



Plateau Valley Historical Preservation Society (PVHPS) • Collbran, Colorado • Established 2014

September 29, 2022

Town of Collbran
P.O. Box 387
Collbran, Colorado 81624

Hello!

The Plateau Valley Historical Society does hereby give a letter of support to the Town of Collbran so it may pursue badly needed grants to improve the Town's Auditorium.

The Auditorium has been a staple of the community since it was built in the early 1900s, and now age and changing times necessitate extensive repair and modernization.

Dr. Zinke had it built in the early 1900s. He hired Coakley, Stephan Kendall, John Harris, and Ernie Winston, to construct it. The round roof rafters were built on the ground and then hoisted into place with two big hay derricks. It is 40x 120 feet and has hosted many events: meetings, memorials, dances, banquets, movies, roller skating, recreation, graduations, community meetings, plays, Chautauqua's, parties, literary debates, and The Stockmen's ball & banquet. The stage curtains were installed in 1905. Dr. Zinke purchased the first movie projector and the first movies were shown in 1914. On May 30, 1916, a comedy "Office 666" was shown. Before the auditorium was built the location was John Art Fitzpatrick's livery stable.

PVHPS strongly supports the Town's effort to "fix" the building and has a fund of \$2500 designated to assist the project.

Sincerely,

PVHPS Board: Sylvia Spangler, Val Dussor, Deni Conard, Anis Kelley, Lita Hill, Chad Toenjes, Larry Clifton, Lew Evans, Joyce Chicos

218 High Street, PO Box 252, Collbran, Colorado 81624 ☎ 970.487.3116 📧

The Plateau Valley Historical Preservation Society is a Colorado not for profit corporation designated as an IRS 501(c)(3) public charity dedicated to preserving the heritage of the Plateau Valley of Western Colorado.

As such, contributions to the Plateau Valley Historical Preservation Society are tax deductible to the extent allowed by the IRS.

plateauvalleyhistory@gmail.com / <https://www.facebook.com/PlateauValleyHistory> / <http://www.plateauvalleyhistory.org/>

September 30, 2022

To: History Colorado
1200 Broadway
Denver, CO 80203



RE: State Historic Fund – Collbran Auditorium

On behalf of the Collbran Branch of the Grand Valley Bank, I would like to submit this letter of support for the Collbran Auditorium Renovation.

As Collbran's only bank, we got our start in a kiosk in the Marigold Market in 1998. Due to the community's great support, Grand Valley Bank built our current home in Collbran in 2003. We are a proud partner and supporter of the Collbran and Plateau Valley community. We provide banking services to most businesses and residents and support many of the community organizations that make this a great place to live. Our branch is located on Main Street directly north of the Collbran Auditorium and we share a parking lot with the Auditorium. As the Auditorium's nearest neighbor, we are able to observe all of the day-to-day activities that go on at the Auditorium and see all of the individuals and groups who use the facility. Unfortunately, we are also more aware than most of the signs of age that the building is showing, and how absolutely critical the renovations that the Town is proposing are.

We believe that the Collbran downtown business district can and should reflect a historic but vibrant town, and that the community will benefit as a whole from an attractive and functional community center at the Auditorium. The rehabilitation that the Town is proposing at the Auditorium will bring the outside appearance of the building up to a standard that we should expect of a public building, and preservation of the historic character of the building will reinforce the Town's history and legacy. Many of our customers are third and fourth generation residents of the community and their children and children's children should be able to continue to enjoy this magnificent, historical building.

I ask that you provide funding to help protect and preserve the Collbran Auditorium to continue to develop and vital and healthy downtown Collbran.

Sincerely,


Chris Briardy

September 30, 2022

To: History Colorado
1200 Broadway
Denver, CO 80203

From: Mr. Lew Evans
3001 Orchard Avenue
Collbran, CO 81624

RE: State Historic Fund – Collbran Auditorium

As a long-time Collbran resident and former Mayor of the Town of Collbran, I would like to submit this letter of support the Collbran Auditorium Renovation.

