

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 9, 2023

The Honorable Eric Adams
Mayor of New York City
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Adams:

We are writing to share our support for the legislation H.R.1349 and S.527 which would establish a world-class museum and education center dedicated to the African American experience at the site of the African Burial Ground (ABG) behind City Hall in New York City. This site holds the remains of an estimated 15,000 free and enslaved Africans and early-generation African Americans from the colonial era and stands as a sobering reminder of the Black Americans who built New York and America. The new museum and education center would be a sister facility to the National Museum of African American History and Culture on the Mall in Washington, D.C.

First introduced in 2005 by Senators Clinton and Schumer, and Reps. Nadler, Rangel, and Meeks, the call to establish the African Burial Ground Museum has largely gone unheard. We are now writing this letter to echo previous letters from the New York City Congressional delegation to Mayors Bloomberg and de Blasio requesting that the City partner with us in making this dream of so many a reality. Under Mayor Dinkins in 1989, the City entered a similar partnership with the federal government and private sector to establish the National Museum of the American Indian at Battery Park. We hold similar hope that the ABG museum facility, as envisioned, will become a "national treasure and an international tourist destination" -- one that will produce a range of major economic and other dividends for the City.

We strongly urge the City to continue to plan to use the building at 22 Reade Street, which is located in the ABG National Historic Landmark and City Historic District, for this project. The building was vacated by the City Planning Department in 2015 and has been held, through intervention by the City Council, in consideration for the ABG museum and education center. With your support and our pending federal legislation, we can ensure that the critically important history and experiences of Africans and African Americans in early New York are shared with the world.

We stand ready to continue to work with you and your staff on this important and long-overdue project.

Sincerely,



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



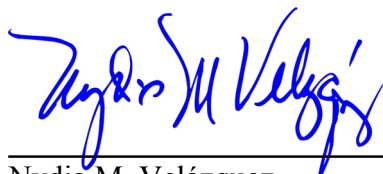
Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress




Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress

Cc: Sheena Wright, First Deputy Mayor