



1/2026 LRCD Community Enhancement Grant Application

Community Enhancement Grant Application

(this form must be filled out completely)

Applicant Name(s) Joanne Mai

Group or Organization affiliation: _Louisa Swain Foundation/Wyoming Women's History House

Primary Contact Name: Joanne Mai **Phone:** 307-760-0929

Email(s): director@WyomingWomensHistoryHouse.org

Mailing Address: PO Box 1960 **City:** Laramie **State:** Wyoming

Project Title: Phase Two of Courtyard Renovation

Project location and site description ****Photos are required**** (Please include all before photos, and if possible, include a map, GPS coordinates or a legal description):

The Wyoming Women's History House is located at 317 South Second Street in downtown Laramie. The entrance courtyard is on the west side of the property, abutting the sidewalk that runs north-south along 2nd St.

we may add patio lights and more seating options.

Project Justification: Describe how your project meets the program objectives and how it benefits the public.

In addition to making the courtyard a safe space, we aim to welcome the community into the courtyard with events that we host and that we allow other non-profit organizations to participate in. So far, we have used the courtyard for a workshop for teachers to learn about Wyoming's role in women's suffrage, and for an art workshop with the mural artist where participants could make their own mini mural. A UW art class used it this summer as a gathering space to launch a mural walk from, and the Laramie High School Swim and Dive teams used it as a place to hold a fundraiser selling peaches where they sold \$4,000 to offset team uniform costs.

We have seen an increase in people gathering in the space, meeting friends for a chat over a coffee or cupcake from one of our neighbors, and a place to take family photos of their visit to Laramie.

The courtyard redesign included the addition of 4 patio areas that each can hold a pop-up tent and has its own dedicated power outlet. We envision this allowing us to host community events like craft shows, musical groups, book sales, etc. that would draw people to downtown without the need to close off a street to host the event.

Adding more drought tolerant plants, an irrigation system and a stone bench would further increase the functionality of the space to allow for more community gatherings.

Project design life and maintenance: Describe the projected lifespan of your project and how it will be maintained over that time.

The Louisa Swain Foundation, our parent 501c3 nonprofit organization, plans to launch an endowment fundraising campaign within the next year to create an ongoing maintenance fund for our building and courtyard space.

Estimated Project Cost: \$12,500

Amount of grant applying for: \$5,000

udget Sheet on Pg 7



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Community Enhancement Grant

Budget Sheet

Please provide a detailed cost breakdown and attach a cost/bid estimate, if applicable.

Material Description & Quantities	Estimated Cost	Applicant Contribution (please note if it is in-kind or cash)	Anticipated Conservation District Contribution
Irrigation system plan, parts and installation to service 4 trees, ring garden of drought tolerant flowers, existing 4 rose bushes, 7 additional existing bushes and additional plants requested below, as well as feed a water feature in the southside garden	\$7,500	\$1,500 Combination of in-kind donation of materials and labor	\$3,500
Stone bench to match existing smaller stone benches	\$1,500	\$500 Cash	\$1,000
32 drought tolerant plants to be divided between two larger garden spaces to potentially include (based on availability and appropriateness): prairie coneflower, Walker's Low catmint, May Night salvia, potentilla or golden currant and Blue Mist spirea	\$1,000	\$500 Combination of cash and in-kind donation of labor	\$500
Water feature to provide soothing sounds and water source for birds and insects	\$2,000	\$2,000 Cash and/or matching grant	\$0
Small signs identifying names of plants in courtyard	\$500	\$500 Cash and/or matching grant	\$0
Totals	\$ 12,500	\$ 7,500	\$5,000

Amount of grant applying for: \$5,000

Signature of Applicant: Joanne Mai (please accept in lieu of a wet signature) **Date:** 8/19/26

Here is the description from the Albany County Assessor's site:

- PIDN: 16733331901900
 - Account: R0014409 Property Detail
 - Name: FOUNDATION FOR LARAMIE, WYOMING A WYO NON PROFIT CORP
 - Mail Addr: PO BOX 1960
 - Mail Addr: LARAMIE, WY 82073
 - St Addr: 317 2ND ST LARAMIE
 - Deed: 2003, 10294, 10/01/1998
 - Location: O.T. B 200 L 20; L 21
- Note: This is an abbreviated legal for assessor purposes only – Not to be used on legal documents*
- Net Acres: 0.15 (6,336 square feet)
 - Type: Exempt
 - Neighborhood: 782A

Here are images of the property taken prior to May 22, 2026 when Phase One of the Courtyard renovation began.





Project Description: Describe what you plan to do in detail (attach all before photos along with any project design plans. Use another sheet of paper if needed). Decisions regarding project funding will be based largely upon your project's description and it's benefit to the public.

In Phase One of the Courtyard Renovation project (May-July 2026), we focused on making the walkways and patio areas safe and secure for anyone visiting the property. We also addressed a lack of topsoil and improper drainage that was causing water to pool in locations. Additionally, we removed a row of juniper bushes that had been planted along our water line, and moved trees and shrubs from along the fence where they could protrude into the sidewalk to within garden spaces. Also during this time, a mural and sign were painted on the south side of the courtyard and flowers were planted by the Laramie Garden Club in the garden that rings the statue.

Here are photos of the courtyard after Phase One.



In Phase Two of the Courtyard Renovation project (September-December 2026), we would like to add an irrigation system to alleviate the laying of hoses across walking paths as well as water plants more efficiently and effectively. We would like to add a larger stone bench underneath the mural where visitors can sit and take photos of themselves with the mural to alleviate people walking into the garden as they are now and standing on uneven mulch. We would like to add additional native, drought-tolerant plants to the large gardens to welcome birds and insects, provide beauty and reduce the heat effect of the large black metal wall that runs along the north side of the courtyard. Also during this phase, we will add a two-foot wide Trailblazers Trail timeline made of concrete or stone around the perimeter of our current central walkway. The timeline is meant to encourage people to walk in the trailblazers' trail as it will feature 22-25 women who achieved historic firsts for Wyoming. Additionally, we may add a sculptural element to the south west area of the courtyard that may include a water feature for birds and as a relaxing sound element to counter noise from the street and train tracks.

PLEASE SEE SEPARATE PDF OF PHASE TWO DIAGRAM

In Phase Three of the Courtyard Renovation project (2027 or beyond) we will look at options for providing shade in several spaces within the courtyard and a wind break along the west side of the property. Additionally,



