

John Galusha, Chairman
Arica Andreatta, Commissioner
Karl Sporleder, Commissioner



Board of County Commissioners

March 26, 2024

Maria Cocchiarelli-Berger
Director
Museum of Friends
109 E 6th Street
Walsenburg, CO 81089

RE: Letter of Support for Museum of Friends FY25 Congressionally Directed Spending Request

Dear U.S. Senators Michael Bennet & John Hickenlooper,

The Museum of Friends has been a significant cultural anchor of Walsenburg's Main Street for nearly two decades, and Huerfano County strongly supports enabling the Museum to implement their Exit Strategy Plan through the use of FY25 CDS funds. These funds would enable the Museum to pursue all the associated costs of a merger – risk management consulting, legal and accounting work, data collection, archival, and transfer, labor – to continue Museum operations, while helping provide local matching funds for a DOLA/Pueblo United Way Nonprofit Infrastructure grant. A successful transition of operations as well as investment in data archiving for all art, literary, film, and other historic memorabilia will ensure the Museum is well-positioned to remain an active mainstay of our community.

Our local governments, along with History Colorado, Colorado Creative Industries, and Colorado Humanities have all been collaborating with the Museum of Friends as this exit strategy has been developed to solidify its viability. We all recognize the inherent value the Museum provides as a cultural hub and anchor to our community as well as to our wider region. As a County, we wholeheartedly support the mission of the Museum of Friends and ask that you grant their FY25 CDS request. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF HUERFANO COUNTY, COLORADO

John Galusha, Chairman

Arica Andreatta, Commissioner

Karl Sporleder, Commissioner