

August 14, 2018

National Endowment for the Arts  
Our Town Program

Re: El Dorado Arts Council grant application

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The purpose of this letter is to confirm the City of Placerville's participation in the Historic Placerville Cultural District grant application, as proposed by El Dorado Arts Council.

Since 2007, the City has looked for solutions to restoring and reusing two historic, city owned buildings in the heart of our downtown corridor, previously "Old City Hall" and known locally as Confidence Hall and Emigrant Jane. Additionally, in early 2018, the Old Post Office building was vacated and is now unoccupied and in need of significant rehabilitation.

El Dorado Arts Council is proposing further community engagement and design development of a proposed cultural district project based on an 18-month process of investigation which it has already completed. The City is supportive of this effort, and its partnership on the project will consist of the following contributions:

- City staff time, to include the City Manager, Director of Community Services, Development Services Director, and other city staff as needed, during community engagement and design development phase.
- Coordination of a public outreach component and use of City facilities for presentations, focus groups, and other public meetings.
- An offer of reduced rent to El Dorado Arts Council if the organization relocates its offices to the first floor of the Emigrant Jane building (1800 square feet) in October 2018 to facilitate further investigation of the project.
- Use of first floor of Confidence Hall at no cost to El Dorado Arts Council for temporary performances, displays and installations (1,100 square feet).

Ultimately, the proposal put forth by El Dorado Arts Council creates opportunities for new civic assets, residential housing, preservation of the City's Gold Rush heritage, and revenue for the City to restore and maintain the buildings. We look forward to working closely with El Dorado Arts Council in exploring these options and ask the National Endowment for the Arts to consider this grant application for approval.

Sincerely,

CLEVE MORRIS  
City Manager  
City of Placerville  
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