

The Creative Community Fund was established in 2023 to honor CFGV's Director of Community Impact, Maryo Gard Ewell, on the occasion of her retirement. Maryo has spent decades enriching every community she's called home through the arts, and she continues that work in the Gunnison Valley—both through her roles at CFGV and as an engaged community member.

To celebrate her legacy, the Fund provides small grants—typically under \$500 (with slightly larger requests considered if a proposal compellingly addresses all four questions below)—to organizations and community groups that are creatively building and strengthening our community through special projects, programs, and events.

Submitting a Proposal

Anyone recommending a project, program, or event for support should submit a brief proposal for CFGV staff to review. Proposals may come from:

- The organization or group leading the project
- CFGV staff who become aware of an aligned opportunity
- Community referrals, including partners such as The Resiliency Project
- Individual community members

Proposals may be submitted in any format—online application, completed form (attached), letter, email, video, artwork, etc.—and must address at least three of the following four questions:

1. How does the project strengthen existing ties or build new connections among people or groups?
2. How does the project create beauty and/or joy?
3. How does the project include the arts?
4. How does the project address a community issue or reality in a creative way?

Review and Selection

CFGV staff review proposals on a rolling basis. Each year, three to four proposals (up to a total of \$1,500) will be awarded funding. Proposals that thoughtfully answer at least three of the four questions—and that staff find compelling, imaginative, and aligned with the spirit of the Fund—are most likely to be funded, provided annual funds remain available.

If Funded

If approved, a grantee organization or entity must be identified (if not already known) to receive the grant. The organization or group will then be notified of the award.

Formal reporting is *not* required; however, CFGV welcomes brief follow-up information about the project's success and any photos of the project, program, or event.



Creative Community Fund Proposal/Request Form

Small grants (usually less than \$500, although larger grants may be considered) are available for projects, programs, or events that creatively connect and enrich community in the Gunnison Valley. Please complete the following form by answering at least three of the four questions. Note: you may also submit your "proposal" via creative media, such as video, audio, or work of art!

Organization or Group: _____

Contact Name: _____ Contact Email: _____

Name of Project/Program/Event: _____

1. How does the project, program, or event strengthen existing ties or build new bridges among people and groups?

2. How does the project, program, or event create beauty and/or joy?

3. How does the project, program, or event include the arts?

4. How does the project, program, or event address a community issue or reality in a creative way?