ 24 professional staff

The Village SF will provide an excellent catalyst for the overall revitalization plan for urban American Indians and Alaska Natives who live in the San Francisco Bay Area, and will result in a vibrant and thriving community. I am in full support of this bold and culturally driven vision and proposal, and we hope that you and your colleagues advocate for the California Legislature investing in this critically important work on behalf of all Californians.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

Jason Losoya
Tarasco (Michoacán) Portuguese (Portugal)
SFUSD
State and Federal,
Curriculum and Instruction
Indian Education Parent & Community Coordinator
March 9th, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Budget Committee
State Capitol, CA

The Honorable Phil Ting
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol, CA

RE: Letter of Support for 2022 The Village SF Budget Request for Friendship House Association of American Indians

Dear Honorable Skinner,

It is an honor to be asked for support for the 2022 Budget request for “The Village SF”, submitted by the Friendship House Association of American Indians in San Francisco. The Friendship House has a legacy of providing vital wellness and recovery services to urban American Indian’s adding to the resilience and healing of the San Francisco Bay Area community.

Since the American Indian Cultural District was founded in March of 2020 FBAI has served on the Advisory Board working collectively with local American Indian organizations to provide and advocate for food, services, programming and resources to one of the most disproportionately impacted communities in the City. American Indians have the lowest graduation rates, employment rates and housing rates in this City. Without vital initiatives like The Village SF we would not be able to provide cultural based hope and healing for our community recover from decades of systemic erasure and cultural oppression.

In 2020 Friendship House launched its third community development project - “The Village SF”, which will be a new six-floor building next to Friendship House serving San Francisco’s 9,000+ American Indian and Alaska Natives. The Village SF will offer medical, dental, behavioral, youth and elder services. Programs will include interim supportive housing, workforce development, urban farming and nutrition. U.S. policy has displaced many Native peoples from their homes, in part due to forced relocation programs. Organizations like Friendship House are leading the way in helping Native peoples in our cities reconnect with their culture, while also providing critical services.

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- Employ 24 professional staff.

The Village SF will provide an excellent catalyst for the overall revitalization plan for urban American Indians and Alaska Natives who live in the San Francisco Bay Area, and will result in a vibrant and thriving community. I am in full support of this bold and culturally driven vision and proposal, and we hope that you and your colleagues advocate for the California Legislature investing in this critically important work on behalf of all Californians.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sharaya Souza, Executive Director, American Indian Cultural District
Sharayaos@americanindianculturaldistrict.org
March 8, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Budget Committee
State Capitol, CA

The Honorable Phil Ting
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol, CA

I am pleased to support the 2022 Budget request for “The Village SF”, submitted by the Friendship House Association of American Indians in San Francisco.

As the Executive Director of the American Indian Cultural Center (AICC) and a cofounder of the American Indian Cultural District (AICD) of San Francisco, it is extremely important for the American Indian community in San Francisco to have a place that provides medical, dental, behavioral health and cultural wellness services. I am an enrolled member of Round Valley Tribes in California, and a San Francisco resident that uses these services provided by Friendship House. AICC has partnered with Friendship House for the Dancing Feathers Pow wow, the Native youth Stronghold Conference, our workforce development strategic planning meetings and healing ceremonies for the community.

In 2020 Friendship House launched its third community development project - “The Village SF”, which will be a new six-floor building next to Friendship House serving San Francisco’s 9,000+ American Indians and Alaska Natives. The Village SF will offer medical, dental, behavioral, youth and elder services. Programs will include interim supportive housing, workforce development, urban farming and nutrition. U.S. policy has displaced many Native peoples from their homes, in part due to forced relocation programs. Organizations like Friendship House are leading the way in helping Native peoples in our cities reconnect with their culture, while also providing critical services.

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The Village SF will provide an excellent catalyst for the overall revitalization plan for urban American Indians and Alaska Natives who live in the San Francisco Bay Area, and will result in a vibrant and thriving community. I am in full support of this bold and culturally driven vision and proposal, and we hope that you and your colleagues advocate for the California Legislature investing in this critically important work on behalf of all Californians.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

April McGill (Yuki,Wappo)
Executive Director
American Indian Cultural Center (AICC), San Francisco
1863 Mission Street,
San Francisco, CA 94110
(415)-651-2736
aiccsanfrancisco@gmail.com
Website: aiccsf.org
@AICC_SF
March 8, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Skinner  The Honorable Phil Ting
Senate Chair, Budget Committee  Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol, CA  State Capitol, CA

I am pleased to support the 2022 Budget request for “The Village SF”, submitted by the Friendship House Association of American Indians in San Francisco.

