

Erika Guy

From: Karen Jarussi <kcjarussi@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 26, 2025 7:21 AM
To: commission
Subject: YAM funding

Dear Yellowstone County Commissioners,

I am writing to ask you to NOT cut the Yellowstone Art Museum's County funding so drastically.

The YAM is of great benefit to our community. As a respected art museum, a haven for residents and tourists alike, a community builder for all ages through classes, events, etc., a tourist magnet, a keeper of memories, and more, it is an integral part of our community. And, it takes care of our historic County Jail, which is a significant landmark.

The YAM is funded in part by the County Museum fund, which is designated for the support of Yellowstone County museums. I question whether it is even legal to divert any of these funds to fund public safety or other non-museum purposes.

There should be more transparency about exactly how and where this money, taken from YAM, is to be reallocated, How was this decision made? What are the considerations and evidence supporting this drastic reduction?

Please don't take so much away from the life blood of our art community.

Best regards,

Karen Jarussi
1131 N 32nd St
Billings MT 50101

Erika Guy

From: Nathan Sonnenschein <n.sonn@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2025 8:40 PM
To: commission
Subject: YAM Funding

Yellowstone County Commissioners,

I urge Yellowstone County to restore the Yellowstone Art Museum's funding allocations to the level previously promised. The museum is not only a vital hub for local culture, but an economic driver for downtown, the city, and the region. The County Commissioners have a responsibility to act as reliable partners in Yellowstone County's cultural and economic development.

Thank you,

Nathan Sonnenschein
437 Terry Avenue, Billings

Erika Guy

From: Art's Paper & Paint <sara@artspaperpaint.com>
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2025 8:06 PM
To: Mark Morse; Mike Waters; Chris White; commission
Subject: Proposed funding cut to the Yellowstone Art Museum

Dear Misters Morse, Waters and White;

It is with great disappointment that I write yet another letter to you voicing opposition to the planned budgetary cuts for the funding to the Yellowstone Art Museum.

While the stewardship of the county budget and the protection of our county is commendable, the lack of transparency is concerning. Past budgets have described the county funding for museums as coming from mills that were voted into place by our residents. How is it that you are able to reallocate funds from those mills? Is it lawful to place these funds into other areas?

I hope that you will reconsider how you allocate funds and support our Yellowstone Art Museum. Supporting the visual arts widens the window to making our community a more creative and versatile place to live.

Sincerely,

Sara Kindsfater
Owner of Art's Paper & Paint
Billings, MT



Art's Paper & Paint
(406) 794-3812
1500 Broadwater Avenue #2 / Billings, MT 59102
www.artspaperpaint.com

Erika Guy

From: Lois Dickson <loisjdickson@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2025 6:35 PM
To: commission
Subject: Yellowstone Art Museum

Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners

316 N 26th Street #3101

Billings, MT 59101

Dear Commissioner Morse, Commissioner Waters, and Commissioner White,

My name is Lois Dickson, and I'm a resident of Yellowstone County.

I'm sharing this message with you after learning of your plan to cut funding from the Yellowstone Art Museum. I'm deeply concerned this decision will negatively affect the museum and hinder programming and activities it offers to our community.

The YAM is an undeniable asset for our county and deserves fair-minded financial support from the Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners.

As your constituent, I urge you to reconsider the drastic funding cut this board has proposed.

Please seek a solution that benefits all museums that call Yellowstone County home.

Thank you for your work in service of our community.

Sincerely,

Lois Dickson

Erika Guy

From: Pam makara <psmakara@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2025 5:47 PM
To: commission
Subject: [External from Website]Sent Via Web

Commissioners White, Waters and Morse:

As you worked toward finalize the upcoming budget, please reconsider the drastic decline in funding that you have proposed for the Yellowstone Art Museum (YAM).

The one-time jail has been beautifully transformed into a cultural space that serves many valuable components. In addition to being a hub for contemporary and historical reference, the museum inspires and encourages creativity, freedom of thought, and expression. It offers a peaceful respite from the rigors of everyday life.

Let us not forget, the YAM is a major tourist attraction and an important economic driver in Yellowstone County. Many hotels, restaurants, small local businesses, as well as large corporate businesses, sporting and other community events benefit from this historic crown jewel.

