Project Organization Information	
8. Project Organization's Name	The Allapattah Collaborative CDC
9. Project Organization's Phone Number	
10. Project Organization's Address	
11. Address of Historic Site (If applying to Capital Projects category)	
12. Please provide the identifying label that best describes your organization and who you serve	Latino
13. What is the racial/ethnic makeup of your board and staff?	ACDC's board and staff reflect the community we serve. Our staff is 90% Latino, with 100% bilingual English-Spanish fluency. Our 9-member Board of Directors is 78% Latino, 11% Black, and 11% White. Nearly every staff and board member has personal or familial ties to Allapattah. Our cultural preservation work is rooted in lived experience and community connection.
14. What is the racial/ethnic makeup of the community you serve?	Allapattah's 52,218 residents are 80% Hispanic (predominantly Dominican diaspora, with significant representation from other Caribbean and Latin American communities), 18% Black, and 2% other racial/ethnic groups. Approximately 75% of residents are foreign-born, and 80% are low-to-moderate income, with a median household income of $30,634. The neighborhood is home to Miami's "Little Santo Domingo" commercial corridor — a vibrant hub of Dominican culture and entrepreneurship built by generations of immigrant families. This data comes from U.S. Census Bureau and our own community surveys conducted in partnership with Florida International University.
15. What year was your organization founded?	2019
16. Provide a brief history of your	**Origin Story** Allapattah is one of Miami’s oldest and culturally richest neighborhoods,

organization.

and a low-income mostly-Dominican community at risk of displacement and erasure due to rapidly-accelerating gentrification pressures. Allapattah's cultural and economic backbone is its Little Santo Domingo small business corridor, built up by generations of enterprising diaspora. In 2019, The City of Miami designated it as one of the city's "distressed neighborhoods that are in most need of assistance," and in 2023, it was named one of the 11 Most Endangered Places by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The Allapattah Collaborative CDC (ACDC) is an outgrowth of a 2017 Equitable Development Action Plan, organized and developed by a group of Allapattah residents and small-business owners in response to skyrocketing rents, displacement pressures, and erasure of cultural identity. ACDC implements place-making techniques to foster identity, support generational wealth-building, and advocate for comprehensive, sustainable community development amid a real estate market. As the product of a grassroots Development Action Plan developed in 2018 by Allapattah residents, leaders and business owners, ACDC has emerged as the leading force for keeping the neighborhood in place and its cultural identity preserved.

Mission Statement

The Allapattah Collaborative CDC's mission is to build an Allapattah economy that works for everyone while preserving the neighborhood's unique cultural heritage. We envision a vibrant Allapattah where every individual, family, and business thrives and where our Latino cultural legacy is embraced, celebrated, and preserved for generations.

Key Areas of Focus

ACDC operates at the intersection of economic development and cultural preservation, recognizing these as inseparable. Our work spans small business technical assistance and capital access, affordable commercial real estate development, cultural programming and heritage preservation, civic engagement and community organizing, and place-based storytelling and public history projects.

Significant Achievements

Since 2019, ACDC has emerged as a national model for how Latino heritage preservation and equitable economic development can work together:

Heritage Preservation & National Recognition:

- **Main Street America Designation (2020)**: First and only Main Street community in Miami, formalizing cultural and economic preservation strategies
- **National Trust for Historic Preservation Designation (2023)**: Secured Little Santo Domingo's naming as one of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's 11 Most Endangered Places in America
- **National Register Nomination**: Recently secured $50,000 in state funding to pursue National Register of Historic Places designation for Little Santo Domingo commercial corridor, building on previous