CCUIH is a non-profit 501(c)3 that supports health promotion and access for urban American Indians. Our mission is to facilitate shared development of resources for our members and to raise public awareness in order to support a health and wellness network that meets the needs of American Indians living in urban communities.

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The Village SF will provide an excellent catalyst for the overall revitalization plan for urban American Indians and Alaska Natives who live in the San Francisco Bay Area, and will result in a vibrant and thriving community. I am in full support of this bold and culturally driven vision and proposal, and we hope that you and your colleagues advocate for the California Legislature investing in this critically important work on behalf of all Californians.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Virginia Hedrick, MPH (Yurok)
Executive Director
California Consortium for Urban Indian Health
March 7, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Skinner  
Chair, Senate Budget Committee  
State Capitol, CA

The Honorable Phil Ting  
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
State Capitol, CA

We are pleased to support the 2022 Budget request for “The Village SF”, submitted by the Friendship House Association of American Indians in San Francisco.

The Cultural Conservancy (TEC) is a Native-led Indigenous rights nonprofit organization based in San Francisco. Since our founding in 1985, we have been dedicated to our mission of protecting and revitalizing Indigenous cultures, empowering them in the direct application of their traditional knowledge and practices on their ancestral lands. We are honored to join Friendship House as one of the sister organizations on council with American Indian Cultural District SF.

In 2020 Friendship House launched its third community development project - “The Village SF”, which will be a new six-floor building next to Friendship House serving San Francisco’s 9,000+ American Indians and Alaska Natives. The Village SF will offer medical, dental, behavioral, youth and elder services. Programs will include interim supportive housing, workforce development, urban farming and nutrition. U.S. policy has displaced many Native peoples from their homes, in part due to forced relocation programs. Organizations like Friendship House are leading the way in helping Native peoples in our cities reconnect with their culture, while also providing critical services.

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The Village SF will provide a vital catalyst for the overall revitalization plan for urban American Indians and Alaska Natives who live in the San Francisco Bay Area, and will result in a vibrant and thriving community. We are in full support of this bold and culturally driven vision and proposal, and we hope that you and your colleagues advocate for the California Legislature investing in this critically important work.

Thank you for your consideration,
Sincerely,

Sara Moncada, CEO
The Cultural Conservancy
March 11, 2022

The Honorable Phil Ting
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol, CA

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Budget Committee
State Capitol, CA

Dear Senator Skinner and Senator Ting,

I am writing to express my support for the Friendship House Association of American Indians in San Francisco 2022 Budget request for “The Village SF”. The Intertribal Agriculture Council is a non-profit organization with the mission to provide a unified effort to promote change in Indian agriculture for the benefit of Indian people. The Pacific Region of the Intertribal Agriculture Council has been in contact with Friendship House over the last year as Friendship House was initiating their planning for their third community development project “The Village SF.” I am well acquainted with the overarching goals of Friendship House and the dedication to achieve them. IAC has been meeting monthly with program coordinators to provide guidance and resource information to support the organizations’ goals relating to farming and nutrition for urban American Indians and Alaska Natives. I think Friendship House’s community development project “The Village SF” will directly contribute to the pressing needs of the urban American Indians and Alaska Native community who live in the San Francisco Bay Area.

In 2020 Friendship House launched its third community development project - “The Village SF”, which will be a new six-floor building next to Friendship House serving San Francisco’s 9,000+ American Indians and Alaska Natives. The Village SF will offer medical, dental, behavioral, youth and elder services. Programs will include interim supportive housing, workforce development, urban farming and nutrition. U.S. policy has displaced many Native peoples from their homes, in part due to forced relocation programs. Organizations like Friendship House are leading the way in helping Native peoples in our cities reconnect with their culture, while also providing critical services.

Opening its doors in 2025, The Village SF on an annual basis will:
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- Employ 24 professional staff.

