



Raton Arts & Humanities Council Inc.

145 South 1st Street • Raton, NM 87740 • 575.445.2052

May 3, 2017

City of Raton
City Commission
Scott Berry, City Manager
PO Box 910
Raton, NM 87740

Dear City Commissioners and City Manager:

The Raton Arts and Humanities Council, Inc. was founded January 1988, and designated Raton Arts Council (the "Council") in August 1991. The Council is a non-profit corporation representing the arts and humanities in Raton and surrounding communities. Please see the EIN letter attached to this request.

The Council's programs are designed to meet several goals and objectives: One of the most important is to further the development, learning, and appreciation of the arts in recognition of the fact that the arts are important to the well-being of a community and its citizens. This makes our mission to encourage and strengthen the cultural life of the area (providing residents, whether trained or untrained in the arts, with opportunities for artistic participation, self-expression, education, and enjoyment) very obtainable.

Attendance through the door of the Old Pass Art Gallery, home of Raton Arts & Humanities Council Inc. In 2016 a total of 948 visitors with 535 being out of town guests and 413 local attendees. For the year 2015 we had a total of 1065 visitors, with 630 being out of town guests and 435 local attendees. It has become increasingly recognized across the country that a dynamic cultural atmosphere is of economic value to a community, providing an attraction for visitors and tourists as well as prospective businesses and residents. This in turn inherently increases the monetary and human values of the arts. Other goals include enriching quality of life, enhancing educational programs, fostering creativity, building self-esteem, and increasing appreciation and awareness of all artistic disciplines.

Visual artist that contribute to the Old Pass Art Gallery are local, regional and national artist. On an ongoing bases from January of 2012 to date number 85 different artist have displayed and are selling their art, within the same period of time 77 different artist have participated in special shows, one of the most attended shows is the International Art Show that in 2016 completed its 40th year.

Live Performances are another contribution to the arts in Raton, each year The Raton Arts & Humanities Council provides a variety of live acts at the Shuler Theater. The 2016-2017 performing arts season consist of 6 different shows, these shows have been funded in the prior years by local foundations, the 2016-2017 season was only partially funded, funding was reduced by approximately 30%, and this is an additional burden to our operating budget.

The Old Pass Gallery along with businesses that are dependent on disposable income has experienced a reduction in sales from previous years. In the first three months of 2017 the Old Pass Gallery had one full time employee, the Executive Director. The gallery is being manned by volunteers as well.

The Board of Raton Arts & Humanities Council, Inc. and The Old Pass Art Gallery were able to continue to open our doors and provide a needed service to the citizens of Raton and the surrounding communities in the 2016-2017 fiscal year due to the financial assistance and support of the City of Raton; I would hope you would consider to continue this support.

The Board of Raton Arts & Humanities Council, Inc. requests consideration of \$1,500.00 a month for fiscal year 2017-18 for a total of \$18,000.00 from the non-promotional Lodgers Tax Fund, this funding would help supplement the daily operational expense of the gallery that can not be covered by any grant funding and would be a great help in keeping the doors open. We thank you for your continued support of the arts in Raton and surrounding communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry Baca", written in a cursive style.

Terry Baca, President