	investments in related community surveys and registry preparation. • **Smithsonian Partnership (2025-2026)**: Selected as 1 of only 10 communities nationwide to participate in the Smithsonian's "Many Voices, One Nation" traveling exhibition celebrating America's 250th anniversary, bringing Allapattah's Dominican diaspora story into the national narrative • **Stories of Allapattah Documentary (2023-2024)**: Florida Humanities-funded oral history project preserving the voices of neighborhood elders, longtime business owners, and cultural leaders, now archived at HistoryMiami Museum, FIU, and University of Miami • **Festival del Plátano (Annual)**: Community-wide celebration of Dominican culture drawing 300+ families to Allapattah's Juan Pablo Duarte Park annually *Economic Development Impact:* • Over $6 million in capital secured for 300+ Latino-owned microbusinesses • 350+ jobs created or saved in Allapattah small businesses • 7,500+ hours of bilingual technical assistance delivered *Community Organizing & Civic Power:* • Led successful advocacy to secure Miami-Dade County and City of Miami investments in Allapattah • Reached 1,500+ residents through annual community events in 2025 **Leadership and Structure** Our board includes small business owners, educators, nonprofit leaders, and longtime residents who bring both community credibility and professional expertise. Day-to-day operations are led by Founding CEO Mileyka Burgos-Flores, a Dominican-American community organizer with deep roots in Allapattah. Our 7-person staff includes bilingual specialists in small business development, cultural programming, and community organizing — all committed to a model where heritage preservation and economic empowerment are mutually reinforcing.
17. Has your organization received grant funding, from any source, for this or any other project?	Yes
18. Did your organization apply to Cycle 1 of the Nuestra Herencia Grant Program?	No
19. What is your organization's yearly operating budget?	1500000

20. How many paid staff members does your organization employ?	7
21. How many unpaid volunteers or interns does your organization have?	20
22. Please describe volunteer involvement in your organization.	ACDC maintains an active volunteer program that engages community members in both skills-based support and cultural programming. Volunteers assist with our annual Festival del Plátano and other cultural events, providing event logistics, translation services, and community outreach. We also welcome skills-based volunteers who offer financial literacy workshops, small business coaching, grant writing support, and oral history documentation for our heritage preservation projects. During our Smithsonian exhibition development, volunteers helped collect stories, photographs, and artifacts from community members.
Project Proposal	Answers to all questions can be provided in descriptive bullet points or in narrative/paragraph form.
23. Name of Project	Building Capacity for Cultural Preservation: Strengthening ACDC's Organizational Infrastructure to Sustain Latino Heritage in Allapattah
24. Brief Project Summary (3-5 Sentences)	The Allapattah Collaborative CDC requests $25,000 to strengthen the organizational infrastructure required to sustain our cultural preservation and community development work in Miami's Little Santo Domingo. ACDC has rapidly scaled heritage preservation programming, but our internal systems have not kept pace. This grant will fund critical capacity improvements: implementing data systems to track community needs and project outcomes, providing professional development for staff managing complex projects, strengthening board governance, and creating sustainable operational processes.
25. Project Category	Building Organizational Strength
26. Funding Amount Requested	25000
27. Detailed Project Description	This project will strengthen ACDC's organizational infrastructure to sustain and scale our heritage preservation work in Allapattah. ACDC has rapidly expanded from a small business technical assistance provider into a nationally recognized leader in cultural preservation. We now manage complex, multi-year cultural preservation initiatives. These projects require sophisticated project management, rigorous documentation, cross-institutional coordination, and long-term stewardship — capabilities that exceed our current organizational systems. While our passion and community trust have carried us this far, we now need professional infrastructure to match the scale and significance of our work. This grant will help fund three critical capacity-building initiatives:

1. Fortifying Foundational Operations:
ACDC will invest in systems that make our work more data-driven and replicable. Under our new Director of Impact, we will overhaul program evaluation frameworks, streamline data collection, and standardize internal processes for impact reporting. This includes upgrading our CRM, establishing a KPI dashboard, and ensuring every staff member is trained in data literacy and outcome tracking, plus salary support for our Director of Impact and Chief Asset Preservation Officer, two roles central to evaluation, data integrity, and long-term project stewardship.

2. Cultivating a Dynamic Workforce:
We will deepen professional development across the organization — allocating $2,000 per staff member annually for targeted skill-building and providing specialized board trainings in nonprofit governance, fundraising, and asset management. This will strengthen our leadership pipeline, prepare us for managing capital projects, and improve retention and morale within our growing team.

3. Scaling Impact and Access:

By fortifying operations and staff capacity, ACDC will position itself to scale our proven cultural preservation programs. Stronger systems will enable us to better capture program outcomes, and our enhanced board and staff capacity will unlock the partnerships and funding needed to sustain and expand these programs.

Why is this site or project important to Latinx history and/or community?

Allapattah and its Little Santo Domingo commercial corridor are among the most significant concentrations of Dominican diaspora culture in the United States. The neighborhood's story embodies core themes of Latino heritage: migration and resilience, place-making in the face of displacement, cultural fusion and preservation, economic empowerment through entrepreneurship, and contributions to American identity.

