

May 17th, 2022

Salida City Council,

Two weeks ago, we planted a seed. I'm here to water it.

The collective idea for a community stage on F St was born as a solution to increase foot traffic and liveliness of the 1/2 block F St closure between 2nd and 3rd, and to create stage access to local performers who cannot book Salida venues during the summer. Since then, this idea has grown, and many have contributed to elaborating the vision. We hope the stage will be a space for performances, busking, announcements, raffles, fundraisers, live painting, featuring artwork, classes, showcasing skills learned from local classes, and the list could go on and on!

The F St stage would provide solutions to concerns you've expressed. You've asked for more to happen on this 1/2 block during the F St closure, and that's what we're trying to do. Also, the arts community needs this stage, and they are dedicating their time to ask for it. This would truly fill two needs with one deed, or feed two birds with one scone. We are asking the city to support our Creative Arts District by being creative with how they support their artists, and to provide creative opportunities to meet the community's needs.

We do not want Natural Grocers to sponsor this stage in the form of financing it because it would mean much more if it came from the heart of Salida. That's you, and that's us. Also, if it was funded by an outside source, it would be logistically difficult, and may not even be possible, to make happen for this season. The small businesses on this half block simply don't have the means for funding this project, and that's why they need the added business it would bring.

The amphitheater stage does not provide what an F St stage would offer and is not accessible to many of Salida's local artists for the purposes an F St stage would have. An F St stage would be smaller and more conducive to performers of all experience levels and ages, would house and encourage a busking culture, and would support the intimate crowds for more unique showcases. I want to remind you that I am not just speaking on behalf of Monarch Madams or to our sole needs, but speaking for the collective of community members who are advocating for this project or who have dedicated their time to this proposal the last few weeks who are passionate about meeting this need of artists in our beloved town rooted in the arts.

I know you will have many questions, of which we have been preparing answers for during the last 2 weeks. I cannot address all the information we've gathered since I have this limited time to speak, but we have ideas of how to book time slots for stage use, storage during the off seasons, volunteers to dedicate their time and skill sets to construction, and an estimate of cost and size.

We are asking that you help coordinate for the Arts and Culture department to fund this project in the realm of \$10,000-15,000. We are only asking for exactly what the materials and assembly will cost, and nothing more. The size of the stage would be approximately 20'x16', less than the length of one parking space. The space it would be located has an extra 3.5' from the sidewalk to the Natural Grocers parking lot wall, so there would be about an 8.5' clearance to maneuver behind the stage and an 8' clearance from the front of the stage to the street centerline. These measurements are well within the allowed limits.

We have the signatures of all the businesses on this 1/2 block supporting the enactment of this project, along with many letters of support from non-profits and individual artists involved in the performing arts of all ages, including the Salida Circus and Boys and Girls Club.

Some of you know that we lost an incredible community member a few days ago. Magic Steve, the Salida Circus Ringmaster and a community staple, passed away on May 15th, 1 hour after emceeding the circus' 15th birthday celebration show. Magic Steve spoke at the last council meeting in favor of having a community F street stage for Salida to be able to offer the street performance culture that was so dear to him. He was going to be heavily involved in this endeavor, and when this stage has landed, we would like it to be named Steve in his memory.

