

House Bill 12 Montana Historic Preservation Grants
Tuesday, January 10, 2023
Written Statement
Hockaday Museum of Art
Kalispell, MT
Alyssa Cordova, Executive Director

Mister/Madam Chairman, members of the committee, for the record, my name is Alyssa Cordova. I am the Executive Director of the Hockaday Museum of Art in Kalispell. I am testifying on behalf of House Bill 12 Montana Historic Preservation Grant.

The Hockaday is located in a beautiful, historic 1904 Carnegie Library building listed on the National Registry of Historic Places. **Our project is: Replacing Heating and Duct System, and is ranked 11th of the projects recommended for funding.**

Project Summary

This essential project to replace the current furnaces and ducts with newer, safer and more energy efficient models aligns with the museum's commitment to historic building preservation, protecting the condition of permanent collection artwork, adhering to American Alliance of Museum facility standards, and providing a stable and safe environment for visitors and staff, and the collection, The project includes repairs such as: Removing, recycling, and replacing three old Heil models with three 100,000 BTUH 96% efficiency up flow gas furnaces, new filters and filter boxes, new duct system and PVC piping installed, gas piping relocated, and thermostats replaced with newer, energy saving models.

Importance and Legacy Impact of Project

I cannot stress enough the importance of this project both now and in the future! Preserving our historic home and replacing our ageing furnaces ensures we can remain open for the public, provide important cultural and educational art experiences, protect the architecture of the building, and safely house and display historic and artistic objects to protect our Montana legacy, history stories and culture!

The Hockaday has grown to become a premiere arts destination in Northwest Montana. We are open year round and provide: rotating art exhibitions, year-round youth/adult classes and tours, Senior programs, a growing collection of over 2,500 art objects, and a research library, with a focus on Montana and Glacier National Park artists and art. The museum's public outreach includes Flathead County, surrounding rural and urban areas, and tribal communities of the Blackfeet, Pend d' Orielle, Salish and Kootenai Nations.

Economic Impact

This project will **has significant immediate and sustaining positive economic impact for Montana workers and businesses.**

1. Museums and Cultural sites contribute approximately \$50 billion dollars to the US economy annually support 726,00 jobs in the United States, and directly employ 372,100 people (American Alliance of Museums 2018 report).

2. According to a 2017 US Bureau of Economic Analysis, museums contribute \$1.6 billion to Montana's economy, representing 3.4% of the state's GDP.

3. This project will provide Immediate business for local contractors and HVAC technicians labor totaling \$21,000.00 plus HMA staff time and costs. The estimated length of time to complete the project would take 4-6 weeks.

4. Allows the museum to continue operations which in turn, supports our community partnerships and support of local small businesses such as: **framers, printers, designers, contract artists and musicians, event rental companies, caterers and food trucks, facilities maintenance, and other contractors for both daily and seasonal operations.**

5. **Kalispell Chamber of Commerce and Discover Kalispell Convention and Visitors Bureau 2020 Marketing Plan has identified museums as one of the top destinations for tourists next to the Park.** Glacier National Park saw a record number of visitors from 2017 to present, with 3.31 million in 2021. With the completion of the heater replacement project, the museum can continue to be open year-round to provide vital arts and culture programs for both local and out-of-town visitors.

Updates on the project: In our application, we mentioned seeking additional matching funding and had several grant applications in process with the Hartley Foundation and Northwestern Energy. We just learned that we were not selected for the Northwestern Energy grant. Fortunately, we did receive the Hartley Foundation grant for a match of 10,000 or more!

Thank you for your time and consideration of supporting this worthwhile preservation project for our historic home and art museum!