Subject: Letter of Support for Ivins Inspired's "Safety in Art: Enhancing Safety and Connecting Generations" Grant Application

Dear AARP Community Challenge Review Committee,

We, the Ivins City Council, along with Mayor Chris Hart, are writing to express our strong support for Ivins Inspired's grant application for the "Safety in Art: Enhancing Safety and Connecting Generations" project. This initiative, which has our full approval based upon the recommendation of the Ivins City Arts Commission, aligns perfectly with our city's commitment to enhancing public safety, promoting community engagement, and enriching the quality of life for all our residents.

Ivins City strongly supports Ivins Inspired's grant application. This project, a collaborative effort involving the Santa Clara-Ivins Police Department, the Ivins City Arts Commission, and Ivins City, directly supports our city's broader goals of integrating art into our community, enhancing public spaces, fostering engagement, and prioritizing public safety.

This project will transform four crosswalks in the immediate vicinity of Vista School in Ivins into vibrant works of art. Located within the city's designated "Arts Corridor," as defined by the Ivins City Arts Commission's Master Plan. Vista School has a demonstrated commitment to public art, having previously collaborated with the Ivins City Arts Commission on a student-created utility box wrap for the "It's a Wrap" program. This project builds on that existing partnership and further enhances the school's connection to the arts while prioritizing the safety of its students and the surrounding community. These crosswalks are crucial for the safety of Vista School students who cross these streets daily, for many seniors who live in the surrounding area and rely on these crossings to access local amenities and connect with the community, and for the large number of cyclists who use this route. The specific crosswalk locations are:

1. 215 E Center Street–crosswalk crossing Center St. on the east leg of Center St./Red Mountain Drive Roundabout
2. 285 E Center Street–mid block crosswalk crossing Center St. at Rocky Vista University
3. Puerto Drive/Center Street–school crosswalk N-S crossing Center St. at Vista School
4. Puerto Drive/Center Street–school crosswalk E-W crossing of Puerto Drive

These locations experience high pedestrian traffic and have a documented history of accidents and near-misses. Recently, a minor was involved in an accident while using the crosswalk in front of Vista School. Additionally, our School Resource Officer has witnessed numerous instances of vehicles speeding through these crosswalks—even when flashing lights are activated—highlighting the urgent need for improved safety measures. Given the significant pedestrian volume, particularly during school hours and community events, enhancing these crosswalks is a necessary step toward ensuring the safety of our students, residents, and visitors.

This initiative aims to enhance pedestrian, cyclist, and ebike safety by increasing driver awareness and improving crosswalk visibility through the use of vibrant, artistic designs. We also seek to improve walkability in this area, making it safer and more inviting for students and seniors to walk to school, local businesses, and community gathering places. Finally, this project will create visually appealing public spaces that contribute to the overall aesthetic of the neighborhood and foster a sense of community pride.

We are particularly excited by the project's focus on intergenerational collaboration, connecting Vista School students and our 50+ population in the design and implementation process. Involving these groups will foster community ownership and pride, bridging generations through shared creative experiences. We believe art fosters dialogue and creates a shared sense of place.

The Ivins City Arts Commission will provide artistic expertise, facilitate community design workshops (specifically targeting students and older adults), assist with artist selection, and promote the project. We believe this project, with an estimated cost of $24,000 for the four crosswalks, will significantly enhance pedestrian safety, beautify our community, and strengthen intergenerational connections. We fully support this initiative and its potential to make Ivins a safer, more vibrant, and artistically engaging place.

Sincerely,

Mayor Chris Hart