



Creating an Authentic Place: Space to Create Grand Lake

DESIGNING UNIQUE ENVIRONMENTS TO INSPIRE CREATIVITY



OUR MOUNTAIN TOWN HAS A
LOT IN COMMON WITH YOURS





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Learning to Adapt because we had to.

Community Challenges

Grand Lake is a small mountain town with seasonal visitor influx creating workforce and economic challenges.

Space to Create Initiative

The initiative aims to address workforce stability through affordable housing, creative workspaces, and community programs.

Vision and Impact

Space to Create Grand Lake fosters economic resilience and cultural vibrancy to inspire sustainable development in similar small communities.

COMMON CHALLENGES FACING MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES



Housing and Workforce Issues



Affordable Housing Shortage

Vacancy rates in resort communities are critically low, limiting available affordable housing options for workers.

High Building Costs

Construction expenses range from \$250 to \$400 per square foot, plus land, permit, and site prep fees.

Seasonal Workforce Fluctuations

Seasonal employment causes labor shortages during peak times and economic slowdowns off-season.

Impact of Short-Term Rentals

Growth of short-term rentals reduces long-term housing availability and pushes rents beyond worker affordability.

GRAND LAKE'S CREATIVE IDENTITY AND COMMUNITY ASSETS



Grand Lake's Creative District

Cultural Institutions

Grand Lake hosts theaters, arts councils, and folk schools that provide year-round cultural programming.

Artistic and Economic Hub

The Creative District fosters artistic expression and supports economic development through the arts.

Heritage and Community

The district preserves Western heritage and promotes intergenerational learning across the community.

Resilient Local Economy

Leveraging arts and culture, Grand Lake builds an economy less dependent on seasonal tourism.



SPACE TO CREATE GRAND LAKE INITIATIVE



Vision and Objectives

Affordable Housing for Creatives

Nine affordable live/work rental units will support the creative workforce and address local housing challenges.

Makerspace and Workshops

A 3,000-square-foot Makerspace will offer year-round programming in crafts like woodworking and leatherworking.

Community Engagement and Partnerships

Extensive community engagement and collaboration with local organizations support inclusive development.

Partnerships are critical. For our project, so many methods were used to fill our stack. Among them: DOLA, OEDIT, CCI, The Boettcher Foundation, Grand Spirit Foundation, individual givers and more are foundational to fostering a community supported project.

Economic and Cultural Revitalization

The initiative fosters creative entrepreneurship and revitalizes downtown through integrated housing and cultural programming.



Space 2 Create Grand Lake
Town of Grand Lake, CO



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACT





Space 2 Create Grand Lake
Town of Grand Lake, CO



Benefits to Community and Economy

Affordable Housing Benefits

Providing affordable housing stabilizes the creative workforce and reduces reliance on seasonal labor in the community.

Creative Entrepreneurship Growth

The Makerspace fosters artisan entrepreneurship by enabling local production and sales, supporting small businesses.

Community Cohesion and Culture

Intergenerational learning and cultural programming enhance community pride and strengthen social bonds.

Economic Development Impact

Creative districts boost tourism, attract investment, and revitalize historic assets, improving overall livability.

IMPLEMENTATION AND FUTURE STEPS



Project Timeline and Community Engagement



Project Construction Timeline

Construction is underway with completion targeted for summer 2026 and programming starting in the fall.

Strategic Location

Project is located at Park Avenue and Hancock Street to revitalize the downtown area effectively.

Funding Sources

Combination of public and private funding supports the development, ensuring diverse stakeholder involvement.

Community Engagement

Ongoing opportunities allow residents to participate, give feedback, and support through donations and volunteering.

LESSONS FOR SMALL COMMUNITIES



Replicability and Strategic Insights

Community Engagement

Engaging local residents ensures inclusive planning and fosters community ownership of projects.

Creative Districts for Revitalization

Creative districts promote local identity, attract investment, and support entrepreneurship in small towns.

Public-Private Partnerships

Combining public and private funding sources sustains projects and enhances resource availability.

Integrating Housing and Economy

Linking housing development with economic growth addresses community needs and promotes stability.



Thank you.

Questions?

