

Arica Andreatta, Chairman  
Karl Sporleder, Commissioner  
Mitchell Wardell, Commissioner



## Board of County Commissioners

September 3, 2024

Laura Jane Musser Fund  
Rural Initiative Grant Selection Committee  
318 W 48th St, Minneapolis, MN 55419  
[admin@musserfund.org](mailto:admin@musserfund.org)

RE: Museum of Friends Rural Initiative Grant Application

Dear Laura Jane Musser Fund Selection Committee,

The Huerfano County Board of Commissioners enthusiastically supports the Museum of Friends (MoF) in their application for the Laura Jane Musser Fund (LJMF) Rural Initiative Grant. This funding is crucial for implementing MoF's strategic plan to transfer its assets to a reliable entity that will continue its essential work. Developed with extensive community input, this project addresses local needs and perspectives, ensuring the museum's continued presence and long-term sustainability in Walsenburg.

The implementation plan will focus on community engagement, benefits, and respect for our cultural heritage and historical landmarks. Since 2005, MoF has been a cornerstone of our community, offering vital cultural and educational resources. Through satellite art exhibitions, public art creation, interactive workshops, educational outreach, collaborations with local schools, and community events, MoF has engaged local residents, celebrated our heritage, fostered civic pride and engagement, and enhanced cultural understanding.

The LJMF Rural Initiative funding will enable MoF to advance community-focused initiatives by forming committees to assess and enhance the museum's role. It will also ensure tangible results through strengthening community ties as well as the museum's sustainability. By funding this grant, the Laura Jane Musser Fund will help MoF continue its mission of providing high-quality arts and cultural experiences while contributing to a vibrant, economically prosperous community. We request your support and thank you for your consideration of the Museum of Friends and its profound, indelible impact on our community.

Sincerely,  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF HUERFANO COUNTY, COLORADO

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Arica Andreatta, Chairman

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Karl Sporleder, Commissioner

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Mitchell Wardell, Commissioner