

For immediate release:

Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant Program
Butte Historic Revitalization Project Subgrant Grantees
Submitted By: Kate McCourt, Butte-Silver Bow (Prime Grantee)

BUTTE, Mont. -

Butte-Silver Bow's Community Development Department is pleased to announce \$734,862 in grant funding for the revitalization of six historic buildings.

These grants, funded through the National Park Service's Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Program (HRP), will enable local property owners to rehabilitate significant cultural resources and foster economic development in the Butte community.

Historic Preservation Officer Kate McCourt says, "We focused on funding projects that will save underutilized buildings, bring new and exciting commercial endeavors, and create much-needed housing for our growing workforce."

"We received many worthy applications," says Community Development Director Karen Byrnes. "It was tough to make the final decisions. We chose six projects that we know will make Butte proud."

Projects include:

- Stella's Vu Villa Bar & Pizzeria, \$200,000. With this funding, critical structural and life safety issues will be addressed. This work will enable the development of residential and commercial rental units on the historic Vu Villa vacant second floor.
- The Thornton Hotel, \$184,000. HRP funding will restore the 1890 Thornton Hotel's historic windows, repair its storefront, brickwork, and common spaces, and stabilize the property. The completed project will deliver a 16-room boutique hotel and multiple first-floor commercial spaces that support small businesses, create jobs, and invite new life into East Broadway.
- The Elks Building, \$160,000. HRP funding will give the Elks building an elevator, by utilizing an existing shaft to make all three underutilized floors accessible and allow for the development of the third floor into apartments for housing Butte's work force. HRP funds will help prepare the hoist, wire the space, and purchase cab and equipment for the elevator itself.
- The Myra Building, \$92,362. The Myra was a tin shop and brothel that was preserved as a time capsule in Butte. With this funding, the exterior restoration of the original wood windows, a new TPO roof and gutter system, and brick repointing will be completed. On the interior, plumbing upgrades in the bathroom and installation of a kitchenette will provide accommodation for overnight guests and make this an economically viable building that can be preserved in the long term.

- The Isle of Books (historically the Southern Hotel), \$62,500. Isle of Books will use HRP funds to complete critical infrastructure restoration, including electrical updates, commercial plumbing and an ADA-accessible bathroom, foundation stabilization, and add a heating system. This funding will open up the currently vacant upper floors of the building to create a vibrant literary and cultural center for Butte.
- Walkerville Mercantile (historic Caplice & McCune Mercantile/Old North Church), \$36,000. HRP funds will provide the materials to assist in the final push of restoring this 1881 mercantile and bringing it back to life as a community hub to service local residents who currently have to travel for groceries. Materials include ceramic tile, paint, insulation (in the basement, where food preparation requires finished surfaces as well as improved heating), drywall, and reintroduced wainscoting in the common spaces, where a fragment remains to be replicated.

1) **Name:** Stella's Vu Villa Bar & Pizzeria

Address: 521 W. Park Street, Butte, Montana 59701

Award: \$200,000

Scope of Work:

This grant application addresses structural and life safety issues in Butte's historic Vu Villa. A four-phase adaptive reuse project has been planned to create five market rate residential and commercial rental units on the vacant second floor. Grant funding will address internal structural upgrades for code compliance, and three exterior repair items that are becoming urgent. Internal upgrades include replacement of deteriorating foundations and basement structural members, lateral and floor deflection corrections on both floors, and other items for seismic and fire safety code compliance. One of these structural work items, second floor lateral reinforcement, covers only the front half of the building to control costs and make the build-out of residential units possible at the conclusion of the grant-funded project. The new rental income will then contribute to the subsequent, post-grant, build-out phases. Grant-funded repair items on the building's exterior include deteriorated rear wall masonry, the historically significant front balcony, and the historically significant front sign.

National Register status: Contributing to the Butte-Anaconda National Historic Landmark District

2) **Name:** The Thornton Hotel

Address: 49 E. Broadway Street, Butte, Montana 59701

Award: \$184,000

Scope of Work:

HRP funding will restore the 1890 Thornton Hotel's historic windows, repair its storefront, brickwork, and common spaces, and stabilize the property in line with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. The completed project will deliver a 16-room boutique hotel and multiple first-floor commercial spaces that support small businesses, create jobs, and invite new life into East Broadway.

National Register status: Contributing to the Butte-Anaconda National Historic Landmark District

3) **Name:** The Elks Building

Address: 206 W. Galena Street, Butte, Montana 59701

Award: \$160,000

Scope of Work:

The most straight-forward of the HRP projects, HRP funding will give the Elks building an elevator, by utilizing an existing shaft to make all three underutilized floors accessible and allow for the development of the third floor into apartments for housing Butte's work force. HRP funds will help prepare the hoist, wire the space, and purchase cab and equipment for the elevator itself.

National Register status: Contributing to the Butte-Anaconda National Historic Landmark District

4) **Name:** The Isle of Books (historically the Southern Hotel)

Address: 41-43 W. Broadway Street, Butte, Montana 59701

Award: \$62,500

Scope of Work:

Isle of Books will use HRP funds to complete critical infrastructure restoration, including electrical updates, commercial plumbing and an ADA-accessible bathroom, foundation stabilization, and add a heating system. The upper floors are currently vacant, and the intention is to create a vibrant literary and cultural center for Butte. Adhering to SOI Standards, they will protect and preserve original pressed tin, lath and plaster, and wainscoting, replicated in-kind what is beyond repair.

National Register status: Contributing to the Butte-Anaconda National Historic Landmark District

5) **Name:** The Myra Building

Address: 108 S. Arizona Street, Butte, Montana 59701

Award: \$92,362

Scope of Work:

The Myra was a tin shop and brothel that was preserved as a time capsule in Butte. The exterior requires restoration of the original wood windows, a new TPO roof and gutter system, and brick repointing. On the interior, plumbing upgrades in the bathroom and a creation of a kitchenette will allow the building to have overnight guests that will make the building economically viable for long term preservation.

National Register status: Contributing to the Butte-Anaconda National Historic Landmark District

6) **Name:** Walkerville Mercantile (historic Caplice & McCune Mercantile/Old North Church)

Address: 1613 N. Main Street, Walkerville, Montana 59701

Award: \$36,000

Scope of Work:

The historic 1881 mercantile building has been brought back from ruin with extensive system repairs and will once again be a mercantile and community hub to service an aging population that currently has to travel for groceries. HRP funds will assist in the final push by paying for the materials to make it happen. Materials include ceramic tile, paint, insulation (in the basement, where food preparation requires finished surfaces as well as improved heating), drywall, and reintroduced wainscoting in the common spaces, where a fragment remains to be replicated.

National Register status: Contributing to the Butte-Anaconda National Historic Landmark District