Little Santo Domingo was literally built from ashes. The 1980 McDuffie Riots devastated Allapattah's commercial corridor. African-American communities that had thrived in the neighborhood through the 1960s and 70s were violently displaced. Businesses were destroyed, to the point that the corridor was considered uninvestible. Into this devastation came a wave of Dominican immigrants who had escaped political and economic turmoil in their homeland. These families saw opportunity.

Through sheer determination, sweat equity, and collective cultural memory, Dominican immigrants rebuilt the commercial corridor. They opened restaurants and beauty salons and barbershops that became community gathering spaces where cultural traditions were maintained. They created churches, sports leagues, and social clubs that preserved Dominican identity while fully participating in American civic life.

For over 40 years, Little Santo Domingo has served as the economic and cultural heart of Miami's Dominican community. The corridor preserves not

just businesses, but language, foodways, music, religious traditions, social networks, and collective memory that connect generations of diaspora to their roots. Allapattah is living heritage.

How does this project help preserve, share, or honor Latinx history?

Our work preserves not just cultural buildings and businesses, but the stories, traditions, and community bonds that make Allapattah a vital part of America's Latino heritage and the American story itself. Strengthening ACDC's organizational capacity directly enables heritage preservation in three interconnected ways:

1) Our National Register nomination process requires rigorous documentation — architectural surveys, historical research, community engagement — that will permanently establish Little Santo Domingo's significance. Organizational capacity ensures we complete this work to National Register standards.

2) Many of our elders are aging, and without urgent action, their oral histories will disappear. At the same time, heritage preserved but not shared serves little purpose. Professional development equips our team to facilitate high-quality cultural experiences that make Allapattah's story accessible to broad audiences. Our collaborations with FIU and University of Miami position Allapattah as a living laboratory for understanding migration, cultural preservation, and community resilience, but these partnerships require organizational capacity to manage. Training ensures we navigate academic partnerships while protecting community interests.*Honoring Through Long-Term Institutional Stewardship:*

3) The ultimate goal of heritage preservation is permanence — ensuring that cultural knowledge, spaces, and traditions survive for future generations. This requires building ACDC into an institutional steward with thecapacity to preserve heritage across decades. As we pursue National Register designation, develop heritage sites, manage cultural collections, and establish permanent community archives, we must have expertise to steward these assets responsibly and navigate complex decisions about access, interpretation, and community benefit.

How does this project represent creativity or innovation for your organization?

When Latino heritage does get preserved, it often happens through outside organizations rather than the community itself. This model perpetuates inequity: our stories get told, but not by us; our heritage gets preserved, but not in our control; our knowledge gets archived, but not in our institutions.

ACDC demonstrates a different model: grassroots, community-led preservation driven by the people whose heritage is at stake. Our board and staff are from Allapattah, many are Dominican diaspora, all are accountable to the neighborhood. We don't extract stories for outside institutions—we build community capacity to steward our own heritage. We don't interpret culture from outside perspectives—we center the voices and values of those who lived it.

But this community-led approach only works with organizational capacity. Professional institutions expect professional standards: archival protocols, MOUs for partnerships, compliance with historic preservation regulations. Without thecapacity to meet these standards, we risk losing opportunities or executing work that doesn't preserve heritage adequately.

Most community development corporations focus narrowly on affordable housing or small business support. Most heritage organizations focus narrowly on preservation and interpretation. ACDC innovates by recognizing these as inseparable—you cannot preserve Latino cultural corridors without economic strategies that prevent displacement, and you cannot achieve equitable development without honoring and leveraging cultural assets. Our capacity building strengthens both sides of this equation.

This project's innovation lies in bridging that gap — building a community-based organization that can operate at the level of sophisticated cultural institutions while remaining 100% accountable to the neighborhood.

For ACDC, this project represents innovation in our organizational evolution. We're transitioning from a responsive service provider into a proactive institutional steward capable of driving systemic change. This evolution requires different capacities, and this project helps catalyze that transition.

What will the specific products and outcomes be for this project?

1. Organizational Capacity and Sustainability

- Completion of capacity audit with documented improvements in human capital and data integration.
- All staff trained in project management and data literacy; all Board members trained in asset governance.
- Implementation of CRM and impact dashboard fully adopted across departments.

