

Ignacio Creative District Steering Committee
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Dec. 12, 2019

Town of Ignacio Board of Trustees;

The Ignacio Creative District Steering Committee has been meeting since April of 2019 working toward the goal of establishing Ignacio as a certified creative district, which is a two-year process through Colorado Creative Industries. Various members of the community have committed to this process including members of the business community, artists, town representatives, and the public. As a part of this process we applied for and received two Rural Technical Assistance programs: Creativity Lab and Community Placemaking. These grants offer much needed support to move the creative district forward. In addition, we have held two community meetings to help people understand what a creative district is and why it will benefit the people living in and around Ignacio. The advantages that we anticipate include economic growth for local businesses, improved appearance of town, employment opportunities, and civic engagement and pride. As local tax revenues have been somewhat stagnant in recent years, we believe that the economic growth resulting from a creative district will benefit everyone in the area. As we move through the process and get public input we anticipate that the creative district will be a corridor that will begin near the Casino and continue on through town to the Walkers Hardware area. We already have many art features in town including murals, sculptures and even some architectural elements. These, along with the many events offered here are the basis for the district and even now draw folks to Ignacio. The intent of the Creative District is to build upon these features, helping Ignacio become more a destination and less of a pass-through town.

As we move forward the steering committee is now in the position of needing funds to continue. We have begun the process of becoming a 501(c)3 non-profit by contracting with Floyd Green, CPA. At this time we have obtained an EIN and submitted Articles of Incorporation. We will be opening a checking account soon and have received donations from the Ignacio Chamber of Commerce and a private donor. We are requesting a donation of \$600 from the Town of Ignacio to support the creation of the Ignacio Creative District. These funds will be used for the next step which is establishing the Creative District as a 501(c)3 non-profit. It will also be used for advertising materials, printing, and hosting upcoming community meetings. We are also asking community stakeholders to commit to a donation as

well as informing the community of the need for funds at this time. The steering committee realizes that the date for non-profit to request assistance from the town has passed and we apologize for the lateness of our request but hope that the Trustees will understand that, as we are at the beginning stages of the endeavor, we were not able to have the timeline and the request ready at that time. We appreciate your consideration and ask that if you are unable to contribute a donation at this time, the creative district could be placed on the list of non-profits receiving financial assistance in the next year.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ignacio Creative District Steering Committee:

Marcia Vining (Ignacio Community Library)

Kasey Correia (Dancing Spirit Gallery)

Stephanie Burditt (Region 9 Economic Development)

Trennie Collins (Ignacio Chamber & Southern Ute Drum))

Raymond Dunton (ELHI Community Center)

Sharon Craig (Meadow Brook Mobile Home Park)

Tuggy Dunton (Town of Ignacio)