

## ADAMS MORGAN FOR REASONABLE DEVELOPMENT

Adams Morgan "Forget Me Not" Fund  
c/o Primary Participant Circle

September 5, 2017

Dear Board Members,



The "Save Our Plaza" campaign (SOP Campaign) of the Adams Morgan for Reasonable Development group respectfully asks your assistance by way of a grant to support the legal fees to defend the people's Plaza at 18<sup>th</sup> Street and Columbia Road NW.  
**www.saveourplaza.com**

You may know, PN Hoffman wants to tear down the Suntrust bank to build a 70+ foot tall 60+ unit condo/retail building right at the 18<sup>th</sup> and Columbia Road intersection on top of the existing Suntrust Plaza. This plaza was created in the late 70's as a victory by Adams Morgan residents against racist redlining happening in Adams Morgan at the time.

On August 22, 2017, the SOP Campaign, co-defendants with the Kalorama Citizens Association, won a DC Superior Court injunction to stop Sun Trust Bank from building over the open-air Plaza. This means the Plaza cannot be razed while the court reviews our case in full - potentially establishing a public easement in perpetuity and stopping another luxury condo project raising land values and acting as a displacement dynamo right at the heart of the neighborhood.

For the next phase of the trial, costs for expert witnesses, visual exhibits, court clerk and video deposition costs could run over \$25,000. (Fortunately, we have the talented DC trial attorney and longtime Adams Morgan resident, Paul Zukerberg working pro bono!) We are actively working to raise the funds, and are seeking your help by way of **a grant of \$12,500** to support these costs.

The SaveOurPlaza campaign believes that this grant is consistent with the mission of the "Forget Me Not" Fund, to help residents of Adams Morgan who are endangered by the runaway speculation and property values pushing the people, families and culture out of the community. Your financial support of the pending law suit will help us ensure that the present plan for a seven-story luxury condominium on the Plaza space will be jettisoned.

Once the Plaza is secured permanently for the public, your grant will have enabled the expansion of possibilities for neighborhood business owners and residents to lift up our open space in Adams Morgan to safely express our first amendment rights, to use our community band stand for events and entertainment, and an open space for light and air at a very busy central corner of Adams Morgan.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We look forward to your response!

**Vikram Surya Chiruvolu,, Terry Tyborowski**, co-facilitators

Save Our Plaza Campaign