The Village SF will provide an excellent catalyst for the overall revitalization plan for urban American Indians and Alaska Natives who live in the San Francisco Bay Area, and will result in a vibrant and thriving...
community. I am in full support of this bold and culturally driven vision and proposal, and we hope that you and your colleagues advocate for the California Legislature investing in this critically important work on behalf of all Californians.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Keir Johnson-Reyes (Osage Nation)
Intertribal Agriculture Council
Technical Assistance Director
Sacramento, CA
March 16, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Budget Committee
State Capitol, CA
The Honorable Phil Ting
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol, CA

On behalf of the International Indian Treaty Council, I am pleased to support the 2022 Budget request for “The Village SF”, submitted by the Friendship House Association of American Indians in San Francisco.

The International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) is an organization of Indigenous Peoples from North, Central, South America, the Arctic, Caribbean and Pacific working for the sovereignty and self-determination of Indigenous Peoples and the recognition and protection of Indigenous rights, Treaties, traditional cultures and sacred lands.

IITC has held an office in San Francisco since 1978 and values its relationship with our sister organization, FH of San Francisco. Throughout the years IITC has held and co-hosted events with Friendship House Association of American Indians in San Francisco such as

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The Village SF will provide an excellent catalyst for the overall revitalization plan for urban American Indians and Alaska Natives who live in the San Francisco Bay Area, and will result in a vibrant and thriving community. I am in full support of this bold and culturally driven vision and proposal, and we hope that you and your colleagues advocate for the California Legislature investing in this critically important work on behalf of all Californians.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrea Carmen
Executive Director
International Indian Treaty Council (IITC)
The Honorable Nancy Skinner  
Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814  

The Honorable Phil Ting  
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814  

Re: Funding Needed for Friendship House’s The Village SF

Dear Chair Skinner and Chair Ting,

The majority of Native peoples live in cities, yet essential services for urban Native Americans and Alaska Natives are grossly underfunded. More investment in quality projects like Friendship House’s The Village SF are needed. IllumiNative strongly supports $15 million in funding for development of this critical project.

Since 1963, Friendship House has served San Francisco’s Native peoples. U.S. policy, especially the forced relocation of the 1950’s, disconnected Native peoples from each other, their homelands, and their traditional ways. Through Friendship House, the Bay area’s 9,000 Native peoples have a place to call home, where culture and connection are at the heart of every program.

The Village SF will allow the organization to serve even more people, with affordable housing; workforce development; food sovereignty and nutrition services; healthcare; and treatment and recovery services with proven, long-term success rates.

IllumiNative has been a proud partner of Friendship House because we believe our people are best served by our own community. The Village SF, modeled on a vision of reconnecting urban Indians, is important to the identity, culture, and community of San Francisco’s Native peoples.

Sincerely,

Crystal Echo Hawk  
Executive Director
March 7, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Budget Committee
State Capitol, CA

The Honorable Phil Ting
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol, CA

I am pleased to support the 2022 Budget request for “The Village SF”, submitted by the Friendship House Association of American Indians in San Francisco.

The California Health Care Foundation (CHCF) is dedicated to advancing meaningful, measurable improvements in the way the health care delivery system provides care to the people of California, particularly those with low incomes and those whose needs are not well served by the status quo. CHCF grants support Friendship House and “The Village” in San Francisco, a physical, service, cultural and spiritual center for American Indians that provides access to health care services, cultural resources, housing, and a place to thrive. CHCF also recently supported the engagement of a strategic planning consultant so Friendship House can begin planning, constructing, and operating its new Women and Children’s Lodge which to help American Indians heal from substance abuse.

In 2020 Friendship House launched its third community development project - “The Village SF”, which will be a new six-floor building next to Friendship House serving San Francisco’s 9,000+ American Indians and Alaska Natives. The Village SF will offer medical, dental, behavioral, youth and elder services. Programs will include interim supportive housing, workforce development, urban farming and nutrition. U.S. policy has displaced many Native peoples from their homes, in part due to forced relocation programs. Organizations like Friendship House are leading the way in helping Native peoples in our cities reconnect with their culture, while also providing critical services.

Opening its doors in 2025, The Village SF on an annual basis will:

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- Employ 24 professional staff.
The Village SF will provide an excellent catalyst for the overall revitalization plan for urban American Indians and Alaska Natives who live in the San Francisco Bay Area, and will result in a vibrant and thriving community. I am in full support of this bold and culturally driven vision and proposal, and we hope that you and your colleagues advocate for the California Legislature investing in this critically important work on behalf of all Californians.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sandra R. Hernandez, MD

President & CEO, California Health Care Foundation
March 7, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Skinner  
Chair, Senate Budget Committee  
State Capitol, CA

The Honorable Phil Ting  
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
State Capitol, CA

Dear Senator Skinner and Assemblymember Ting:

I am writing on behalf of the Women's Foundation California (WFC) which strongly supports the 2022 Budget request for The Village SF, submitted by the Friendship House Association of American Indians in San Francisco.

