



Arts are the soul of a thriving community

Application Part #2

Background:

In July 2021, the Palmer Lake Arts Council formed to promote the arts and artists of Palmer Lake. We are including the Arts Council organization chart to demonstrate our progress.

Art in Public Places, a sub-committee, took off with an enthusiastic support from community members who have successfully been creating public art for a long time. The Town of Palmer Lake commissioned us to install 2 outdoor sculpture pedestals in the town center, which are ready for sculptures. In order to do so, we need the funds to acquire, install, and maintain sculptures for each of the 2 pedestals. Our grant request is to provide for these expenses. Bee Vrandenburg Foundation's funding will secure public art in our town center to be appreciated and enjoyed by Palmer Lake residents and visitors, alike.

Goals: The Palmer Lake Arts Council exists to grow and sustain the Arts in Palmer Lake.

Current programs:

The Art in Public Places sub-committee is one of seven active sub-committees with the Palmer Lake Arts Council. These include, an Artist Co-Op, Art education classes, Palmer Lake PopUp Events (short term exhibitions in unusual venues), an Artist Market, an International Artist Residency, music, and performance programming. The Palmer Lake community is embracing our work and events, and are ready for Palmer Lake to become a cultural center for the arts amid a growing metropolis around us.

In 18 months, we have scheduled an installation of two public art pedestals, a popup retrospective show of a local ceramic artist, a benefit concert performed by world renown classical guitarist Masa Ito, an informational booth at the upcoming

Palmer Lake Wine festival, participation in a “Taste of Palmer Lake” event, participation in upcoming historic society “Chautauqua” and a contemporary version of “The Night Before Christmas” that will involve the community. A theater production of Steel Magnolias was a success in early 2023, and a playwright contracted to write a melodrama based in Palmer Lake’s early history, to be performed in the fall of 2023; and, are now a state certified non-profit, 501c organization. [www.plartscouncil.org]

The population in Palmer Lake is currently over 3,000. The Tri-Lakes surrounding area is the fastest-growing region in El Paso County, and is among the top five fastest-growing areas in Colorado.

These thriving Tri-Lakes communities (Palmer Lake, Monument and Woodmoor) are adjacent to one another with a population of about 37,000. These numbers do not compare to the enormous growth both North and South of the Tri-Lakes Area. Current population growth statistics are constantly increasing. There are no cultural facilities within 22 miles to the South and 51 miles to the North. This makes Palmer Lake an ideal location for a blossoming cultural hot spot for the arts for the surrounding area.

We expect to see results ranging from expanding volunteerism, community pride, opportunities for diverse audiences, introducing diverse audiences to Palmer Lake, education about regional, national, and international art and the important need for this small community—tax revenue—without giving in to commercial and real estate development.

Evaluation:

This is a new, developing organization. We are developing guidelines and evaluation processes of our work.

Our fundamental markers:

1. Does the program:
 - address the identified needs?
 - serve the target population?
 - implement the stated plan?
 - achieve its expected outcomes?
2. Our measurements of success are based upon:
 - successful inclusivity

- community involvement
- education value
- collaboration with outside entities

This grant's success will be the selection and installation of 2 sculptures; and building a process for expanding the 'Art in Public Places Program' in Palmer Lake. Important to our success is building a corp of volunteers, and building strong working relationships with town administrators and the local community.

Our timeline for evaluation on this project will begin upon completion of the installation. The public art subcommittee will meet with the Arts Council to evaluate for success. A summary of the discussion will serve as our first evaluation.

Collaboration:

An important component of the Art in Public Places project is a positive working relationship, and effective processes with the town staff and Board of Trustees. This is the Art in Public Places committee's second collaboration with the town. The first collaboration is a curated, rotating exhibit of works of local artists in the town offices, town hall, and library. The second is collaborating with the organization 'Tri-Lakes Views' who has been diligently installing well curated sculpture in and around the Tri-Lakes area. Recently, Tri-Lakes Views has disbanded, and the Town of Monument has absorbed the Tri-Lakes Views organization. The retired staff are strong supporters, and act as consultants for our work as we build our own public art program. The third is the collaboration with the citizens of the area. A community survey has gathered more than 60 responses to date.

Inclusiveness:

An inclusivity statement is the very heart of why we do what we do. Our goal is to use art to bring diversity and inclusiveness. We believe ART to be a most useful, positive tool.

Our inclusivity statement is as follows:

We believe that access to the arts, as an appreciator, participant and/or creator, are basic human rights that should be enjoyed by all those who live in our community. We also believe that factors like racism, ableism, sexism, gender bias and lack of economic opportunity have prevented these cultural opportunities

from being equally enjoyed by all. These factors have contributed to lack of equal access to leadership opportunities, within the arts and the entire nonprofit sector. We will ensure that we operate in a way that recognizes these inequities, and that we work to mitigate them. This includes our grant writing, programmatic activity, and community engagement. We hope to inspire and cultivate an arts and culture sector that also embraces equity in their work. We recognize that there are significant societal structural issues that are beyond our capacity to change, but with the tools that ARE at our disposal will do all we can to ensure that our cultural community is healthy, artistically vibrant, equitably supported, and serving the full spectrum of our residents.

We believe in and stand for values of inclusion, equity and justice. We condemn racism, sexism and xenophobia in rhetoric or action.

We welcome all people and recognize the rights of individuals to live their lives with dignity, free of discrimination based on their faith, race, national origin, or immigration status.

We will continue our work in making our services and programs accessible and open to all individuals.

We believe in the public sector for the public good. Advancing equity and inclusion is critical to the success of our community.

