

July 27, 2018

NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
2018 Environmental Protection Fund Grant Program
For Parks, Preservation & Heritage
New York City Region
163 West 125th Street, 17th Floor
New York, NY 10027

Re: Letter in Support of Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden
Application Number 82592

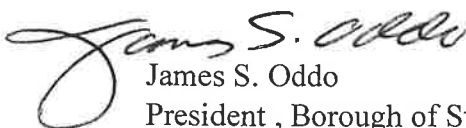
To whom it may concern;

I am writing to offer my strong endorsement of the request submitted to the Environmental Protection Fund Grant Program for Parks, Preservation & Heritage by Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden for Wayfinding and Site Navigation Signage.

Snug Harbor is one of our cultural anchors, and houses Staten Island's only botanical garden. It is truly a unique asset not only to Staten Islanders, but to all New Yorkers. It recognizes our pivotal role in the maritime history of New York City, while providing our community with first-class programming in the arts, life sciences, history and architecture. It is an important partner to Borough Hall as we work with NYC & CO., and other public and private organizations, to increase our appeal as a tourist destination. I am not exaggerating when I call Snug Harbor the island's crown jewel: any proposals for tourism necessarily include Snug Harbor.

However, those visitors who find their way to Snug Harbor become frustrated and lost. Despite its designation as a New York State Heritage Area, its beauty, its diversity, and its programming are ill-served by outdated, incorrect wayfinding and site navigation signage. Snug Harbor would greatly benefit from a significant investment from New York State to enhance the visitor experience and therefore encourage repeat visits from New Yorkers, attract and accommodate tourists and boost the economy on our North Shore. I support this application wholeheartedly and hope it will be funded in full.

Sincerely,


James S. Oddo
President, Borough of Staten Island