Public safety is important but it should not shackle our community. Do not allow austerity to threaten the livelihood of the Magic City.

I support my tax dollars being directed to protecting the YAMs annual budget. It is important to keep the YAM operational.

Sincerely,
Pamela Makara
3103 Illinois Street
Billings MT 59102

Do Not Remove #####
Sent While Viewing: <https://www.yellowstonecountymt.gov/commissioners/Index.asp>
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Sent from my iPad

Erika Guy

From: Kevin Dowling <kpdowling@me.com>
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2025 5:19 PM
To: commission
Subject: Please don't cut YAM

Dear Commissioner Morse, Commissioner Waters, and Commissioner White,

As a resident of Yellowstone County, I am concerned about funding cuts to the YellowstoneArt Museum. These cuts would harm the museum and its programs and activities and decrease opportunities for county residents and visitors to view exhibits.

The YAM is an asset for our county and deserves fair-minded financial support from the Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners.

I urge you to reconsider the drastic funding cut this board has proposed. Please seek a solution that benefits all museums that call Yellowstone County home.

Thank you for your work in service of our community.

Kevin Dowling
1825 10th Street West
Billings, MT 59102

Sent from my iPad

Erika Guy

From: Karsyn <smith.karsyn9@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2025 5:13 PM
To: commission; Mark Morse; Mike Waters; Chris White
Subject: Yellowstone Art Museum Funding

Dear Commissioner Morse, Commissioner Waters, and Commissioner White.

My name is Karsyn Smith, and I'm a resident of Yellowstone County.

I'm sharing this message with you after learning of your despicable plan to cut funding from the Yellowstone Art Museum. I'm deeply concerned this decision will negatively affect the museum and hinder programming and activities it offers to our community, which is in dire need of productive ways for the population to spend its time other than drinking or gambling. The YAM is one of the few places for Billings residents to experience the historical western art and culture of our great state, as well as see travelling art exhibits that many Montanans would never have the chance to see otherwise.

The YAM is an undeniable asset for our county and deserves fair-minded financial support from the Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners. Given the real estate development happening in that area of downtown, I cannot help but assume the worst of the County Commissioners intentions with this proposed budget cut. This appears to be far more motivated by potential private equity interests, and trying to force the YAM into private ownership at best and complete closure and sale of the land and historic building at worst.

As your constituent, I urge you to reconsider the drastic funding cut this board has proposed. Please seek a solution that benefits all museums that call Yellowstone County home.

Sincerely,

Karsyn Smith

Erika Guy

From: Carole Baumann <asiaticlily@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 26, 2025 1:14 AM
To: commission
Subject: Please restore funding to YAM

Dramatically cutting funding to our County's most excellent arts museum comes at such a difficult time. Each year YAM provides soul expanding views to thousands of visitors. Thousands of children come each year to create art or have their own creations on YAM'S walls. For years our County has recognized the needs and worth of this fine institution. Please continue your substantial support. With all the growth in the County surely we can add more money to the pie.

You may remember that YAM developed from the Yellowstone County Jail. It's a tribute to our fine county. Please maintain your support.

Thanks for your consideration,
Carole Baumann
17 Heatherwood Ln.
Billings....59102

Erika Guy

From: JQuanbec <jaquan@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 26, 2025 12:33 AM
To: commission
Subject: Yellowstone Art Museum funding

As a long time Yellowstone County resident, I'm shocked at the level of cuts you're making in museum funding. YAM is one of the few bright lights in Billings that I can wholeheartedly recommend for visitors to see. People have worked so hard over the years to make this a significant site that displays interesting materials for us all to learn from. I'm always impressed at their programs educating children.

I know we have a serious need for more public safety, but why does YAM have to be the sole funder? In addition to last year's funding cuts, this huge proposed cut will do serious damage to one of our most significant institutions.

Please find a solution that is more equitable for our county institutions.

Thank you,

Jaqu Quanbeck
3840 Rimrock Road, #1007
Billings, MT 59102

Erika Guy

From: Lisa Buckman <lucysmom1234@att.net>
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2025 4:35 PM
To: commission
Subject: YAM Budget Cut

Commissioners,

As a Billings resident, I am deeply concerned about the upcoming cuts to the YAM.

