



April 26, 2024

Hon. Joseph Biden
Office of the President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC. 20500

RE: Establishment of the Black Panther Party National Park Service Monument

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing this letter today on behalf of the National Council on Public History to urge you to establish a National Park to recognize the history and contributions of the Black Panther Party, and H.R.5719 recently introduced by Rep. Barbara Lee that calls for the park's establishment.

We are so pleased to have learned that after several years of work, the National Park Service (NPS) authorized and is currently performing its Reconnaissance Survey to assess the suitability of establishing portions of the City of Oakland, Berkeley, Richmond, San Francisco, and other San Francisco Bay Area locations as a unit of the NPS dedicated to Black Panther Party history. We know that this is a key step in determining the feasibility of this proposed park unit, including community support for such a NPS Monument.

The pivotal role the Black Panther Party played in the Black Power Era of American history, with its groundbreaking work to spawn community support programs throughout the country, is a missing hole in the American history continuum being interpreted throughout the nation by the NPS and by other such parks and monuments. We believe it is time to establish such a park unit that will tell the stories of thousands of men, women, and young people who served within the Black Panther Party to carry out their initiatives. And we are hopeful that the result of the NPS Reconnaissance Survey currently being conducted will satisfy the required findings of "historic significance" to establish this first-ever Black Power Era National Park Service Monument.

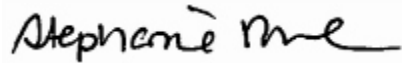
Throughout their existence, the Black Panther Party promoted the idea of "All Power to the People" and took action to bring about positive change in ending oppression. This was a new and compelling message in the mid-sixties. The national significance of the Black Panther Party is clear by the ways in which their ideas swept the nation through the several dozen Black Panther Party offices that took root in cities across the country. They were embraced in other nations as well where numerous Black Panther Party offices were established.

The Black Panther Party's complex and broad history is one that needs to be told and interpreted so that all Americans have the opportunity to learn this history. We know that many Americans take pride in the work of the Black Panther Party. For many people this history is inspiring. Of course, this is a complex history that includes defining examples of cooperation as well as of conflict. The NPS is well-positioned to interpret this history, in all of its complexity.

This NPS Monument will provide the national recognition in a publicly accessible space for citizens and visitors to gain educational awareness about the history of the Black Panther Party as one of the most influential groups in recent history.

Please take all next steps to utilize the results of the Reconnaissance Survey to establish a Black Panther Party National Monument through the Antiquities Act (16. U.S.C. 431-433) in the appropriate locations in Oakland, the San Francisco Bay Area, and beyond.

All Power to the People,



Stephanie Rowe
Executive Director
National Council on Public History

cc: Secretary Deb Haaland, U.S. Dept. of Interior, MS-116, SIB 1951 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dr. Huey P. Newton Foundation, c/o 4200 Park Blvd., #128, Oakland, CA 94602