

### **Central Wyoming Climbers Alliance**

Awarded date: August 2022

Total project cost: \$

Total requested: \$

Amount awarded: \$

Project Summary:

The International Climber's Festival began originally in Lander in 1994. Since then, the Festival has grown to over 80 sponsors and 1000 participants. The LIFT grant helped to hire a Festival Director for this event to work. This grant directly created one job, but the economic impact to Lander from this event and the local climbing community reaches much farther. A study done in 2021 by Eastern Kentucky University showed that the festival brings in over \$150K in sales and lodging tax revenue over the course of the 4-day festival. Additionally, part of the proceeds from this event go to developing and maintaining sport climbing areas in Lander, furthering the development of world-class climbing as a part of Lander's tourism assets.

Status: Completed (12 month progress report)

### **Bossert Collection**

Awarded date: August 2022

Total project cost: \$32,000

Total requested: \$7,000

Amount awarded: \$5,000 (33% of total requested)

Project summary:

This project involved funding a public art piece on The Bossert Building in downtown Lander. Public art and placemaking is considered to be a building block of Economic Development as described by the Harvard Kennedy School by enhancing the identity and character of communities.

Over the span of 6 weeks, the artists working on the project created one cohesive image which resembles ledger art, a popular form of Native American art where contemporary images are rendered on top of historic ledger paper. The imagery draws from traditional iconography and contemporary motifs from both tribes including buffalo, geometric symbols, and Fireweed, demonstrating both connection to the land and the plants and animals that inhabit it. Fireweed is found throughout Wyoming and is among the first, and most distinctive plants to regrow after forest fires. This represents growth, rebirth, persistence, and Wyoming's ability to manage change and the future.

Since the completion of the mural, several downtown business owners including Angie Flint (owner, Lander Bake Shop) have reported that people love the mural. Angie in particular has indicated that the mural has encouraged tourists and people who are new to town to stop, take a picture, and grab coffee.

Project status: Completed. (12 month progress report)

### **Remodel of 1720 Main Street**

Awarded date: August 2022

Total project cost: \$80,000

Total requested: \$40,000

Amount awarded: \$20,000 (50% of total requested)

Project summary:

This project set out to remodel 1720 Main Street, which is located on the west side of town. The original proposal was to do a number of updates to this property in order to get it ready for future tenants. The building was purchased in 2018 and between then and 2022 at the time of application, the current owner had done a number of repairs including a new roof, upgrading furnaces, a new HVAC system and ductwork, electrical updates and more. In addition to a small loan, the owners of the building were looking for funding to create two additional commercial rental spaces, bathrooms, and break room, loading dock canopy, and improving outside signage.

The awardee received a 6 month extension and reports to be on track to wrap up construction by October 2023. They have hired a local contractor so is well underway with completion with finishing the necessary plumbing, electrical and HVAC needs. They anticipate being able to rent out the new 1500 square foot space for commercial businesses before the end of the calendar year. This project has both had a Main Street beautification side and will hopefully help contribute to future sales and property tax for the Lander community moving forward.

Project status: 12 month progress report. Awardee received a six month extension.

### **HMH Outdoors**

Awarded date: August 2022

Total project cost: \$63,795

Total requested: \$38,196

Amount awarded: \$19,098 (50% of request)

Project Summary:

This application requested the funds for warehouse upgrades that included purchasing of pallet racks, a shipping station, and a forklift. After seeing a downturn through 2020, sales have seen a steady increase in the last 12 months and updates to the warehouse will provide the opportunity to work more efficiently to fulfill orders. At the time of application, the business had just hired a Lander employee with plans to hire 2-5 more in the next 305 years.

Funds from this award went to improving the warehouse and shipping process for the business. This has allowed them to increase their efficiency and continue to grow the business. They are on track to meet their projected hiring plan.

Project status: Completed (12 month progress report)