

**RESOLUTION NO. 2012-002**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF OURAY COUNTY, COLORADO  
DECLARING ITS SUPPORT OF THE RIDGWAY CREATIVE DISTRICT  
IN THE TOWN OF RIDGWAY, OURAY COUNTY, COLORADO WHICH IS "GOAL 3" OF THE  
OURAY COUNTY "BOTTOM-UP" 2011 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND STRATEGIES**

**WHEREAS**, on May 24, 2011 the Board of County Commissioners of Ouray County ("Board") adopted Resolution 2011-022 supporting the "Bottom-Up" 2011 Economic Development Goals and Strategies which are incorporated into the April 15, 2011 plan entitled "'Bottom-Up' 2011 County Economic Development Summary Top Five Economic Goals & Strategies for Ouray County, Colorado" ("Ouray County Bottom-Up Plan"); and

**WHEREAS**, Resolution 2011-022 acknowledges that the Ouray County Bottom-Up Plan was developed with significant input from a broad range of community interests within Ouray County including representatives from the Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce and the Ouray Chamber Resort Association; elected officials from the Ouray County Board of County Commissioners, Ouray City Council and Ridgway Town Council, and representatives from various interests within Ouray County including tourism, natural resources, alternative energy, hard rock mining, agriculture and locally grown foods, schools, business owners, Realtors, outdoors recreation enthusiasts, arts and cultural organizations, environment, retirees and others; ("Bottom-up Work Group"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Board believes that the process to develop the Ouray County Bottom-Up Plan was open and collaborative and that the Ouray County Bottom-Up Plan represents a broad consensus of community support from throughout Ouray County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bottom-Up Work Group selected five goals from a range of options to include in the "Top Five Economic Development Goals and Strategies for Ouray County, Colorado"; and

**WHEREAS**, Colorado's Creative Industries Division, within the Office of Economic Development and International Trade, was established in July 2010 to capitalize on the immense potential for Colorado's creative sector to drive economic growth in Colorado; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2011, Governor Hickenlooper signed legislation passed by the General Assembly that encourages the formation of Colorado Creative Districts in communities, neighborhoods, or contiguous geographic areas, for the purposes of:

- attracting creative entrepreneurs and artists to a community, infusing new energy and innovation which in turn will enhance the economic and civic capital of the community;
- creating hubs of economic activity, thereby enhancing the area as an appealing place to live, visit and conduct business, as well as create new economic activity;
- attracting visitors;
- revitalizing and beautifying communities;
- providing a focal point for celebrating and strengthening a community's unique identity;
- showcasing cultural and artistic organizations, events, and amenities; and

**WHEREAS**, two Colorado Creative Districts will be certified in 2012 with each receiving a \$15,000 grant and a technical assistance package to enhance their districts. Five applicants will be identified as "Prospective" districts and each will receive \$8,000 and a customized package of technical assistance to enhance the likelihood that they will be certified in the future. Up to eight applicants will be identified as "Emerging" and each will receive \$2,000 and technical assistance to further their district planning; and

**WHEREAS**, all communities interested in the program – Certified, Prospective or Emerging – must apply for district certification to be eligible for any of the levels of grants and technical assistance; and

**WHEREAS**, panelists will assess applications based primarily on District Characteristics, Management and Planning, and Community Buy-In; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ouray County Creative District "G3" Committee was formed in 2011 as a result of the Ouray County Bottom Up Economic Development Planning and Goal #3 of the final plan is to "Use HB 11-1031 to Define a Creative District within Ouray County to Obtain Funding to Promote Creative (Artistic) Industries and Cultural Heritage"; and

**WHEREAS**, the expected outcomes and measurable results identified in the 2011 Ouray County "Bottom Up" Economic Development Plan are:

- Increase creative industry related tourism;
- Increase job opportunities in creative industries;
- Increase profitability of creative industries;
- Promote Ouray County's scenic beauty and unique advantages through visual and performing arts;
- Retain, expand and attract compatible businesses and industries;
- Increase local spending and support of creative industry products and cultural events; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 11th, 2011 the Town of Ridgway passed Resolution 11-05, accepting and supporting the "*Bottom Up 2011 County Economic Development Summary Top Five Economic Development Goals & Strategies For Ouray County, Colorado*" dated April 15, 2011; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ouray County Creative District "G3" Committee has been meeting for a period of approximately 9 months to implement the goals and action items of the 2011 Ouray County "Bottom Up" Plan and has made significant progress to that end, and which includes an objective to submit an application to the State of Colorado for Creative District certification; and

**WHEREAS**, Ridgway, Ouray, and Ouray County, lie at the intersection of the San Juan Mountains and the Colorado Plateau; and

**WHEREAS**, the local climate, topography, unsurpassed vistas, and outdoor recreational opportunities have long been a muse for local artists and creative industries; and

**WHEREAS**, the scenic beauty, outdoor recreational opportunities, welcoming atmosphere, rural character, railroad and ranching heritage, and friendly community has attracted creative industries, entrepreneurs, and a diversity of artists to the Town of Ridgway and adjacent portions of Ouray County; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the U.S. 2010 Census, the Town of Ridgway has a population of approximately 924 and Ouray County has a population of 4,436; and

