EXHIBIT 3
DATE 2/11/05
HB 9

Cultural Trust Grant # 1179 – Vigilante Theatre Co.

The VTC is recommended for $9000 over two years.

This is less than 3% of our operating budget, 20% less than the last award, And less than half of the grant awarded 5 years ago.

This is funding for the Vigilante Theatre Company's 25th and 26th season. We are an **all original, professional, year-round touring theatre**.

Over the years we have performed in over 125 Montana towns.

We have averaged about 100 shows per year in 35 to 50 different Montana towns each year plus the surrounding states. We are actually better known outside of our home town of Bozeman. Plains, Baker, Belt, Broadview, White Sulphur, Sidney, Glendive, Havre, Lewistown, Ronan, Fort Benton – are a few of the more regular communities that have a long history with the Vigilantes.

Our shows are appropriate for the whole family. We feel children should come to live theatre with adults and see that this is something to look forward to as being a part of their future.

The Vigilantes also perform for people from a wider range of Montana communities through state and regional conferences from the Grain Growers to the Funeral Directors. Many of these people might never go out to live theatre at home but are at the conference so... "why not?". I call that a kind of **audience development**.

These conference and business audiences, are also good for the budget. As are our recent attempts to do more regular shows in the Bozeman area at the Museum of the Rockies and Moonlight Basin ski hill. These shows, we hope, will pay our bills more than support our mission to "BRING QUALITY ORIGINAL LIVE THEATRE TO MONTANA COMMUNITIES OF ALL SIZES".

Fund raising is a full time business and that is not the business I'm in. To pay the going rate for grant writers and development personnel – even one - would consume most of the money that that person could raise in their first year. So I am here today and I and the occasional board member, write what grants we can to support our mission. The MT Arts Council currently awards us Fee support of $3000 a year to help small communities. Last year the Bair Foundation granted the Vigilantes some funds to support shows in Meagher, Wheatland and Yellowstone County. Our fee rates have reductions for small communities, nonprofit organizations, and group bookings. And sometimes we just give people a break. But giving them a break without grant funding just reduces our chance of survival.

The Vigilantes have spent the last 5 years trying to inch their yearly budget to $200,000. That would make each of a hundred shows cost $2000 each. We average about $1300. All our grant and membership funds go to underwrite this discrepancy and the company gross income has never been over $170,000.

The Vigilantes have no connection to a university to help support our budget or provide facilities for rehearsal. Our newer / younger actors have school loans to pay and in general salaries are not near the state average. The Artistic Director and Co-founder has never made over $18,000 in a year. One time Board Member Cindy Younkin once said, "the Vigilantes give a big bang for the buck". That bang comes at a price to someone.

We are a very efficient operation – 4 actors – one van – sometimes a trailer – bringing an entire show – lights, music, magic, to gyms, steak houses, church basements and even an occasional theatre (though some are badly in need of wiring, heat and sturdy chairs). But they all have two things. An eager and expectant audience and a theatre group willing to come to them and do the best show they can – The Vigilante Theatre Company.