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May 28, 2026

Board of Governors
Gladys Brooks Foundation
1055 Franklin Avenue, Suite 208
Garden City, New York 11530

To the Board of the Gladys Brooks Foundation,

The Lackawanna Public Library proposes to transform our current office space into a Makerspace which would give our patrons a place to access and learn about advanced software and emerging technologies.

Our Library is one of the only places in our community where adults have free access to digital literacy education. Since the Bethlehem Steel Plant closing in 1995, Lackawanna has been plagued with economic decline. A total of 21.5% of individuals in Lackawanna live below the poverty rate (Source: 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates) and are in dire need of updated technology skills.

Funding will be used towards a remodel of the current office space and main floor entryway to house and provide ADA compliant access to the makerspace, and to relocate the office to an adjacent storage area. We would like also to purchase equipment and starter materials such as a Cricut, a small 3D printer, and specialized software. The full scope of the project would include costs for engineering, design, and construction as well. The total cost of the project is expected to reach the full \$150,000 allowed by the grant.

The Lackawanna Public Library has 501(c)(3) status under the Internal Revenue Code, as a member library of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library system. There is no outside funding available for this project, and the funds from the grant are expected to bring this project through to completion.

The Lackawanna Public Library is an original Carnegie Library, established in 1922, and we have submitted an application to the State and National Registers of Historic Places. The proposed scope of work would be consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards (Standards) and we will work with a Historic Preservation Consultant to ensure compliance with those Standards.

The trustees and staff of the Lackawanna Public Library are enthusiastic about this opportunity and thank you for your consideration,

Danielle Ptak
Library Director