Board/Governance:

The Palmer Lake Arts Council is made up of six volunteers: Tim Branaman (collector), Lynn Roth (photographer), Susan Kuehster (artist), Jina Brenneman (curator), Vicki Mynhier (artist), Amy Hutson (collector, community development).

Mission—

The Palmer Lake Arts Council Exists to grow and sustain the Arts in Palmer Lake

Vision—

We will be advocates and facilitators with presence for all forms of the Arts, enhancing individual and community's world view.

Values—

Everyone has a voice at the table, Respect for each other's opinions, listen to each other, Be kind, stay objective, Focus on task.

Volunteers

The Palmer Lake Arts Council is made up entirely of volunteers. All expenses to date have been in-kind. We are a two-year-old organization and have just begun tracking volunteer hours and in-kind donations. Our approximate volunteer hours are well over 500 hrs. This estimation is conservative and is based on meeting times and recorded events and individual hours (who have been recording hours) and can be demonstrated upon request. In-kind donations approximate value is over \$7,000. Again, this is based on personal budgets that can be demonstrated upon request. The approximate estimate is very conservative. To date, the organization has 30 volunteers including board members.

Planning

Opportunities abound! The Palmer Lake Arts Council has programmed the following committees: PopUp Palmer Lake (a series of Popup exhibits), Artist Co-op, Education (classes, workshops and demonstrations), Art in Public Places, Artist market, Performance events, Music events, and an International Artist Residency program (5-year plan). We are excited at the level of volunteer interest. Most of these events have fully formed committees. We continue to develop and organize. The challenges we face are budgetary, logistics and volunteer coordinating. We need a grants officer, who would hopefully include logistics in their job description, and we need a volunteer coordinator. Currently, volunteer coordination is done by the Palmer Lake Arts Council. The Palmer Lake Arts Council meets once a week to organize and plan. The council determines the needs in the community, schedules events accordingly, forms committees and seeks volunteers. The council also fundraises, writes grants and consults with each subcommittee.

The council manages and participates in each committee according to each member's interest (example, Lynn Roth has formed and manages the Art in Public Places committee. This grant application is being made on their behalf).

Artistic excellence

Artistic excellence is relative to the level of art being created in our geographic area. We are committed to supporting all artists, and believe the key to excellence is 'points of perspective'. Our programs are designed to elevate and educate the points of perspective of our regional artists. This philosophy relates to us as board members as well.

We believe excellence is achieved by participation, practice and exposure. Our guidelines educate and strive for excellence. One goal we believe we will accomplish is the International Artist Residency. Bringing artists of a high level of excellency from around the nation and world will expose our local artists to new visions. It will also allow sharing our rich regional artistic history.

We believe artists should always be compensated at a level comparative to other fields of interest. We value and support the business of the arts, and plan to compensate artists for their work. This includes musical performers, directors, and actors. We do accept benefit items, when offered.

Audience

Our target audience for this project are 1. The residents of Palmer Lake. 2. The residents of the Tri-Lakes Area 3. Visitors. We are pleased that our first grant application will have far reaching aesthetic, cultural and educational value. Palmer Lake has become a destination spot for Denver and Colorado Springs residents to get away for a day. The lake, and the restaurants are full every weekend with out-of-town visitors. Providing art in public places (beginning with two sculptures in the town center), will have far reaching effects. It is not difficult to reach our desired audience because the sculptures will be right in front of them. It excites us to know that the fire chief, the police department, the town staff and town council, the librarians, will see the work every day on their way to the office. We know that this will make their days more interesting, make them curious about art, enrich their lives. Palmer Lake residents coming to pay a bill, file a report, come to a town council meeting will experience art.

We also have two newsletters that this information will appear in. The Town of Palmer Lake newsletter and the Palmer Lake Economic Development newsletter. We have a commitment from two local newspapers to cover the story of the sculptures and the artists who create them. News releases will be sent to regional newspapers and media.

Donor Recognition

We will be honored to place BVF's logo where possible on our website, with promotions, newsletters, artist contracts and sculpture markers.

Financials

Please see attachment

Application Part #3: Attachments

- Budget
Revenue and expenses for current year; if available, provide budget for upcoming fiscal year
- Current (year to date) financial statements
Profit-and-loss statement and balance sheet
- Year-end financial statements
Profit-and-loss statement and balance sheet for two most recent fiscal years
- Major contributors
List foundations, businesses, government, and major individual donors, with amounts, for the previous two years. Please list major contributors by the size of the two-year total gift. This information is held in strict confidence.
- In-kind support
Summary of significant in-kind donations for the last fiscal year
- Board of directors list
Include positions on the board, community affiliations, and term end dates for each member.
- Proof of IRS federal tax-exempt status
- Anti-discrimination/inclusion statement
- Fiscal agency relationship
If you are applying through a fiscal sponsor, please provide a letter confirming the relationship. Please provide information on any fees paid to fiscal sponsor.

Application Part #4: Media and Supplements (optional)

- Annual report
- Photos depicting activities of the organization from the past two years (maximum 10 files)
- Reviews from local media (provide one copy)
- Programs, season brochures or other print collateral (provide eight copies)
- Audience survey responses (one copy)
- Audio samples (WMV file only)
- URLs of video samples through YouTube or Vimeo (no discs, please)

Deadlines

Applications are accepted year-round but must be received January 1, April 1, July 1 or October 1 to be considered during the quarterly trustee meetings. When those dates fall on a holiday or weekend, the first weekday thereafter applies.

To Apply for a Grant

Applicants may submit applications by mail, in person, or via email. For email applications, please combine the entire application in a single PDF attachment.

Please send applications or questions to:

Claire Swinford, Executive Director

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