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

Dear AARP Community Challenge Review Committee,

On behalf of the administrative team of Vista School, we are writing to express our enthusiastic support for Ivins Inspired's "Safety in Art: Enhancing Safety and Connecting Generations" project grant. This initiative, which has received the endorsement of the Ivins City Arts Commission, aligns seamlessly with our city and school's commitment to enhancing public safety, fostering community engagement, and enriching the quality of life for all residents and students.

Vista School wholeheartedly supports Ivins Inspired's grant application. This project will unite the Santa Clara-Ivins Police Department, the Ivins City Arts Commission, Ivins City, Vista School, and various community groups to advance our city's broader goals of integrating art into public spaces, fostering engagement, and prioritizing pedestrian safety.

The project aims to transform four crosswalks in front of Vista School into vibrant, artistically designed safety features. Located within the city's designated "Arts Corridor," as outlined in the Ivins City Arts Commission's Master Plan, these crosswalks are vital to ensuring the safety of our students, local seniors, and numerous cyclists who utilize this route. Our school has a longstanding commitment to public art, exemplified by our previous collaboration with the Ivins City Arts Commission on the student-created utility box wrap for the "It's a Wrap" program. This new initiative builds upon that partnership, further strengthening our school's connection to the arts while prioritizing community safety.

The specific crosswalks targeted for enhancement include:

- **215 E Center Street** – Crosswalk crossing Center St. on the east leg of the Center St./Red Mountain Drive Roundabout
- **285 E Center Street** – Mid-block crosswalk crossing Center St. at Rocky Vista University
- **Puerto Drive/Center Street** – School crosswalk (North-South) crossing Center St. at Vista School
- **Puerto Drive/Center Street** – School crosswalk (East-West) crossing 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 will enhance pedestrian, cyclist, and e-bike safety by increasing driver awareness and improving crosswalk visibility through the use of bold, artistic designs. Additionally, it will contribute to a more walkable and inviting environment, encouraging students and seniors to access local businesses and community spaces safely. Beyond safety, this project will elevate the aesthetic appeal of our neighborhood and foster a stronger sense of community pride.

We are particularly excited about the intergenerational collaboration that this project will foster. By engaging Vista School students and community members aged 50+, this initiative will build meaningful connections across generations, encouraging shared creative experiences and community ownership. As a school dedicated to "creating an educational environment where immersion in the arts and technology inspires student growth," we firmly believe in the power of art to foster dialogue, create a sense of place, and strengthen community bonds.

The Ivins City Arts Commission will play a crucial role in this project by providing artistic expertise, facilitating community design workshops for students and older adults, assisting in artist selection, and promoting the initiative. With an estimated cost of $24,000 for the four crosswalks, we are confident that this project will make a significant impact by enhancing pedestrian safety, beautifying our community, and reinforcing intergenerational connections.

Vista School fully supports this initiative and its potential to make Ivins a safer, more vibrant, and artistically engaging place. We urge you to approve this grant, knowing that it will leave a lasting positive impact on our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Mr. Michael Hale**
**Vista School**
**Assistant Principal**
**Student Services**
**Safety and Security Specialist**
**Title IX Coordinator**
**(435) 673-4110 EXT 309**
*"Always do your best."*