



CITY OF CAÑON CITY

Economic Development

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May 6th, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of Cañon City Economic Development, I would like to share my resounding support for the grass roots effort of Phil Lund and his stakeholder community to create a community-developed mural on the wall of Safeway at 15th and US-50.

In an effort to establish more art in the community, Cañon City has in the past promoted community murals, primarily on City-owned property. In 2022, as part of the City's year-long 150th anniversary celebration, Cañon City Economic Development created the Walls of Cañon mural program to help attract and assist with funding public art on private property. Since then, the City established the Public Arts Committee (PAC) to help promote the arts in general, including the development of additional public murals and providing guidance for private art when called upon. The PAC is also the first step in the City's efforts to become a Colorado Creative District, which promises additional arts funding in the future.

With City funding no longer available for specific private art projects, it is refreshing to see this mural initiative and hear about Safeway's interest in participating. The Safeway building provides a great community/downtown gateway location for something that will surely delight passers-by and visitors to the community. Murals like this beautify and re-energize highly visible corridors like US-50 and contribute to our local identity, support cultural tourism, spark community pride, and signal a collective investment in the future of the arts in Cañon City. These are the kinds of impacts we seek to cultivate in our community.

I encourage Safeway to move forward with this initiative. Thank you for being such a valued part of this community and our economy!

Sincerely,

Rick Harrmann

Rick Harrmann
Manager of Economic Development