

August 14, 2018

National Endowment for the Arts
Our Town Program

Re: El Dorado Arts Council grant application

As Mayor of the City of Placerville, I am pleased to offer my strong support for El Dorado Arts Council's "Our Town" grant application. The Historic Placerville Cultural District is a project that has the great potential to energize this community and connect people in new and exciting ways.

We are pleased that the preliminary work done thus far by the El Dorado Arts Council has taken many diverse points of view into account and incorporated them into the project's vision. We are particularly enthusiastic about the ways in which agriculture would be showcased in this project, along with other cultural aspects of El Dorado County. Our beautiful historic buildings, several of which are deteriorating at an alarming rate, would be restored and used in imaginative ways, contributing to the economic development in our historic downtown area, and creating access to arts and culture in the lives of our residents and our visitor experiences. Elements such as a winter farmer's market, a venue for Ag in the Classroom activities, and residential units for artists are just a few of the creative ideas being developed for this project that offer opportunities for innovative community collaboration. I can confirm that this is the only "Our Town" grant application being submitted on behalf of our local government.

The Placerville City Council joins me in supporting this application for further robust community engagement and design development, and we respectfully request that you give this El Dorado Arts Council's application your utmost consideration.

Sincerely,

WENDY THOMAS
Mayor, City of Placerville