



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Karen
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
Whitsett
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:
Blight Busters
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
18220 Lahser Rd, Detroit, MI 48219
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:
Laurie Pohutsky 17th District
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. Detroit Blight Busters (DBB) is leading an exciting transformation in Old Redford—the development of the Sunflower Arts Center, a dynamic mixed-use arts facility that will breathe new life into the historic Woolworth building, vacant for over 30 years. This \$7.4 million project builds on DBB's success in creating vibrant community spaces, including the Artist Village, Java House, and Orchard Village Apartments. The Sunflower Arts Center will feature a 3,000-square-foot event space, affordable work/live artist studios, classroom for local youth, retail spaces for small businesses, and

a community diner. This initiative aligns with the city's Blight to Beauty movement, turning neglected spaces into hubs of creativity and economic growth.

We have secured \$1.16 million in funding but need further funding to bring this vision to life. Your support will help create a lasting impact on Detroit's cultural and economic future.

Attached is the full proposal, including budget details, project timeline, and development plans for your review.

9. Attach documents here if needed:

N/A

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

3,500,000

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.'

John J George, Alfred Manfroni, Kevin Johnson, Albert E Mack, Tynisha Marion, Anne Marie Sleiman, Charles Tucker.

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 2025-September 2026.

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

Yes