



April 14, 2022

The Honorable Sherrod Brown  
503 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Brown,

Canalway Partners strongly supports the Ukrainian Museum-Archives (UMA) request for Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) to fund a renovation of their annex building to upgrade conservation and storage capabilities for their important and in many cases unique collections. At a time when the Ukrainian people and culture are under such grave threat, the importance of this institution that celebrates heritage is more important than ever.

We at Canalway Partners, working within the context of the Ohio and Erie Canalway National Heritage Area, are dedicated to telling the history of the historic Ohio Canal. The UMA has been an important partner in our mission. Their exhibits and associated events tell the story of 19th Century immigration to Cleveland, Akron, Canton, Youngstown and other communities along the path of the historic canal.

We worked for many years with the UMA on a Festival to close out the week-long, city-wide Cleveland History Days celebration. The two-day UMA “Kupala Fest” attracted more than 2,000 people from all parts of Greater Cleveland to enjoy musical entertainment, food, lectures and exhibits. As opportunities arise, Canalway Partners looks forward to renewing active cooperation with the UMA to celebrate and education about Ukrainian culture.

In the meantime, we know of their dire need for an upgraded facility. This project will not only enhance the appearance of a strategic and highly-visible location across from Lincoln Park, this funding will allow the Museum to better manage their collections and new acquisitions which they subsequently share to a diverse audience, as part of their mission which complements ours.

The Ukrainian Museum-Archives is not just a Ukrainian museum, it’s an American museum and deserves full support to help it serve our broader national objectives.

With full support for this worthy project,

Executive Director, Canalway Partners  
Co-Director, Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area