



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 the progress we have made in one year.

One of our committees, The Art in Public Places group, took off with an enthusiastic support from community members who are experts in this field. This committee has determined, and met the approval of the Town of Palmer Lake, to install two public Art pieces in the town center. In order to do so, we need the funds to install the bases for the two sculptures. This grant request is to cover those expenses. Your fiscal help would mean the permanent fixtures for public art to be appreciated and used as an educational tool for town staff, residents, and visitors to Palmer Lake.

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

Current programs:

The Art in Public Places committee is one of seven active committees through the Palmer Lake Arts Council. The others include, an Artist Co-Op, Education (classes), Palmer Lake PopUps (short term exhibitions in unusual venues), an Artisanal Market, an International Artist Residency, a musical program, and a performance program. This may seem like too much too soon, but the community has risen to the occasion. They are ready to become what Palmer Lake has historically been known for, a cultural haven amid a growing metropolis.

In one year, we have scheduled an installation of two public art pieces, a benefit concert performed by 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. Next year these programs will double.

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

These thriving 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. I was unable to find that population number. 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 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:

As this is a new organization, we are currently developing steps for evaluation for overall approach. We are using these fundamental markers:

Does the program

- Address the identified needs;
- Serve the target population
- Implement the stated plan
- Achieve its expected outcomes.

Our impact measurements are based upon

- successful inclusivity
- community involvement
- education
- collaboration with outside entities.

For this project, the main evaluation will be successful, safe installation of plinth bases, learning from the process so that we can install with all volunteers in the future and successful communication with the Town of Palmer Lake.

Our timeline for evaluation on this project will begin upon the physical installation. We will provide a short video for the Bee Vradenburg foundation to demonstrate the process. Upon completion of the installation, the installation

team will meet with the Arts council to discuss evaluation points. A summary of the discussion will serve as our first evaluation. This will help us to determine how to develop a formulated evaluation for further programs. This will be the first project for the Palmer Lake Arts Council!

Collaboration:

Perhaps the most important component of the Art in Public Places project is to establish a positive working relationship with the town staff and Board of Trustees. This is our second collaboration with them. The first being a curated, rotating exhibit of local artists in the town offices and town hall. 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. They have been doing it for a long time and the leaders are going to be leaving. Our Art in Public Places would continue their well thought out processes and utilize their established processes. The third is the collaboration with the citizens of the area. To begin this process, a survey will be sent in each resident's water bill (survey attached).

Inclusiveness:

Without an inclusivity statement none of the persons involved would be willing to volunteer for this program. It is the very heart of why we do what we do. Our goal is to bring diversity and education about diversity using, what we believe to be the most useful, positive tool, ART. 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 four volunteers: Tim Branaman (collector), Lynn Roth (photographer), Susan Kuehster (artist), Jina Brenneman (Curator).

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 Art, enhancing individual and our 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 one-year-old organization and have just begun tracking volunteer hours and in-kind donations. Our approximate volunteer hours are well over 500, hours. 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 dollars. Again, this is based on personal budgets that can be demonstrated upon request, not everyone has submitted their expenses yet, but 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, Artisan market, Performance events, Music events, and an International Artist Residency program (5-year plan). We are excited and surprised at the level of volunteer interest. All these events have fully formed committees with the exception on music and performance. That is due to our relative newness and not lack of interested parties. 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. We currently have an active grant committee that includes a volunteer grant administrator. Volunteer coordination is done by the Palmer Lake Arts Council board. The Palmer Lake Arts Council meets once a week to organize. The council determines the needs in the community, schedules events accordingly, forms committees and finally, seeks volunteers. The council also fundraises, writes grants and consults with each committee. 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, but believe our role is to educate the area artists regarding, what we believe is the key to excellence '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 not only by participation and practice but equally important, exposure. Our guidelines are meant to educate and strive for excellence. One specific are we believe will accomplish this 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 them to share our rich regional artistic history.

We believe artists should always be compensated at a level comparative to other fields of interest. We do not believe in asking artists for donations. This includes musical performers, directors, and actors. We do accept offers of benefit items, if 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 to Palmer Lake. 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. Anyone from Palmer Lake 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.

Donor Recognition

A plaque will be placed on each permanent plinth recognizing the donor. The donor will also be recognized in each newsletter and all press coverage. We would be proud to place the Bee Vrandenburg Foundation on each plaque with the logo.

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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