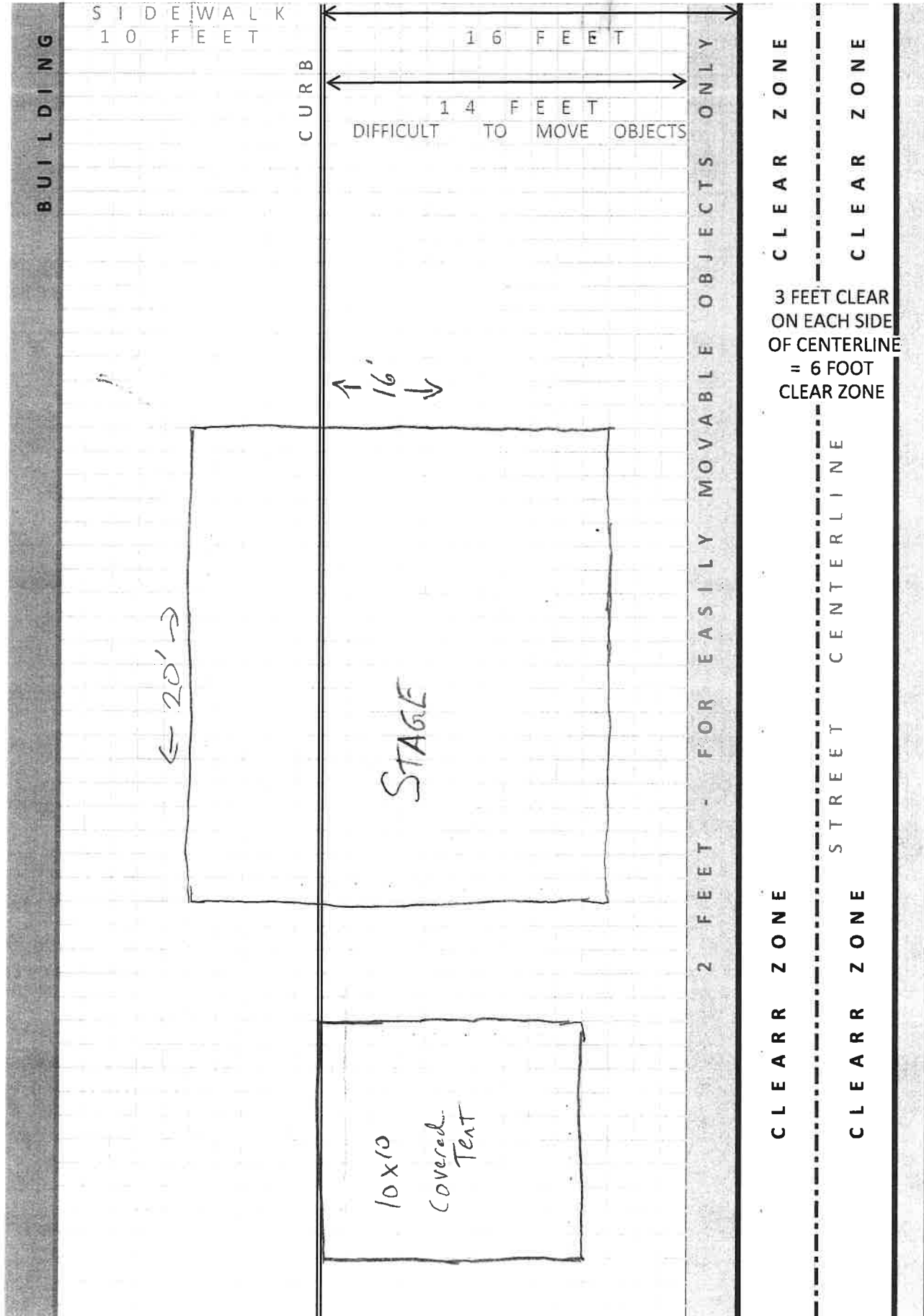
The city has the means allocated for these purposes. Please help this dream of local artists who are here and no longer be with us be born from the heart of Salida.

Thank you,
Hannah Michaels
Salida Citizen and Artist
Founder of Monarch Madams

EXHIBIT A: CITY BOUNDARIES AND LICENSEES PLAN FOR PRIVATE ACTIVITIES/IMPROVEMENTS

☐ = 1' PLEASE INDICATE THE LENGTH OF BUILDING FRONTAGE AND DRAW IN ALL AMENITIES
PLANS MUST SHOW ADA ACCESS IN EXPANSION AREA & PRESERVE ADA ACCESS ALONG SIDEWALK

RIVER →



Uptown Fst Stage

As a business on the block between 2nd and 3rd I support a stage. It is a way to not only support local artists of all kinds but will also bring vibrancy to the block and draw more people up this way helping to promote businesses throughout downtown.

Business Name

Signature

Little Red Tricycle	219 Fst	Alicia Kik
Pinan Real Estate Group	201 F street	Jessie Han
Kaizen Life & Fitness	207 Fst	[Signature]
1 unit @ YIZEMIR (Pamels Breed)		[Signature]
Dragonfly Gifts		Gi/Kh.
Into the Ether	211 F St.	Jenna Janison
Peak View Mortgage		[Signature]
Here's the Scoop		Richard Scott
Free the Monkey Consignment		K.H.
Natural Grocers		Ashley Busk



On behalf of Salida Circus and Colorado Theater in non traditional spaces, I would like to advocate for a community stage on F Street in Salida.

The F St pedestrian area is ideal for a community stage. Not only will it add to the artistic culture of our town, but it will offer a viable performance venue to local artists who cannot afford the high rental cost of traditional venues.

From my 35 years as a circus performer, I know how valuable street show opportunities can be to the livelihood of performing artists. Having access to the F street community stage in the summer months - Salida's liveliest and most populated season. - will be incredibly helpful to the variety of artists that make up the unique fabric our town.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Dempsey
Director
Salida Circus
Colorado TINTS



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF AMERICA**

I'm excited for the idea of a stage. Some of my ur students are learning the Ukelele and would love to give a concert for their friends and passerby! Some older kids may like to do some form of poetry jam, and I liked the idea of getting kids to do some jokes as a way to get them to build some self confidence via stand-up.