The WFC is a statewide, publicly supported foundation dedicated to achieving racial, economic, and gender justice by centering the experience and expertise of communities most impacted by systemic injustice. Friendship House is a grant partner of ours, and as an Indigenous-led organization, they are best suited to advance this effort to create safe housing and long-term economic security for a historically marginalized and critically underserved community.

In 2020 Friendship House launched its third community development project, The Village SF, which will be a new six-floor building next to Friendship House serving San Francisco's 9,000+ American Indians and Alaska Natives. The Village SF will offer medical, dental, behavioral, youth and elder services. Programs will include interim supportive housing, workforce development, urban farming and nutrition. United States policy has displaced many Native peoples from their homes, in part due to forced relocation programs. Organizations like Friendship House are leading the way in helping Native peoples in our cities reconnect with their culture, while also providing critical services.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Surina Khan, President and CEO  
Women’s Foundation California
March 10, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Skinner  
Chair, Senate Budget Committee  
State Capitol, CA

The Honorable Phil Ting  
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
State Capitol, CA

The Dolores Huerta Foundation (DHF) is pleased to support the 2022 Budget request for “The Village SF”, submitted by the Friendship House Association of American Indians in San Francisco.

The mission of DHF is to educate, motivate and inspire people to organize sustainable communities to attain social justice. With an emphasis on low income, immigrants, women and youth, DHF has an established history of advancing community based solutions, empowering community members to take lead in developing neighborhood improvements and long term and lasting change.

DHF has a long standing relationship with Peter Bratt and the Village. We are confident that they will be effective in their programming and project management.

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The Village SF will provide an excellent catalyst for the overall revitalization plan for urban American Indians and Alaska Natives who live in the San Francisco Bay Area, and will result in a vibrant and thriving community. I am in full support of this bold and culturally driven vision and proposal, and we hope that you and your colleagues advocate for the California

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dolores Huerta
President

Camila Chavez
Executive Director
March 7, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Budget Committee
1020 N Street, Room 502
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Phil Ting
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Friendship House Association of American Indians in San Francisco - The Village SF project - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Skinner and Assemblymember Ting,

I am pleased to support the 2022 Budget request for “The Village SF,” submitted by the Friendship House Association of American Indians in San Francisco.

The Office of Kat Taylor (OKT) engages in policy research, legislative advocacy, public-private partnerships, and communications campaigns to advance social, economic, racial, gender justice, and environmental well-being for an equitable and inclusive world. We are active in a variety of social enterprises and philanthropic ventures focused on deep systems change. In the last three years, OKT has been an integral partner and ally in securing budget and legislative wins, including standing up the Department of Financial Protection and Innovation (DFPI), passing School Meals for All, funding for Healthy Soils, the Farm to School Program, Emergency School Food Debt Relief, and Broadband for All.

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I am honored to support the vision of the Friendship House Association of American Indians in San Francisco to develop the Village. To help create the conditions for the success of this important project,
OKT facilitated a $100,000 grant outright to Friendship House in 2021 to further increase its capacity to develop the project, but additional investments are critical to bringing this project to fruition.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Kat Taylor
Principal
Office of Kat Taylor
March 7, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Budget Committee
State Capitol, CA

The Honorable Phil Ting
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol, CA

I am pleased to support the 2022 Budget request for “The Village SF”, submitted by the Friendship House Association of American Indians in San Francisco.

As President of Neighborhood Funders Group and a long-time supporter of Friendship House, I am pleased to add my voice to chorus of support for “The Village SF”. The vision of the “The Village SF” is one that I am thrilled by to meet the needs of Native peoples in the Bay Area and ensure Native communities are thriving.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Adriana Rocha
Mar 7, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Skinner  
Chair, Senate Budget Committee  
State Capitol, CA

The Honorable Phil Ting  
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
State Capitol, CA

I am pleased to support the 2022 Budget request for “The Village SF”, submitted by the Friendship House Association of American Indians in San Francisco.

We are financial supporters of The Village SF project and are passionate about helping bring this vision to life.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chad and Tenah Dyer  
667 Mangels Ave SF 94127