Art and culture is an important part of any community and especially ours since we are the biggest city in Montana.

I urge you all not to make these cuts to the Arts!

Sincerely,
Lisa Buckman
Billings, MT

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Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners
316 N 26th Street #3101
Billings, MT 59101

Dear Commissioner Morse, Commissioner Waters, and Commissioner White,

My name is Cherish , and I'm a resident of Yellowstone County.

I'm sharing this message with you after learning of your plan to cut funding from the Yellowstone Art Museum. I'm deeply concerned this decision will negatively affect the museum and hinder programming and activities it offers to our community.

The YAM is an undeniable asset for our county and deserves fair-minded financial support from the Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners.

As your constituent, I urge you to reconsider the drastic funding cut this board has proposed. Please seek a solution that benefits all museums that call Yellowstone County home. Thank you for your work in service of our community.

Sincerely,

Cherish Linse

20 Idaho Ave, Laurel, MT 59044

Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners
316 N 26th Street #3101
Billings, MT 59101

Dear Commissioner Morse, Commissioner Waters, and Commissioner White,

My name is BEN, and I'm a resident of Yellowstone County.

I'm sharing this message with you after learning of your plan to cut funding from the Yellowstone Art Museum. I'm deeply concerned this decision will negatively affect the museum and hinder programming and activities it offers to our community.

The YAM is an undeniable asset for our county and deserves fair-minded financial support from the Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners.

As your constituent, I urge you to reconsider the drastic funding cut this board has proposed. Please seek a solution that benefits all museums that call Yellowstone County home. Thank you for your work in service of our community.

Sincerely,



Your Name

Ben Mattern

Your Address

75 Pedersen Dr
Culwaco MT 59330

Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners
316 N 26th Street #3101
Billings, MT 59101

Dear Commissioner Morse, Commissioner Waters, and Commissioner White,

My name is Tim, and I'm a resident of Yellowstone County.

I'm sharing this message with you after learning of your plan to cut funding from the Yellowstone Art Museum. I'm deeply concerned this decision will negatively affect the museum and hinder programming and activities it offers to our community.

The YAM is an undeniable asset for our county and deserves fair-minded financial support from the Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners.

As your constituent, I urge you to reconsider the drastic funding cut this board has proposed. Please seek a solution that benefits all museums that call Yellowstone County home. Thank you for your work in service of our community.

Sincerely,

Your Name Tim Matteson

Your Address 2177 West Field Dr
Billings MT 59106

I FEEL VERY strongly on this
as the YAM is a Great Asset to
our Community And we donate
Each year Personally

Tim Matteson

August 25, 2025

Yellowstone County Board of Commissioners
316 North 26th Street, Room 3101
Billings, MT 59101

Dear Commissioners Morse, Waters and White,

As former Yellowstone County Commissioners, we are writing to express our deep concern and disappointment regarding the recent reallocation of the county's museum fund, specifically the dramatic reduction in funding for the Yellowstone Art Museum (YAM).

Up until last year, the YAM received 25% of the museum mill levy allocation—alongside 30% to the Western Heritage Center, 25% to the Yellowstone County Museum, 12% to the Huntley Project Museum, 3% for Repair & Maintenance, and 5% for protests and delinquencies. This long-standing distribution represented a thoughtful balance of support for multiple institutions that together share the creative spirit and historical richness of our region through dynamic exhibitions, programs, and community engagement.

We are disheartened to see this important and reasonable arrangement unravel. In the past two fiscal years, county funding for the YAM has been reduced by 77%, from \$220,770 to \$50,000. Such a dramatic and disproportionate cut raises serious concerns—not only about financial sustainability, but also about whether the spirit and intent of the museum mill levy is being honored.

The YAM is a cultural cornerstone for the community, welcoming people of all backgrounds, ages, and perspectives. It is a vital space for engagement, education, creativity, and connection. Reducing public investment in the museum undermines its ability to deliver programs that serve the public, including youth education, exhibitions, and community outreach. Cuts of this magnitude also jeopardize staff positions and threaten the safety and maintenance of the facility, an undeniable public asset.

