

Submitter: Andrea Gonzalez
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital Construction
Measure, Appointment or SB5701
Topic:

Capital Construction Co-Chairs Girod and Nosse,

I am writing to formally express my support for Casa Mariposa and to respectfully request the subcommittee's consideration of funding to assist Consejo Hispano and the Astoria community in the purchase and repurposing of a former church. This project represents an important opportunity to stabilize and strengthen essential community services on the North Coast.

I am a lifelong resident of Astoria and have observed the work of Consejo Hispano over many years. My family and I have directly benefited from their programs and services, including cultural events, youth programming, emergency preparedness and tax preparation assistance. These services have had a meaningful and lasting impact on our community.

While Consejo Hispano became a nonprofit organization in 2005, its founding members have been serving the Spanish-speaking community since 1992. Born the same year, I feel a personal connection to the organization, as we have grown alongside one another. Over the years, I have witnessed Consejo Hispano's steady growth, professionalism, and continued commitment to meeting the evolving needs of the community it serves.

As a Latina living on the North Coast and now as a parent, access to a stable cultural and community hub is critically important. Casa Mariposa would provide that stability—not only for Spanish-speaking residents, but for the broader community as well. In addition to cultural programming, economic empowerment, and youth workforce development – the organization serves as a warming center and offers inclusive events that welcome community members from all backgrounds.

Consejo Hispano is widely respected and trusted in our community, and its services contribute significantly to the well-being and resilience of the region. I strongly believe this project will have long-term positive impacts for Astoria and the greater North Coast, and I urge the subcommittee to support this request.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrea Gonzalez