Karl S. Sporleder, Chairman Mitchell Wardell, Commissioner James L. Chamberlain, Commissioner

## **Board of County Commissioners**

Laura Jane Musser Fund Rural Arts Initiative Grant Selection Committee 318 W 48th St, Minneapolis, MN 55419 admin@musserfund.org SPANISH PEAKS COUR

February 25, 2025

Subject: Letter of Support for Museum of Friends – Rural Arts Initiative Grant

Dear Laura Jane Musser Fund Selection Committee,

It is our pleasure to submit this letter in support of the Museum of Friends (MoF) as they seek funding through the Laura Jane Musser Fund's Rural Arts Initiative Grant. As a dedicated cultural institution in Huerfano County since 2005, MoF has continuously provided outstanding artistic and educational programming that fosters creative expression, cultural engagement, and community connection. Their commitment to increasing access to the arts, particularly in a rural community with limited resources, aligns seamlessly with the mission of the Laura Jane Musser Fund.

MoF's community-driven approach has made it an integral part of the county's artistic and educational landscape. Through interactive workshops, public art projects, school programs, and STEAM-integrated arts education, MoF has created unique opportunities for residents of all ages to engage in meaningful artistic experiences. These programs not only enrich lives but also promote civic engagement and cultural preservation, ensuring that Huerfano County's diverse heritage and artistic legacy remain vibrant.

The funding from this grant will allow MoF to expand hands-on learning experiences, scholarships for participation, and public programming, ensuring that cost is never a barrier to artistic engagement. Furthermore, this support will bolster MoF's ability to strategically plan for long-term sustainability, allowing it to preserve its legacy while adapting to the evolving needs of our rural community.

We urge your favorable consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

Mitchell Wardell, Commissioner

Karl S. Sporleder, Chairman

James L. Chamberlain, Commissioner