



RIDGWAY SPACE TO CREATE FACT SHEET

(January 2017)

See prior Fact Sheets for more information about Space to Create Colorado partners and Artspace at www.ridgwaycreativedistrict.com under the Space to Create tab.

BACKGROUND:

On August 23rd, 2016, Space to Create Colorado announced that Ridgway had been selected as the Space to Create community for Southwest Colorado. This statewide initiative will stimulate community and economic development in rural, small town and mountain communities by providing long-term affordable and financially sustainable workforce housing and working spaces for creative sector employment. Local organizational partners in Ridgway Space to Create are: Telluride Foundation, Region 10, Ouray County Housing Authority, San Miguel Power Association, Weehawken Creative Arts and the Ridgway Chautauqua Society.

THE PRELIMINARY FEASIBILITY STUDY:

Staff from Artspace (the technical consultant and nonprofit developer for Space to Create) met with more than 100 members of the community and region in five focus groups at the end of September. These focus groups had size limits and targets for specific sectors of the area's population. Significant efforts were made to represent local and regional Creatives, creative enterprises, arts and culture groups, civic and nonprofit leaders, and the finance sector. A preliminary feasibility study report for Ridgway Space to Create that includes the data collected during these focus groups was released in early January and can be found on the bulletin board of the Town's website, www.town.ridgway.co.us, or under the Space to Create tab at www.ridgwaycreativedistrict.com. A final version of the feasibility study will be completed Summer 2017, including the results from the Arts Market Survey.

THE ARTS MARKET SURVEY:

The Ridgway Space to Create Arts Market Survey will go live on January 31st, 2017, launched during the Survey Soirée event at the Sherbino. All people, enterprises, and organizations who have an interest in creative space in Ridgway are encouraged to respond to this survey at www.ridgwayS2Csurvey.com. Town staff and Ridgway Space to Create Outreach Committee volunteers provided input to the survey formulated by Artspace. **Responses to the survey will provide anonymous statistical information to inform the scale, design and uses of the facility.** This information will be critical to the next phases of the project. Outreach will focus on Ouray County first, neighboring towns next, and across the Western Slope through digital means. Please help spread the word! The survey will close on March 28th, 2017.

QUESTIONS HEARD AROUND TOWN AND WHAT IS CURRENTLY KNOWN:

Is this only an affordable housing project?

Ridgway Space to Create is planned to include long-term affordable housing for creative individuals, broadly defining "creative". It will also be a facility which could house private and/or community studio space(s), commercial spaces, and other types of space. We need to know what types of space are desired in our community and region. A big response to the survey at www.ridgwayS2Csurvey.com will help us to understand this.

Will this facility be an art gallery?

Ridgway Space to Create *could* contain an art gallery, *if* that's what the survey data and the planning process determines this community needs in the project. There are many possible uses for the space to be built, not simply an art gallery.

Will this building be primarily for out-of-town artists or for young people?

It is much more likely that local creative individuals, businesses and organizations will make regular use of this facility than non-locals, just because the facility is here. That said, it isn't known yet who exactly wants to use a facility such as this and for what purposes. That's why there's a survey at www.ridgwayS2Csurvey.com! Responses to the online survey from Ouray County residents are especially being sought.

In its other similar facilities, Artspace encourages applications for living space "from all people in the creative arts, regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ethnicity, gender identity, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, occupation or status with regard to public assistance, or physical, mental, or emotional disability. They especially seek individuals who are committed to building community and will give some of their time and energy toward this goal." The process in Ridgway has not been determined yet.

I am concerned that this building will negatively impact parking downtown.

The Town recently created more downtown parking with the downtown improvement project, adding a new parking lot next to Hartwell Park and increasing the number of defined, on-street parking spaces. Increased activity in the downtown area may eventually result in a demand for more parking spaces. Parking demands are healthy in a vibrant downtown. Because this building will likely be multi-use and may provide working space within the building to some of its residents, it may actually decrease some vehicle usage and even some commuting, a net gain in Ridgway's desire to maintain an element of pedestrian-friendliness. The online survey will collect data about potential building users' needs for parking spaces, including bicycle spaces — an unknown at this time.

Will the Space to Create Ridgway building be 3 stories high?

The building is planned to be in the Historic Business District, where code allows construction up to 35 feet in height. This means that the building could be 3 stories high. The building height will likely be driven by the demand, the results of the survey, the building design and other factors. None of these are completed at this time, so the building height today is unknown.

Will rent be subsidized by the Town?

At this time, it is not planned that the Town will subsidize rent for residents of a building, and the Town doesn't intend to provide a rent subsidy. All efforts will be made by Space to Create Colorado partners and Ridgway Space to Create partners to keep costs low enough to construct long-term affordable space through creative financing options and careful planning.

Who decides who will live in this building? Can I apply now?

The nonprofit developer working with the Town of Ridgway on this project, Artspace, manages similar facilities around the country. Though the process that will be used in Ridgway hasn't been determined yet, typically a committee of creative people from a range of disciplines, building residents in good standing, and an owner representative review applications for residency. It is still too early to apply at this time, but please take the survey, if you might be interested, at www.ridgwayS2Csurvey.com.

For more information, contact Diedra Silbert, Community Initiatives Facilitator, Town of Ridgway: dsilbert@town.ridgway.co.us or 970-626-5308 x. 215