

Applicant (GMS): Uniontown Community Development Association, Uniontown, WA

Project: Enhancing the identity of Uniontown as a center for the creative arts

Attachment 2: Project Narrative, The Uniontown project for creative placemaking will use the design of public spaces to enhance the identity of Uniontown as a center for the creative arts.

a. Budget. The amount being requested from the Our Town program for this project is \$25,000 and the total project budget is \$54,090. The planned use of Our Town grant funds includes \$10,160 for selecting, design, fabrication and installation of public art, \$12,100 for architectural design, \$1,800 for publicizing costs and \$940 for community outreach. \$9,150 of additional funding will be obtained through UCDA general funds, community donations and funding from the Avista Foundation and the Inland Northwest Community Foundation. This additional cash will be used for Rural Community Design Initiative costs, structural engineering, travel, project management and administrative cost. In-kind match with a value of \$19,940 or more will be provided through donated design time from the architects, donated services from Washington State University, and donated time from community volunteers.

The renovation of the Dahmen Barn demonstrates that this project is within the capacity of UCDA and the Uniontown community. In renovation of the Dahmen Barn, \$43,135 was donated by individuals, the value of material, property and equipment donated was \$198,187 and \$305,178 was obtained through grants from various foundations and funds.

b. Major Project Activity. The design of public spaces is the central theme in the Uniontown placemaking activities. Uniontown is a community where creative placemaking has been occurring over the past 10 years. In the previous 50 years, as farming was consolidated and retail services were centralized in larger cities, the economic basis for Uniontown as a retail and agricultural service center had been in decline.

The Town is located at the south entry to the Palouse Scenic By-way and the Dahmen Barn is located a few hundred feet west of the highway with an undeveloped field between the Barn and highway. To make the artisan activity more visible, to solidify the identity for the Town, to attract the traveling public to stop in Uniontown, and to increase the spin-off benefit the project activity will include:

- Developing a master site and landscape plan for the full Dahmen Barn site including the area between the Barn and the highway. The site plan will include an amphitheater for outdoor performances, places for public art, landscaping, and accessory building(s) for an improved classroom and additional studio spaces.
- Designing, fabricating and installing public art in the field between the Barn and the highway and at the south entry to Uniontown on the Scenic By-way.
- Developing a plan for a pedestrian/bike path to connect the artisan barn to the school and the Colton community.
- Completing the architectural and structural design for the amphitheater stage and accessory building(s).

A basic parameter that will be used in developing all plans and designs is that the structural concepts must be the type of construction that can be completed by supervised volunteers in a

“barn-raising” approach as has been used in Uniontown on past community improvement projects. To develop public art that reflects the history of the community and reflects the Barn and wheel fence, the public art will be required to be constructed from old agricultural machinery, equipment and parts.

The planning work for the Dahmen Barn site including the field and the bike/pedestrian path will be led by the Washington State University Rural Communities Design Initiative. The design of buildings and structures will be completed by Hutchison & Maul Architects. A request for proposals will be issued inviting design, fabrication and installation of the public art. 2 to 3 pieces of public art will be installed. Four to six community workshops will be held to obtain full community participation in each step in the planning and design process. The project will be managed by the Uniontown Community Development Association.

c. Outcome and measurements. The plans, designs and public art produced through this project will strengthen the identity of Uniontown as a center for creativity and will enable the continued development of the elements that connect the Barn to the community. The immediate outcomes will be the plans and designs developed for the Barn site and field, the bike path, the accessory buildings and the stage. Another outcome by the end of this project will be the public art that will be designed, fabricated and installed at the south entry to the Town and in the field between the Barn and the highway. The outcomes expected within 2 years of the completion of this project will include construction of the stage and construction of the accessory building. It may take 2 to 4 years to complete the bike path.

d. Schedule:

Activity Lead Date completed

Master Dahmen Barn site plan.

Prepare schematic development and landscape plan for Dahmen Barn site and field.

WSU Rural Design

December 2012

Bike/pedestrian plan.

Develop plan for a path to connect the Barn site to the school

WSU Rural Design

May 2013

Design of accessory building(s) and stage.

Complete the design development for the Barn addition and amphitheater stage.

Hutchison & Maul

March

Public art:

Request proposals for creative entry signs and public art for the field between the Barn and the highway.

Artisans Dahmen Barn

January 2013

Select public art designs Artisans

April

Install public art Artisans August

Community workshops. To obtain full community participation in the planning and design, 4 to 6 workshops will be held as plans and designs are developed UCDA & Planning Commission

September, November, January, March & May

Project report. Complete project report and preliminary evaluation

UCDA

September 2013

e. Partners & Key Organizations. The Uniontown Community Development Association, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit, and the Town of Uniontown are the two primary partners on this project. UCDA planned and managed the renovation of the Jacobs building now rented to Sage Baking Company and developed the Artisans at the Dahmen Barn facility and program. The renovated Barn opened in October 2006. UCDA will be the project manager and administrator. The Town of Uniontown will work through the Planning Commission to assist with general development planning, co-sponsoring community workshops and facilitating community involvement.

Additional partners include the Artisans at the Dahmen Barn, a non-profit corporation, the Washington State University Rural Communities Design Initiative and Hutchison & Maul Architects. The Artisans at the Dahmen Barn organization was set up in 2009 to manage the day to day operation of the artisan programs. The Artisans Program will coordinate the selection and installation of the public art on the field and at the south entry to the Town. WSU Rural Communities Design Initiative will incorporate the development and landscaping plan for the site in their fall semester work and the development of the bike/pedestrian path plan in the spring semester studio work. Hutchison & Maul Architects will provide the design development for accessory building(s) and the amphitheater stage.

The town of Colton and the Colton/Uniontown School District are supporting participants. Additional support is being provided by the Southeast Washington Economic Development Association and the business development department of Avista utilities. These organizations will be involved in reviewing plans and designs and facilitating community participation.

f. Target Community. The greater Uniontown area has a total population in the 2010 census of 1,194 people in 487 households with a median age of 45.4 years. The Colton/Uniontown school district has 172 students. The census district includes the incorporated town of Uniontown where this project will be located and the town of Colton. Related community improvement projects being developed at this time includes a farmers' market and a program for the artisans to work with our small rural school district to bring art education to the students. The secondary service area for the Dahmen Barn creative center is the Palouse region that includes 4 rural counties in southeast Washington and north central Idaho.

g. Plans for promoting and publicizing. Several methods will be used to promote the project. First, information will be incorporated into the two community websites: www.artisanbarn.org and www.Uniontown.us. As the project gets started and as major activities are completed information will be distributed through news releases to all newspapers within 100 miles of Uniontown. Articles on the project will be included in the Dahmen Barn e-newsletter and in the town and school newsletters. As opportunities arise, the completed plans and designs will be submitted to regional design and planning shows.

h. Plans for documenting and evaluating. The first level of evaluation will be based on the completion of each activity as listed in the schedule above. The long term evaluation will include an annual assessment compared to the base year of 2012 of the number visitors to the Barn, the number of retail service businesses in the area, the number of students in the Colton/Uniontown school, and the number of residents in Uniontown/Colton area.

i. Goals and impact. The goal for this project is to continue the reinvention of this rural community resulting in a sustainable community, school and creativity center at the Dahmen Barn. The objective is to increase the visitors to the Barn to more than 10,000 per year, maintain the school district full time students at 172 or more and increase the residential population by 3% or more per year.

j. Plans for making the project accessible. The Dahmen Barn and artisan programs are fully accessible and all improvements and facilities will be built to ADA standards.