Public dollars are the foundation upon which basic care, preservation, and safe operation of the YAM's historic home—the 140-year-old former Yellowstone County Jail—are built. These funds ensure this landmark remains structurally sound, safe, and accessible for current and future generations. Meanwhile, private fundraising allows the museum to remain agile, creative, and responsive to opportunities that enrich our community through innovative programming and exhibitions. One cannot function without the other; stability in public support is what makes these broader contributions more powerful.

Throughout our tenures as commissioners, we understood that strong public/private partnerships were essential to sustaining cultural institutions. We applauded the YAM's success in attracting private and foundation support. However, there is concern that the museum's ability to secure private funding may lead to assumptions that it can absorb reductions more easily than others, potentially shifting public resources away from a proven community asset. Lack of county taxpayer support not only limits arts-based opportunities for county residents, but it also destabilizes one of the region's most productive and impactful arts organizations at a time when all cultural institutions are facing mounting financial pressures, including reductions in federal funding.

The museum levy was never intended to become a shifting prize but rather a stable foundation of public investment in institutions that serve Yellowstone County residents. We urge you to revisit these decisions and restore a fair and balanced allocation of museum fund dollars—one that reflects the value and contributions of the YAM as a public good, not a luxury.

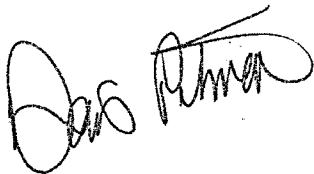
Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Mathew". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names clearly legible.

Mike Mathew, Former Yellowstone County Commissioner
1989-1999

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robyn Driscoll". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first name being more prominent.

Robyn Driscoll, Former Yellowstone County Commissioner
2016-2018

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denis Pitman". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first name being more prominent.

Denis Pitman, Former Yellowstone County Commissioner
2016-2022

Erika Guy

From: Sierra Deming <sierra.sparks96@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2025 11:46 AM
To: commission
Subject: Yellowstone Art Museum Funding

Dear Commissioner Morse, Commissioner Waters, and Commissioner White,

My name is Sierra Deming, and I'm a resident of Yellowstone County.

I'm sharing this message with you after learning of your plan to cut funding from the Yellowstone Art Museum. I'm deeply concerned this decision will negatively affect the museum and hinder programming and activities it offers to our community.

The YAM is an undeniable asset for our county and deserves fair-minded financial support from the Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners.

As your constituent, I urge you to reconsider the drastic funding cut this board has proposed.

Please seek a solution that benefits all museums that call Yellowstone County home.

Thank you for your work in service of our community.

Sincerely,

Sierra Deming

9026 Kautzman Rd #18, Billings, MT 59101

Erika Guy

From: Tana Patterson <tanamontana@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2025 11:27 AM
To: commission
Subject: fund the arts

Dear Commissioners:

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. The Yellowstone Art Museum is a vital resource for enriching our community. Communities that are enriched with thoughtful powerful visual commentary about humanity are less crime ridden.

The YAM is a vital partner to public education, and public information. At least half of the students and residents of Yellowstone County cannot afford to travel to see the art and culture of the wider world. We rely on the YAM to bring it to our corner of the world. It is the poor citizens broadening of mind and experience. How can a thinking citizen harm our community? It is the thinking citizen who will remind everyone that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Sincerely, Tana Patteron

Erika Guy

From: Jan Shorthill <shorthillj@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2025 10:36 AM
To: commission
Subject: YAM

Commissioners,

Every community and citizen needs and deserves access to the arts. Do not withhold funding from Yellowstone Art Museum. It's a gem our city is proud to share.

Sincerely,

Jan Shorthill

1445 Twin Oaks Dr

Billings 59105

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Erika Guy

From: Eileen Nittler <eileennittler@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2025 5:29 AM
To: commission
Subject: Allocation of funds

Hi everyone,

I read recently of the proposal to divert money from museums to incarceration. As a social worker, I urge you to consider that funding prisons does little to prevent crime from happening--it is a response, and an expensive, inefficient response at that.

