

Dear Members of the Zoning Commission:

I am writing to express my support for the proposed hotel development in Anacostia.

The Anacostia Arts Center is an arts, entrepreneurship, and community hub serving residents, entrepreneurs, artists, and visitors east of the Anacostia River. As we prepare to reopen in February 2027 following our renovation, we are focused not only on creating a vibrant destination within the Arts Center, but also on contributing to the continued transformation of Anacostia into a place where people want to live, work, visit, gather, and invest.

We believe the proposed hotel can play an important role in that effort by:

- **Creating jobs and economic opportunity**, both during construction and through the hotel's long-term operations, while creating opportunities for local hiring and partnerships with Ward 7 and Ward 8 businesses.
- **Bringing new visitors and tourism dollars to Anacostia**, creating additional customers for local restaurants, retailers, cultural institutions, artists, and small businesses.
- **Supporting the growth of hospitality and event activity in the neighborhood.** The Anacostia Arts Center is actively developing its event rental business, and having quality lodging nearby will make the Center and other neighborhood venues more attractive for weddings, conferences, celebrations, cultural events, and other gatherings that bring people into the community.
- **Increasing foot traffic and extending visitor stays**, helping to create the conditions for more sustained economic activity rather than visitors simply passing through the neighborhood.
- **Changing perceptions of Anacostia as a destination.** Continued investment in high-quality hospitality, arts, culture, retail, and public spaces can help establish a new narrative for Anacostia—one centered on creativity, entrepreneurship, culture, and opportunity.

We see this project as part of a larger opportunity to build an interconnected visitor and economic ecosystem in Anacostia. The Arts Center, local businesses, cultural organizations, restaurants, entertainment venues, and hospitality businesses can reinforce one another by giving residents and visitors more reasons to spend time and money in the community.

As the Anacostia Arts Center enters its next chapter, we are particularly interested in partnerships that connect visitors to the broader neighborhood and ensure that new investment creates meaningful opportunities for existing businesses and entrepreneurs. A hotel can be an important part of that ecosystem by helping bring new customers, visitors, events, and economic activity to Anacostia.

We support investments that create jobs, attract visitors, strengthen local businesses, and help establish Anacostia as a vibrant destination for arts, culture, entrepreneurship, and hospitality. We believe the proposed hotel is aligned with these goals and represents an important investment in the continued economic and cultural growth of the community.

We respectfully encourage the Zoning Commission to approve the proposed development.

Sincerely,

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Executive Director

Anacostia Arts Center

Washington Area Community Investment Fund (WACIF)