

Yellowstone County



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May 28, 2024

Ms. Jessica Kay Ruhle
401 N. 27th 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 portions of museum revenue beginning in July 2024.

Currently, the YAM is receiving 25% of the annual revenue of the fund. It is our intent to reduce that funding to 20% in FY25 and then to 15% in FY26 and beyond. Keep in mind that as amounts collected through property taxes increase each year, you will be seeing your contribution dollars begin to increase again over time.

PILT monies have been used in the past to fund numerous one-time projects for all of the museums. Over the past several years this has amounted to almost \$200,000. Given other needs, a significant portion of PILT allocations going forward will not be available for these projects. To be clear, we will still review requests going forward wherever possible.

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 and look forward to seeing you at our annual budget hearings in late June.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
YELLOWSTONE COUNTY, MONTANA

John Ostlund, Chair

Mark Morse, Member

Donald W. Jones, Member