To prevent crime, communities need robust social supports--education and after-school activities, affordable housing, access to health care, etc.

I am a big fan of museums and see them as a part of a healthy society as well as an attractant for visitors and a way to preserve our culture and history. That being said, if your main goal is to reduce crime, I would ask that funding not be diverted from museums to jails. Divert the money to housing and family support.

Or else leave it where it is so everyone can enjoy our museums.

Thank you,

Eileen Nittler

Erika Guy

From: Bess Lovec <besspl@bresnan.net>
Sent: Sunday, August 24, 2025 1:43 PM
To: commission
Subject: Museum Mill Levy Allocation

Dear Mr. Morse, Mr. Waters, and Mr. White:

I have been a citizen and taxpayer in Yellowstone County for 48 years. Thank you for taking your valuable time to read this email. We have 3 Accredited Museums funded by the Yellowstone County Commissioners (alphabetized):

Western Heritage Center
Yellowstone Art Museum
Yellowstone County Museum.

In addition, the YCC fund the Huntley Project Museum.

Consider funding each museum 25% to take personal opinion and emotion from decision.

To cut YAM disproportionately when it is projected to serve 25,000 visitors in 2025 does not sound like a financially wise decision for our county. Regardless of personal taste, museum visitors spend more time here than if they did not attend museums, stay in hotels, and eat at restaurants, which generates income for our community. All museums need financial support. The Mill Levy to do so was approved by our citizens. I realize that the Huntley Project Museum did not have insurance on their roof, which needs replacing. Why should other museums have to bear a loss for their negligence?

You can make an equitable decision to serve all of our museums, citizens and visitors. I appreciate your consideration. Feel free to contact me at this email or 406-671-9076 if you need more information or wish to discuss this topic.

Bess Lovec,

Volunteer and President of the Trustees, Yellowstone Art Museum

Erika Guy

From: Sandra Schiavon <casafresca49@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 23, 2025 6:11 PM
To: commission
Subject: YAM....

to all three commissioners, give the YAM the money that the voters want them to have. you might hang with folks wanting more jails and a bigger ICE mandate but a whole lot of your constituents do not. did you notice how the school marshall idea went over with the board. like a lead balloon. billings is more progressive than you realize.

the YAM is a treasure. let it breathe. sandra schiavon/voter/billings native

Erika Guy

From: jim <jimoutcold@bresnan.net>
Sent: Saturday, August 23, 2025 4:43 PM
To: commission
Subject: YAM Funding

Commissioners,

The proposed unprecedented reduction in funding for the Yellowstone Art Museum (YAM) would be a shot to the heart of what is good about Yellowstone County – to experience exhibitions, education and enrichment for residents and visitors of all ages. It appears that, as a group, your management of taxpayers' dollars is punitive and lacks any real understanding for those you have been elected or appointed to serve. Favoritism is rampant. Those who have favor get what they want and more. Those who don't have favor are cut "in favor" of the others. Meanwhile you provide yourselves with raises that go beyond what are considered "cost of living" raises. If we are in such dire straits, it is my understanding that you could cut about \$12 thousand right there.

Misappropriating dollars from The County Museum Fund is an irresponsible act of "robbing from Peter to pay Paul" and in no way solves the shortfall in the Public Safety Budget. That problem will not be resolved by killing the YAM, it will only be kicked down the road while the museum and the community are permanently damaged. Your knee-jerk reaction is an untimely blow to the quality of life for those of all ages in Yellowstone County. What has the YAM done to so sour the Commissioners against it? You should be ashamed of yourselves.

Your expressed goal of taking Yellowstone County into the future is running substantially behind schedule. Compare us to Boise, Idaho. Since 1980, Boise has grown about 130% while Billings has grown about 79%. More locally, in the same time frame, compare the growth of Billings to Bozeman's (+145%), or Kalispell's (+277%). They are breathing down our necks. Why is that? The obvious answer is a lack of effective management here.

Please remember Great Falls was within 10,000 of Billings in population in 1980 but has only grown 6.2% since. We have now doubled their population but it is primarily because *they* have nearly stopped growing. As a group of commissioners, the opportunities that have been squandered in Yellowstone County over recent years are beyond belief and today the responsibility is clearly in your basket.