**WHEREAS**, public art, whether it be in the form of statues, gardens, festivals, galleries, or events, is a valuable asset to a community and an expression of its identity; and

**WHEREAS**, certification of the Ridgway Creative District would be in support of certain goals related to economic development and protecting community character included in the Ouray County Master Plan adopted December 1, 1999:

- To preserve the community character of the City of Ouray and the Town of Ridgway;
- To promote a diverse and balanced economy that is less susceptible to the economic swings of any one industry;
- To allow a diverse and balanced tourist economy that minimizes environmental and infrastructure impacts and is less susceptible to seasonal fluctuations;

- To protect and preserve visually significant and sensitive areas of Ouray County that provide the scenic backdrops and vistas that all residents and visitors of Ouray County enjoy; and

**WHEREAS**, the designation of the Ridgway Creative District would be in support of certain goals related to economic development and protecting community character stated in an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) dated August 26, 2002 which was jointly adopted by Ouray County and the Town of Ridgway in which Ouray County and the Town of Ridgway agree to direct urban and commercial growth toward the incorporated area and lands within the Urban Growth Boundary:

- To influence urban development so that it occurs within or will be annexed into the Town of Ridgway, protect visual corridors and in so doing retain community identity.
- To preserve open lands, alpine lands and agricultural land uses around urban areas.
- To preserve natural areas such as streams, canyons, wetlands, wildlife habitat, alpine lands, wildlife corridors, riparian habitats and other lands.

**WHEREAS**, certification of the Ridgway Creative District would increase support for at least 13 non-profit and/or local government organizations supporting performing arts, visual arts, culinary arts, arts education, cultural presentations, and historical heritage that exist or are operating within the Ridgway Creative District; and

**WHEREAS**, certification of the Ridgway Creative District would increase support for at least 16 annual community festivals that celebrate performing and visual arts, and historical/cultural heritage in the Ridgway Creative District; and

**WHEREAS**, certification of the Ridgway Creative District will infuse new energy, awareness, appreciation, desirability, innovation into the Ridgway Creative District; and

**WHEREAS**, certification of the Ridgway Creative District will help to expand and further the growth, prosperity and pride within the Ridgway Creative District; and

**WHEREAS**, certification of the Ridgway Creative District will enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors of Ridgway and Ouray County; and

**WHEREAS**, certification of the Ridgway Creative District will immediately enhance Ridgway as a hub for creative and innovative industries and related economic activity by increasing participation and sales; and

**WHEREAS**, certification of the Ridgway Creative District will benefit the District and surrounding Ridgway, Ouray and Ouray County by spurring economic development that capitalizes on the intrinsic strengths and unique identity of Ridgway and Ouray County; and

**WHEREAS**, certification of the Ridgway Creative District will inject vital resources and provide well deserved widespread recognition into existing organizations that celebrate and showcase the artistic endeavors, festivals, performances, and events in Ridgway and Ouray County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ridgway Creative District boundary was created through a collaborative, grass-roots, artist-led process of numerous community meetings with representatives of local arts non-profits, local government, local businesses, and Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ridgway Creative District boundary thoughtfully defines an existing, pedestrian-friendly eclectic and vibrant hub of art galleries, artist studios, artist coop, public art displays, Ridgway Town Park, Uncompahgre River trails, Ridgway Community Garden, Ridgway Library, historic Sherbino Theater, Weehawken Creative Arts, and numerous Creative Industries; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ridgway Creative District also appropriately includes the Ridgway Historic Business District Zone, portions of the Ridgway Historic Residential Zone, restaurants, offices, retail, and housing.

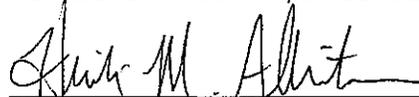
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF OURAY COUNTY, COLORADO, AS FOLLOWS:**

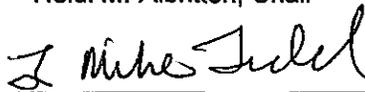
1. The Board fully supports the Town of Ridgway's application to the State of Colorado to certify as a designated Creative District, a portion of the Town of Ridgway, known as the Ridgway Creative District, which has been designed by the artist-led volunteer "G3" committee that formed in 2011 to implement Goal 3 of the Ouray County Bottom-Up Plan.
2. The Board reiterates its full support for the "Bottom-Up' 2011 County Economic Development Summary Top Five Economic Goals & Strategies for Ouray County, Colorado" which describes the Top Five Economic Development Goals & Strategies for Ouray County.
3. The Board reiterates that it will continue to support the individual volunteer committees who are devoted to pursuing the Top Five Economic Development Goals & Strategies for Ouray County, such as providing meeting space and/or other resources as may be within the County's ability and budgetary means.
4. The Board reiterates that individual members of the Board will continue to participate in planning for the district and will continue to seek resources for the district.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 24<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2012.

Voting for: Commissioners Albritton, Fedel and Padgett  
Voting against: None

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF OURAY COUNTY, COLORADO

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Heidi M. Albritton, Chair

  
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F. Mike Fedel, Vice-Chair

  
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Lynn M. Padgett, Member

Attest:



  
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Michelle Nauer, Clerk and Recorder  
By: Linda Munson-Haley, Deputy Clerk of the Board