During my tenure as Mayor, Town Staff worked diligently with the Plateau Valley Historical Society and Mesa County to have the Collbran Auditorium declared as Mesa County Historic Landmark #4. With funding from the State Historic Fund, the skilled team at Chamberlin Architecture completed a thorough Historic Structure Assessment that was completed in July 2019. Finally, with the invaluable assistance of the University Technical Assistance program at the University of Colorado Denver, the UTA team completed a Sentiment Function and Survey report. The key finding in the report summary was “The survey results indicate a strong sentiment around the presence of the Collbran Auditorium along with an appreciation for its value to the community and its history.....Overall the survey sentiment leaned toward renovating the auditorium for viable community uses, while conserving its historic Main Street Character.”

I believe the Town is now fully poised to deliver on that promise and to rehabilitate and preserve the Collbran Auditorium for now and for future generations. There is a strong management team and a commitment from the current Board of Trustees to move forward with this rehabilitation. The Team has developed a phased approach to break the project into manageable projects to fund and to administer. The Colorado Department of Local Affairs has provided additional support to the project by co-funding the design development phase of the project, and I am optimistic that the Town will receive funding from DOLA for construction.

I ask that you provide funding to help protect and preserve the Collbran Auditorium so that future generations will be able to enjoy this historical, beloved building.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lew Evans', written in a cursive style.

Lew Evans

American Legion
Buzzard Monce Post 86
209 Main Street / Suite A
Collbran, Colorado 81624



September 29, 2022

Town of Collbran

Post 86 of Collbran, CO supports the Town of Collbran in its current efforts to complete the Rehabilitation of the Collbran Auditorium. We fully support the Town of Collbran's application for funding through the Colorado State Historic Fund for the Collbran Auditorium Renovation project.

The Auditorium, which was constructed in 1907, has served as a focal point for the Collbran community for 115 years. It has been an important gathering place for our community. We have held our Annual Veteran's Ball in this Auditorium, unfortunately due to the current condition of the building we have moved the location of our event to another town. We would very much like to bring the Annual Veteran's Ball back to the Collbran Auditorium. We are active in our community and assist with many community events which brings together the residents of the Plateau Valley and would like to see this Historic Landmark brought back to life.

Buzzard-Monce Post 86 was founded in tribute to Martin Buzzard and John Monce. Both young men were killed in action during WWII while serving in France. These young men (like many more) gave their lives in defense of our constitution, our freedom and our country.

The American Legion is an organization of military men and women. Our goals are to promote patriotism, honor the constitution, honor veterans, help veterans and their families, and help our community and country.

Post 86 Vice Commander

Chad W. Toenjes





BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

District 1 – Cody Davis 970-244-1605

District 2 – Scott McInnis 970-244-1604

District 3 – Janet Rowland 970-244-1606

February 16, 2022

Melonie Matarozzo
Town of Collbran
1010 High Street
Collbran, CO 81624
Email: townmanager@townofcollbran.us

Dear Melonie,

Mesa County Government provides this letter of support for the Town of Collbran's application for Community Development Block Grant funding through the Colorado Department of Local Affairs for the Collbran Auditorium Renovation project.

The Mesa County Register of Historic Landmarks recognizes the historic, architectural, and cultural heritage of Mesa County with the goal of increasing the public's appreciation of Mesa County's unique heritage. Accordingly, the Board of County Commissioners unanimously designated the Collbran Auditorium as a Mesa County Historic Landmark Number 4 on June 20th, 2017. The Auditorium, which was constructed in 1907, has served as a focal point for the Collbran community for 115 years. It has been an important gathering place for cattlemen and wool growers, served as a dance hall and theatre, was at one time a roller-skating rink, and still has the projection booth from when it served as a movie theater. It remains to this day an important community gathering place for not just the residents of the Town of Collbran, but for many organizations and community groups throughout the Plateau Valley.

The Auditorium is in need of extensive rehabilitation and renovation to allow it to serve the community for another hundred years or more. With financial support from the Colorado State Historic Fund and the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, the Town has developed a plan to begin a multi-phased renovation project that will first address structural and life-safety issues and protect and preserve the exterior of this historic community center. Mesa County fully supports the Town's plan to rehabilitate the structure, and is committed to providing assistance from our building, planning, and engineering staff as the Town moves forward with this legacy project.

Mesa County values the importance of stabilizing and strengthening our neighboring communities, and the economy, by supporting programs that assist rural communities with technical assistance and subsequent grant relief to achieve these programs. Mesa County appreciates and looks forward to continuing to collaborate on opportunities to strengthen our community while providing resources for our citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cody Davis", written over a horizontal line.

Cody Davis, Chair
Board of Commissioners