Please rethink this whole thing. Do the jobs you were elected or appointed to do. Get creative, not destructive. Public safety is, and must be, a priority. Find the funding. Create the funding. Identify and eliminate waste. In short, do what it takes to make it work. Manage.

Jim Abel
jimoutcold@bresnan.net
3665 Fort Laramie Drive
Billings, MT 59102
406.698.4069

Erika Guy

From: Jerry Kuester <thekuesters2316@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 23, 2025 1:42 PM
To: commission
Subject: Retain funding for YAM

Dear Commissioners,

This is my second email but I have more to say.

I rallied with a group this Saturday morning in support of continuing funding for Yellowstone Art Museum which provides education and culture to our communities.

Building more jails is not the answer to solving the crime problem. Funding services for mental health, drug addiction and the homeless makes more sense. Also funding programs for youth benefits our communities by providing them with opportunities for a better life.

Barbara Kuester
2316 Miles Ave
Billings, MT 59102
(406)534-4069
thekuesters2316@gmail.com

Erika Guy

From: Kerry Vincent <jvincent58@icloud.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 23, 2025 1:20 PM
To: commission
Subject: YAM funding

Dear Commissioner Morse, Commissioner Waters, and Commissioner White,

My name is James Vincent and I am a resident of Yellowstone County.

I'm sharing this message with you after learning of your plan to cut funding from the Yellowstone Art Museum. I'm deeply concerned this decision will negatively affect the museum and hinder programming and activities it offers to our community.

The YAM is an undeniable asset for our county and deserves fair -minded financial support from the Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners.

As your constituent, I urge you to reconsider the drastic funding cut this board has proposed. Please seek a solution that benefits all museums that call Yellowstone County home. Thank you for your work in service of our community.

Sincerely,

James Vincent
3015 Gregory Drive
Billings, MT. 59102
Sent from my iPhone

Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners
316 N 26th Street #3101
Billings, MT 59101

Dear Commissioner Morse, Commissioner Waters, and Commissioner White,

My name is **Tracy** , and I'm a resident of Yellowstone County.

I'm sharing this message with you after learning of your plan to cut funding from the Yellowstone Art Museum. I'm deeply concerned this decision will negatively affect the museum and hinder programming and activities it offers to our community.

The YAM is an undeniable asset for our county and deserves fair-minded financial support from the Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners.

As your constituent, I urge you to reconsider the drastic funding cut this board has proposed. Please seek a solution that benefits all museums that call Yellowstone County home. Thank you for your work in service of our community.

Sincerely,

Tracy Hughley

806 7th Avenue Laurel MT 59044

Erika Guy

From: Wayne S Pierce <newwestradioproductions@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 22, 2025 8:07 PM
To: commission
Subject: Support The Arts!

Greetings,

There are a lot of reasons to support the arts. You've probably heard them all. I, for one, am a local artist and would like, at some point, show my work at YAM. But, if funding is a problem, why? I believe art in the community is important. Without YAM, where is there another place to go? Seriously.

Wayne S Pierce
Local Artist
[Http://www.newwestradioproductions.com](http://www.newwestradioproductions.com)

Erika Guy

From: Sarah Plath <plathsarah@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 22, 2025 7:45 PM
To: commission
Subject: Funding for Yellowstone Art Museum

Dear Commissioner Morse, Commissioner Waters, and Commissioner White,

My name is Sarah, and I'm a resident of Yellowstone County. I'm sharing this message with you after learning of your plan to cut funding from the Yellowstone Art Museum. I'm deeply concerned this decision will negatively affect the museum and hinder programming and activities it offers to our community. The YAM is an undeniable asset for our county and deserves fair-minded financial support from the Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners. As your constituent, I urge you to reconsider the drastic funding cut this board has proposed. Please seek a solution that benefits all museums that call Yellowstone County home.

Thank you for your work in service of our community.