2. Programmatic Efficiency and Scale

- Demonstrable improvement in historical preservation and client outcomes.
- 100% of entrepreneurship program participants tracked through new systems, with at least 300 small businesses supported during the grant term.

3. Community-Level Outcomes

- At least 150 residents engaged through community planning sessions contributing to design and governance of upcoming projects.
- Small businesses have more access to procurement opportunities with anchor institutions and are compliant, profitable, sustainable, and scalable.
- Measurable reduction in small-business displacement along the 17th Avenue corridor.
- Documented increase in small-business confidence and connection to

local resources as measured by participant surveys.

Ultimately, these products and outcomes position ACDC to evolve from a project-based organization into a lasting heritage institution—professionally operated, community-governed, and capable of stewarding Allapattah's Latino cultural legacy for generations.

28. Please describe your Project Team. Does the project team have the appropriate expertise, experience, and skills for this project?

Mileyka Burgos-Flores, Founding CEO

Mileyka is a Dominican-American activist and Founding CEO of The Allapattah Collaborative CDC. A highly experienced communicator and community organizer, she was recognized with the Mary Means Leadership Award by Main Street America in 2024 for her unshakable vision and tenacious dedication to pursuing equity, championing community preservation, and fostering collaborative action in Miami's historic Little Santo Domingo neighborhood. Under her leadership, ACDC has grown from a grassroots advocacy group to a nationally recognized heritage preservation organization. Mileyka will provide overall project oversight and strategic direction for all capacity-building initiatives, ensuring they align with community priorities and organizational mission while facilitating additional funding for the project.

Santander Arguelles, Chief Community Asset & Preservation Officer

Santander has a wealth of experience in loan origination and banking and has been instrumental in securing over $5 million in loans and grants for small businesses in the Allapattah commercial corridor. He completed the NALCAB Pete Garcia Community Economic Development Fellowship in 2024 and currently leads ACDC's commercial real estate acquisition and development efforts, helping business owners transition from renters to property owners—preventing displacement and building generational wealth. Santander possesses the cultural and generational competency essential to working with immigrant entrepreneurs and understands the intersection of economic development and heritage preservation. For this capacity-building project, he will participate in professional development focused on historic preservation compliance and real estate stewardship for cultural assets, particularly as ACDC pursues National Register designation for Little Santo Domingo properties. His role is critical as we build organizational capacity to help legacy businesses acquire and preserve their storefronts as both economic and cultural assets.

Meysa Arguelles, Director of Impact

Meysa has over five years of experience in business consulting and a master's degree in management science. She combines analytical expertise with strategic insights to drive business growth, operational efficiency, and leadership development. For this capacity-building project, Meysa will design and implement the heritage preservation outcomes tracking system, creating dashboards that connect small business sustainability metrics to cultural preservation outcomes, providing evidence for the value of investing in culturally significant commercial corridors.

29. What is the project timeline and anticipated completion date?

June - August 2026:

- Complete organization-wide capacity audit and redesign internal workflows to align programs, finance, and data collection
- Onboard governance consultant to oversee board training focused on strategic governance, asset management, and capital campaign readiness
- Select and implement CRM platform integrating grant management, client services, and impact measurement
- Develop individualized professional development plans for each staff member, focusing on project management, financial analysis, and partnership building
- Establish baseline metrics for organizational capacity

September - November 2026: Integrating, Implementing, and Training

- Launch CRM and begin full integration of impact dashboard across programs
- Conduct first Board retreat focused on strategic governance, asset management, and capital campaign readiness
- Begin quarterly team trainings on performance measurement
- Allocate $2,000 per staff member for targeted skill-building in areas identified in professional development plans
- Engage Staff Success Coach for hands-on training to streamline and optimize staff performance

December 2026 - February 2027: Deepening Integration and Capacity

- Conduct second Board retreat focused on nonprofit governance, fundraising, and asset management
- Continue quarterly team trainings on data literacy and outcome tracking
- Continue professional development activities per individual staff plans

March - May 2027: Full Integration and Knowledge Sharing

- Fully integrate impact dashboard across programs, enabling real-time reporting for funders, partners, and the community
- Continue professional development and mentorship exchanges with peer organizations through SBAN, Main Street America, and NALCAB networks
- Complete final evaluation documenting improvements in human capital, data integration, and organizational sustainability