Thank you for thinking of us, and looking forward to some summer fun!

Kiki Lathrop

Boys and Girls Club Salida Branch Director

719-539-9500



Monarch Madams believe having an F St community stage would be a huge asset to the community. As local performing artists whose productions offer a distinct, unique, and fun addition to Salida's arts culture, we would like to see a free venue that allows local artists like ourselves the opportunity to showcase their work during our community's liveliest season and main events of the year. The F St closure offers the perfect place for a community stage to add street performing ambiance to our beloved downtown arts culture and support local artists to have access to sharing their creations in the middle of the action. Our dance troupe lacks access to perform in Salida venues during the summer season. We understand why musicians are favored in the booking process, but believe because we are a Creative Arts District, local artists should have access to showcasing what they do during the busy season, despite their financial status or type of artwork.

Hannah Michaels
Founder
Monarch Madams



SANDELL STUDIO

Music Lessons & Classes

Mary Sandell, mary@sandellstudio.com

1604 K Street, Salida, CO 81201

970-217-0051

May 8, 2022

To Whom it May Concern,

It was recently brought to my attention that there has been consideration of a placing a small stage on F street. As a local music teacher, I would like to voice my support of this project. I have many students that are learning to play piano and strings. A simple stage (with access to power for electric keyboard instruments or simple amplification) would be a great way to allow students additional opportunities to work on their performance skills. The central location of this stage would also allow attendees to spend more time in our downtown shopping district.

Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

Mary Sandell

Owner, Director, Teacher - Sandell Studio

I have been an active participant in the youth performing arts community of Salida since I moved here in 2016. As a town, we have incredible young performers who have some amazing but fairly limited opportunities to explore and display their skills. I know I would love to use a performing space on F street. As a musician and an active member of Articulate's program Rok Skool, I know that several groups in the program (including the multiple I play in) would love the opportunity to perform, even for a small amount of time, outside of our normal two-show-per-year schedule. I also know that there are multiple teen musicians who don't participate in this program but often like to perform at gigs and would definitely take the opportunity to perform on F street. I'm sure a performance space would get ample use during the summer, even if it was just a kid with a guitar playing for tips.

Beyond music, I have also been a member of the Salida High School Drama Team since I was a freshman. We have an amazing drama program that I'm sure would love to take advantage of the performing space for small performances during the summer. The community loves seeing the kids on the drama team perform and I'm sure it would be a great experience for all. I could imagine a small showcase of short scenes or skits being performed in such a space.

Although I'm not a visual artist myself, I would definitely love to see some form of live visual art creation showcase, and such a space would be optimal for that kind of thing. Overall, I think it would be a great addition to the Salida Arts District.

Jessie Rollins
Salida High School Senior

My name is Jaylon Blackmon. I'm an independent artist from Georgia. I just moved back to Saluda and of all the time I've spent here, I have gotten a lot of acceptance for my work as a musician. Coming from a small town that really doesn't have anything that supports the talented people in their community, I can definitely vouch for the incredible impact a public space for local talent would have. Having such a space would create opportunities for networking and give starving artists of all walks a place to get some exposure, or even just share their beautiful works with the community. Having a place for classes would help the community get involved and give more people chances to explore new paths in life. Businesses will also benefit by having a place to potentially advertise, and the location could give wandering visitors and locals alike an excuse to explore the surrounding areas. Most importantly, it's a great way to bring talented people together in a safe place that's inviting and encouraging.

Jaylon Blackmon

I'm Myka Daugherty, a 17 year old artist attending Salida High School and a part of this year's graduating class. As an active artist in the community (having sold my work downtown and participated in the blockade murals) I believe that the stage would make an excellent addition to Salida's creative district by encouraging the performing and visual arts. If it were to be constructed, I would like to participate by leading activities like en plein air painting, kombucha sip and paints, and of course, arts and crafts with the kids, doing things like painting rocks or sculpting with air dry clay. These wholesome and interactive activities would help inspire our citizens to enjoy the arts while also drawing attention to the more neglected parts of F Street. A colorful win for the city of Salida and its residents.

My name is Alex Regeimbal, I'm writing as a local, independent artist based out of Moffat, CO, but relying on Salida as my homebase for arts related events. Having an F St Community Stage isn't just an asset to building community; it's an asset to building economy. When artists, arts organizations, and business team together we can publicize events to a greater extent, which brings in more customers, and makes these community building gigs sustainable for businesses and artists alike. The Creative Arts District's F Street closure is such a great asset to Salida as it offers safe, vehicle-free space for warm weather activities. Teaming up with local performers and performance groups for a community stage would build town pride and help draw even more foot traffic to local business and local artists.

Thank you for your consideration,
Alex Regeimbal
Lupine Lady Music