



Clatsop County

Board of Commissioners

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February 22, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

The Clatsop County Board of Commissioners is writing this letter to express the County's support for the grant application submitted by Consejo Hispano to purchase a building to utilize as their office space as well as a community cultural center.

Consejo Hispano is a reputable and effective organization that works to promote economic empowerment, community self-determination, and cultural appreciation for Latinx in Oregon's North Coast and the County values their contributions to our Latinx community.

Our Board recognizes the positive impact that Consejo Hispano has made on the lives of many Latinx on Oregon's North Coast in various ways such as improving their education, health, income, and civic participation; as well as preserve and celebrate their culture and heritage. Consejo Hispano has earned the trust and respect of the Latinx community and the broader society. They provide high-quality programs and services to the Latinx community, such as their summer enrichment program, digital and financial literacy workshops and classes, emergency preparedness education, cultural celebrations, crisis information and referrals, COVID vaccination outreach, education and clinics, and so much more.

We also recognize that Consejo Hispano faces many challenges and limitations due to their current property situation. They currently rent a small and inadequate space that does not meet their needs. While they are not currently paying high rent and other occupancy costs, due to a variety of reasons such as limited space availability, the rental market, inflation and gentrification - they will be paying a minimum 147.8% increase in the cost of rent starting May of 2024, reducing their resources for programs and services.

This is why the Board of County Commissioners fully support their proposal to buy a building for their office and community cultural center. which will enable them to:

- Stabilize and minimize occupancy costs, freeing up more resources for programs and services
- Increase their visibility and branding, which will attract more clients, donors, and partners
- Collaborate and share space with other non-profits or community groups, which will foster synergy, innovation, and mutual support
- Access tax benefits and low-interest loans, which will reduce the financial burden of ownership and increase their equity and assets
- Have more control and flexibility over their physical environment, which will improve their operational efficiency and effectiveness
- Demonstrate their commitment and investment in the community they serve, which will strengthen their relationship with the local community and increase their social capital

We urge you to approve their funding request and provide them with the financial support they need to buy this building. We are confident that this investment will yield significant returns for them, for the Latinx community, and for the society at large.

Sincerely,



Mark Kujala, Chair

Clatsop County Board of Commissioners