

Submitter: Melissa Feldman-Adams  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital Construction  
Measure, Appointment or SB5701  
Topic:

As a resident of Astoria, I want to thank you for your work in the legislature toward Consejo Hispano purchasing Casa Mariposa. This is a critical investment for the community, and legislative support would allow Consejo Hispano to stay focused on supporting the community rather than purchasing the building.

My training in social work, and many years as a therapist, reinforce what I hope we all know, on some level. Our social systems and structures have a profound impact on individuals and communities' ability to survive and thrive. Reinforcing the societal structures supporting marginalized communities benefits not just the individuals who receive services there, but the community as a whole, since safe and healthy communities are only possible when we're able to take care of each other and keep each other safe and healthy. Having a permanent home for Consejo Hispano, especially during this time of targeted abductions of our Latinx residents, would send a message that somebody's listening and cares. And more tangibly, it would provide ongoing safer refuge for participants who need it more than ever, while decreasing stressors for a currently overtaxed staff, who are working tirelessly to meet a demand for services that has gone through the roof.

Please consider how much good this funding could do in our community and how much it would mean to our most vulnerable residents when you make your decision.

Thank you for your time and your support.