

WYOMING250

APPLICANT INFO

ORGANIZATION NAME

Platte Valley Arts Council, Inc. (PVAC)

COUNTY COMMITTEE NAME

Carbon County 250 Committee

CONTACT PERSON

Stacy Crimmins

TITLE

President

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EMAIL ADDRESS

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

PROJECT TITLE

Mural depicting the history of the Mineral Hot Springs in Saratoga

PROJECT SUMMARY

Platte Valley Arts Council (PVAC) is a 501c(3) incorporated May 1993 in Saratoga, WY and is most well-known for hosting the annual "Festival of the Arts" from 1990-2008. In 1997, the PVAC won the prestigious Wyoming Governor's Art Award. In 2021, PVAC was recognized as "Organization of the Year" by the Platte Valley Chamber of Commerce. As part of the 2005 "River Mural Project", three murals were installed in Saratoga and the "Platte Valley Public Arts Project", in which six local artists installed seven permanent pieces of public art, was completed in the fall of 2022. PVAC now owns and maintains fifteen pieces of art in the Valley.

In celebration of Wyoming 250, PVAC will commission a mural to be installed at the historic mineral hot springs. This project will celebrate the history of the "Hobo Hot Springs" by creating a mural depicting the historical timeline of its existence. The mural will be installed on the retaining wall above the pool so that thousands of visitors may enjoy the artwork.

The Saratoga "Hobo Hot Pool" is a favorite among locals and visitors alike. Open 24 hours a day all year, seven days a week, and free to the public, the pool and bath house are owned and maintained by the Town of Saratoga.

HOW PROJECT REFLECTS THE AMERICA 250 THEMES

For centuries, the Saratoga/Encampment Valley was loved and enjoyed by many tribes of Indians. It was not until the early years of the 19th century that white men began to penetrate the area. In the 1800's, Americans headed west in droves, and, in the course of time, thousands came through on their way to the Pacific on a route used by the

Overland Stage Company. Some hearty people took the opportunity to make this area their home: to enjoy the magnificent vistas, the lush valley, the tremendous herds of big game, the incredible fishing in the Platte River, and the hot springs.

In 1884 Fenimore C. Chatterton named the town of Saratoga after an Iroquois Indian word Sarachtoue, which translates to “place of miraculous water in the rock.” Saratoga still sits atop one of the most active mineral hot springs in Wyoming. It wasn’t until 1900 that the Town of Saratoga became incorporated.

The establishment of the Town of Saratoga is an example of early settlers’ drive to explore and seek independence. Adventuresome families were encouraged to “Go West, young man!” The U.S. Constitution states: “All men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness”.

In this drive for pursuing happiness, white settlers displaced Native Americans out of the area, conquering their hunting grounds, and claiming the mineral hot springs as their own-- a history that was unneighborly, but remains part of our past.

The United States of America was built by those who were not afraid to take risks. The establishment of homes, towns, ranches, and the extraction industry are the result of American’s relentless dedication for growth.

This mural will remind residents and visitors alike that this beautiful landscape and its natural features are gifts, and that we are tasked to care and protect it to ensure its sustainability for future generations.

PROJECT TYPE

PUBLIC ART AND MURALS

DETAILED PROJECT INFO

PROJECT NARRATIVE/ **GOALS, OBJECTIVES, ACTIVITIES**

GOAL: PVAC wishes to create a mural which will depict the history of the “Hobo Hot Springs”. This mural will encourage discussions amongst those who experience this art.

The Platte Valley Arts Council’s mission is to “foster awareness and participation in any form of the arts with the aim of developing a vibrant and cohesive community.” The goal is a community in which art is valued and revered and attracts others of the same mindset to visit or relocate, thereby improving the economic landscape. PVAC demonstrates that art can be a part of our everyday lives.

OBJECTIVES: PVAC will commission an artist to use different types of metal to fabricate a three-dimensional interpretation of the area’s rich history and beauty. Because the mural will be constructed with metal which will be allowed to patina, it will require minimal maintenance.

PVAC will seek permission from the Town of Saratoga to install the mural. The details of an MOU will outline responsibilities of both parties. After installation, the mural will be maintained and owned by PVAC.

STRATEGIES: PVAC will release an open call to regional artists in the first few months of the year. The artist will have six months to execute the mural and install it in the fall.

Artists will be chosen based on experience, technical astuteness, budget, statement of inspiration, rendering of finished mural, and historical accuracy.

PVAC will prepare the site, disseminate information about the project, and promote the finished mural.

With the help of local historians and museums, the history of the “Hobo Hot Springs” will be displayed on a sign near the mural.

INDICATORS: The project will further the reputation of our “artist friendly” community.

Metrics:

- Population increase from previous year
- Sales tax revenue increase from previous year (it is well known that Art and community development results in greater tax revenues)
- Lodging tax revenue increase from previous year
- Customer satisfaction surveys via QR code
 - Scaled responses to statements
 - High engagement rates
- Anecdotal evidence of experiences collected by volunteers
- Social media engagement
- Budget and Timeline adherence

RESULTS: The projected outcome is an increase in economic diversity, quality of life, and population growth.

TIMELINES AND MILESTONES

START DATE/COMPLETION DATE

January 2026 September 2026

KEY MILESTONES

Release of artist call	January 1, 2026
Entry deadline	January 30, 2026

Selection of artist	February 15, 2026
Work begins	March 1, 2026
Bi-weekly progress reports	
Installation and reveal	July 4, 2026
Project completion	September 2026

BUDGET

TOTAL PROJECT COSTS

Artist commission and materials	\$15,000
Site preparation	\$ 5,000
Marketing /Advertising	\$ 2,000
Artist call subscription and fees	\$ 250
Signage	\$ 250

REQUEST \$22,500

MATCHING FUNDS

Grant writing and project management	\$ 5,000
Graphic design, marketing	\$ 500
Historical research	\$ 500
Site preparation	\$ 5,000

HOW WILL THIS PROJECT BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY AND ENSURE ACCESSIBILITY

PVAC believes this project will be beneficial to our community because art is a critical component in economic development and community development. In a recent study of Wyoming, the creative economy contributes 2.7% of the state's overall economy (ahead of agriculture which is 2.4%). In addition, according to an Americans for the Arts survey, 68% of long-distance travelers say they included an arts/cultural heritage site during their trip, demonstrating the importance of the arts to tourism.

New residents site the availability of the arts as a top criterion for relocation and vacation destinations. Since the median age of our community is higher than the state, it is important to encourage young families to consider small-town living. Involvement in volunteer boards and committees encourages inclusion. Americans for the Arts found that nine out of ten arts participants report meeting new people and making new friends through their arts experiences. PVAC will continue to promote art awareness, education, participation, and advocacy by providing cultural activities and events for families.

This project aims to inform viewers about the historical timeline of the hot springs as it relates to the settlement of the western territories. A QR code on signage will direct

viewers to more complete information and additional resources such as photographs and journal entries.

To appeal to various underserved communities, PVAC has a robust public art program. PVAC owns fourteen public art murals and sculptures which are listed in a printed map/brochure available throughout the valley. The PVAC website includes an interactive map with information on how to access these free, family-friendly pieces with 24/7/365 access. Other factors such as age, ability, and income are addressed by using clear and legible signage and providing free access. Most of the public art is wheelchair accessible, albeit outdoor. Any public art located indoors is accessible during business hours.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

OFFICIAL COUNTY RESOLUTION

DETAILED BUDGET AND TIMELINE

LETTERS OF COMMITMENT FROM PARTNERS