

# *Yellowstone County*

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July 15, 2025

Ms. Jessica Kay Ruhle  
401 N. 27<sup>th</sup> Street  
Billings, MT 59101

On behalf of the Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners, please consider this letter as written notification of intent to reallocate museum revenue in fiscal year 2026.

Currently the YAM is receiving 20% of the annual revenue of the museum fund. It is our intent to reduce that funding to \$50,000 in FY26. Shortfalls in our public safety budgets are having a substantial impact on our general fund. Additionally, the Huntley Project Museum sustained enormous damage from a recent devastating hailstorm. Funds required for ADA compliance to the Yellowstone County Museum have resulted in additional adverse budget allocations.

Given that Yellowstone County owns the Western Heritage Building and the land, building and art collection of the Yellowstone County Museum, additional museum fund dollars must be available for properties owned by the County, within the tight budgetary restraints of the museum fund.

Thank you for your understanding regarding these difficult choices. We appreciate everything the Yellowstone Art Museum provides for our community.

Sincerely,

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Mark Morse, Chairman  
Yellowstone County Commissioners