30. How will this funding support your organization's short-term and long-term (2-10 years) goals?	**Short-Term Goals (1-2 years):** This capacity building will immediately strengthen ACDC's ability to execute our current heritage preservation portfolio. In the short term, we will be better equipped to manage the Smithsonian "Many Voices, One Nation" exhibition opening at HistoryMiami in April 2026 and moving to Allapattah in July 2026, complete the National Register of Historic Places nomination for Little Santo Domingo with rigorous community engagement and documentation, and secure additional heritage preservation funding. Stronger systems also mean we can measure and communicate our impact more effectively, showing funders, partners, and policymakers how cultural preservation strengthens communities economically and socially. **Long-Term Goals (2-10 years):** Over the long term, this investment positions ACDC to become a better, more sustainable steward of Latino heritage in Miami. We envision expanding our role from program provider to institution builder — operating a permanent cultural center in Allapattah that houses exhibits, archives, and community gathering spaces, serving as a regional hub for Dominican diaspora heritage and history, managing National Register-listed historic properties, sharing Allapattah's story on the national scale, and advocating for policies that protect Latino cultural corridors from displacement nationwide.
31. Describe why grant funding is critical for the success of this project	Grant funding is critical because heritage preservation in under-resourced Latino communities cannot rely on traditional revenue streams. Unlike museums or historical societies with endowments, membership dues, or government operating support, ACDC is a grassroots organization serving a low-income immigrant community. Our constituents overwhelmingly do not have wealth to donate. The very displacement pressures we fight against make fee-based programming impossible. Philanthropic support is the only way we can build the organizational infrastructure required for long-term heritage stewardship. LHC funding would help us to professionalize our approach: implementing systems that meet archival standards, training staff in museum-quality methods, and equipping our board to steward assets for generations. This investment also has multiplier effects. Stronger organizational capacity makes us more competitive for future grants and catalyzes our ability to secure future support.

32. How does this project relate to LHC's mission to build a movement that affirms Latinx heritage through education, conservation, and leadership development?	This project directly advances LHC's mission across all three pillars: **Education:** Our Smithsonian partnership, museum exhibitions, oral history projects, and cultural festivals educate thousands about Allapattah's Dominican diaspora — but only if we have the systems and skills to execute them well. This grant ensures our programming meets professional standards and reaches broader audiences. **Conservation:** This project is fundamentally about conservation — building the infrastructure to preserve Little Santo Domingo's cultural heritage before it's lost to displacement. Better data systems mean we systematically document residents' lived experiences and needs. Professional development ensures we meet archival standards when collecting community knowledge. Board training prepares us to steward National Register-listed properties and cultural assets in perpetuity. **Leadership Development:** By investing in ACDC's Latino staff and board, LHC develops the next generation of heritage preservation leaders. Our team is learning to operate at the level of major cultural institutions while remaining accountable to grassroots constituents This project affirms a core principle: heritage preservation must be community-led. ACDC represents heritage preservation by and for the community, and is building organizational strength to sustain it across generations. That's the movement LHC seeks to build, and this grant is a direct investment in making it real.
Support Materials	Do not upload answers to application questions here. You must answer those questions in the space provided. Support materials should demonstrate the feasibility and appropriateness of the project. Please attach files that fit all requirements listed below. You can include additional documentation, such as the options provided, if you feel that they speak to the attainability of your goals. Additional documentation may be requested by LHC staff. Please note: all uploaded files should be saved with a file name that clearly identifies the document, e.g., Jane Smith Resume; ABC Org Consulting Proposal; View of property from Route 123. Required for all categories: Most recent Form W9 Project Budget Request for Proposals (RFPs) for relevant contractors/consultants, if part of the project Photographs that showcase the area in which your project will happen. Can be photographs of historic structures, community events, past exhibits, etc. (No more than ten) Optional: Proposals from relevant contractors/consultants Strategic Plan Architectural designs Architectural vision boards PowerPoint Presentations Letters of Support
Project Budget	[redacted].pdf
Form W9	[redacted]

Request for Proposals (RFPs) for relevant contractors/consultants, if part of the project

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Photographs that showcase the area in which your project will happen.

allapattah-miami-1_1.jpg

Allapattah_36th_St_Image.png

Optional Uploads

LittleSantoDomingoSurveyReport-compressed.pdf

2024_TAC_IMPACT_REPORT_1.pdf
