

To: Mrs. Chohlis, Superintendent
UCISD Board of Trustees
Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District

Dear Mrs. Chohlis and Esteemed Board Members,
I hope this message finds you well and grounded in the continued strength and resilience of our community.

On behalf of the Empowerment of Community and Action Foundation, Inc. (ECAF), I am writing to respectfully request a letter of support from UCISD for the proposed Multi-Service Community Center we hope to build in Uvalde. This center is envisioned as a space of dignity, healing, and opportunity, serving families, students, and neighbors through wraparound services, educational programming, and cultural connection.

ECAF was founded to honor legacy through action. We believe in experiential education, grassroots collaboration, and the power of storytelling to preserve identity and uplift community. The proposed center reflects these values, offering a place where lived experience meets opportunity, and where every child and family feels seen, supported, and empowered.

The center is proposed for construction on the grounds of Robb Elementary, with the intention of transforming a place marked by tragedy into a beacon of hope and renewal. Services will include counseling and mental health support, youth mentorship, family resource navigation, creative arts programming, and space for intergenerational learning. We envision a welcoming environment where UCISD students and families can access support, celebrate culture, and build community.

We are honored to have Craig Dykers as our lead architect. Mr. Dykers is a founding partner of Snøhetta, an internationally acclaimed architecture firm known for designing spaces that foster healing, reflection, and human connection. His portfolio includes the National September 11 Memorial Museum Pavilion in New York City, the Norwegian National Opera and Ballet in Oslo, and the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Egypt. Craig's work is rooted in empathy and environmental stewardship, and his designs have helped communities around the world reclaim space with dignity and purpose. His involvement in this project is not only a gift to Uvalde, but a signal to the world that our story matters.

This will not be a conventional building with square walls and divided rooms. The design will be unlike anything in this part of the country, organic, intentional, and deeply symbolic. It will invite movement, reflection, and connection. It will be a monument to resilience and a living space for generations to come. We are building not just for today's needs, but for tomorrow's healing.

We want to be clear: this request is not about exclusivity. If other foundations or community groups bring forward similar proposals rooted in service and belonging, we trust and expect that you will extend your support to them as well. Our hope is simply that, should we be honored with the opportunity to lead this effort, UCISD will be included in our acknowledgments and ongoing collaboration. The district's voice and presence are vital to the integrity and impact of this project.

We are grateful to share that Southwest Texas Junior College, the Uvalde City Council, and the Uvalde County Commissioners have already expressed their support. We are also engaging the Chamber of Commerce and other local institutions to build a coalition that reflects the full breadth of our community's commitment to healing and renewal.

Proposal Summary:

- Location: Robb Elementary site grounds
- Purpose: Healing-centered, multi-generational space offering educational, emotional, and cultural support
- Services: Counseling, mentorship, arts programming, family resource navigation, community events
- Partners: ECAF, Craig Dykers/Snøhetta, Southwest Texas Junior College, City Council, County Commissioners, and others
- Vision: To transform grief into growth, and legacy into action, building a space that belongs to all of Uvalde, now and for generations to come

We believe this center can be a living tribute to the strength of Uvalde, a place where legacy meets action, and where hope is built into the very architecture of our future. Your support would mean a great deal to us and to those we serve.

With respect and gratitude,

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