Sarah - Billings

Erika Guy

From: Barbara Bernheim <barbara.bernheim@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 22, 2025 5:03 PM
To: commission
Subject: Reduced Funding of the Yellowstone At Museum

Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners
316 N 26th Street #3101
Billings, MT 59101

Dear Commissioner Morse, Commissioner Waters, and Commissioner White,

My name is Barbara Bernheim, and I'm a resident of Yellowstone County.

I'm addressing this letter to all of you after learning of your plan to once again cut funding from the Yellowstone Art Museum. I'm deeply concerned this decision will negatively hurt the museum and hinder its programming and the activities it provides to our community.

For over sixty years this museum has evolved to be the largest contemporary art museum in Montana. This distinction along with all its programs in house and out reach provide an undeniable asset for our county and deserves fair-minded financial support from the Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners.

As your constituent, I urge you to reconsider the drastic funding cut this board has proposed.

I understand that funding is tight and challenging for our County. A huge slash of this kind does not allow long range financial adjustment.

Please seek a solution that benefits all museums that call Yellowstone County home.

Thank you for your work in service of our community.

Sincerely,

Barbara Bernheim
2217 Ash St
Billings, MT 59101

Sent from my iPhone
Please excuse any typos

Erika Guy

From: Jerry Kuester <thekuesters2316@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 22, 2025 1:24 PM
To: commission
Subject: Yellowstone Arts museum

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing in support of funding Yellowstone County museum, Western Heritage Center and Huntley Project Museum. In my opinion it would be better to fund services that help prevent crime in place of building more jails. For example, let's invest in programs for our youth and not cut funding for services that are now in operation. What we need for safety is less guns on the streets, not more jails to lock up law breakers. Let's do more preventive intervention, like involving youth in creative activities like art, building, mechanical work, volunteering in forestry, sports outside of school and too many to list here. Can you think outside of the box?

Barbara Kuester
2316 Miles Ave
Billings, MT 59102
thekuesters2316@gmail.com
(406) 534-4069

Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners
316 N 26th Street #3101
Billings, MT 59101


Dear Commissioner Morse, Commissioner Waters, and Commissioner White,

My name is Renee Younglund-Davis, and I'm a resident of Yellowstone County. I'm sharing this message with you after learning of your plan to cut funding from the Yellowstone Art Museum. I'm deeply concerned this decision will negatively affect the museum and hinder programming and activities it offers to our community.

The YAM is an undeniable asset for our county and deserves fair-minded financial support from the Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners. As your constituent, I urge you to reconsider the drastic funding cut this board has proposed.

Please seek a solution that benefits all museums that call Yellowstone County home. Thank you for your work in service of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Renee Younglund-Davis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Renee" being more prominent and the last name "Younglund-Davis" following in a similar style.

Renee Younglund-Davis
2421 Keel Dr
Billings, MT 59105

Erika Guy

From: Walker Smith <walkerdsmith12@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 21, 2025 6:07 PM
Subject: Yellowstone Art Museum

Dear Commissioner,

My name is Walker Nile, and I'm a resident of Yellowstone County.

I'm sharing this message with you after learning of your plan to cut funding from the Yellowstone Art Museum. I'm deeply concerned this decision will negatively affect the museum and hinder programming and activities it offers to our community.

The YAM is an undeniable asset for our county and deserves fair-minded financial support from the Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners.

As your constituent, I urge you to reconsider the drastic funding cut this board has proposed. Please seek a solution that benefits all museums that call Yellowstone County home.

Thank you for your work in service of our community.

Sincerely,

Walker Nile

901 Senora Avenue
Billings, MT 59105

Erika Guy

From: Karen Durfey <durfkey@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 21, 2025 6:08 PM
To: commission
Subject: YAM cuts

Yellowstone County Commissioners

Gentlemen:

I am highly disappointed that you chose to impact our community with cuts to the Yellowstone Art Museum. This museum building itself is a connection to our past. Along with that is our state and local history featuring works by Montana artists who share our early lifestyles. Our highly honored museum is a connection to people across the United States as our art pieces travel to other museums. This advertising brings people to our state to see the West. Most important of all is the connection with children who are inspired to learn through art to use their own creativity. Your decision to impact all of these outcomes is harmful to everyone. Please reconsider that decision.

Karen Durfey

Billings, Montana