



MISSOULA DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
MISSOULA DOWNTOWN FOUNDATION

January 24, 2022

EDA: Denver Regional Office
1244 Speer Boulevard, Suite 421
Denver, CO 80204

To Whom It May Concern,

The Downtown Missoula Partnership is a collaboration of three distinct organization dedicated to building and sustaining the best Downtown possible. We work closely with the City of Missoula on master planning, management of Missoula's beloved Town Square – Caras Park, and problem solving.

Throughout the pandemic, we have updated [Missoula's Downtown Master Plan](#), created a community vision for [Missoula's North Riverside Parks & Trails Plan](#), and raised nearly \$1,000,000 for Phase 1 Improvements that commenced in October 2021. As we look to Phase 2 Improvements, we are dedicated to providing matching funds and additional resources to build the ADA ramp and river access site at Brennan's Wave on the Clark Fork River. This site sits adjacent to Caras Park, which we manage and program nearly 100 events and festivals into each year.

If you choose this project for the EDA Tourism Grant funding, we will allocate up to \$150,000 of our private funds to serve as a portion of the match necessary for a successful project.

As the lead economic development agency for Downtown Missoula, we bring nearly 500,000 people to Caras Park festivals and events each year. We need to create a formal access site to the river at this location for three reasons: to reduce erosion of the waterfront in other parts of Downtown, to provide the opportunity for folks of all ages and abilities to access the water, and to bring river recreation events and activities back to our community following a very disruptive COVID pandemic.

Should funding become available to build out this important infrastructure, we anticipate additional people, events and jobs for us and our Downtown parks and businesses. As always, we are committed to supporting, promoting and enhancing the vitality of Downtown Missoula, which saw more than 3 million tourists last year, despite COVID.

Thank you for your consideration of this important project that will enhance our ability to bring new tourism support to Missoula and Western Montana.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Linda K. McCarthy".

Linda K. McCarthy
Executive Director