



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

LINDSAY BERSCHAUER • KIT JOHNSTON • MARY STARRETT

535 NE Fifth Street • McMinnville, OR 97128
4523 (503) 434-7501 • Fax (503) 434-7553
TTY (800) 735-290 • www.co.yamhill.or.us

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Business Oregon, Rural Development
121 SW Salmon Street
Portland, Oregon 97204

Accepted by Yamhill County
Board of Commissioners on
11-9-23 by Board Order
#B.O. 23-422

Attention: Brian Plinski, Entrepreneurship Strategist and Rural Opportunity Grant Review Committee

RE: Lafayette Downtown Association Rural Opportunity Grant application

The Board of Commissioners of Yamhill County support the ROI grant application for Lafayette Downtown Association to bolster economic development and create a vibrant, welcoming community.

Lafayette has great historic significance as it was our first county seat and the largest commercial area serving the hundreds of immigrant wagons through the mid-to-late 1800's. Much has changed in that time, as it is no longer the county seat and is facing economic development challenges such as business recruitment, growth, and expansion.

To address those challenges, the Lafayette Downtown Association (LDA) has worked on a visioning project to identify assets and opportunities. They were assisted in this process by RDI, who conducted outreach to local businesses, in particular the Latino population. The outcomes of the work with RDI were to identify a clear vision and direction for LDA, increase understanding of leadership, economic development and community building opportunities and engage the community in the vision for the downtown area. In that visioning, they also identified grant opportunities to support targeted priorities.

Lafayette is now poised to refine and develop the opportunities presented through the visioning process. The ROI grant will help them reach for the next phase of the process including improving the downtown corridor, supporting local business, encouraging new investment, and providing a place that residents can be proud to call home.

Thank you for considering the application for assistance from the Lafayette Downtown Association.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Berschauer
Chair

Kit Johnston
Vice-Chair

Mary Starrett
Commissioner