

Community Funding Request Application

Organization Information

Name: Kelsey Community Association / Old Kelsey Schoolhouse

Address: P. O. Box 954, Georgetown CA 95634

Type: The Kelsey Community Association (KCA) is a Non-profit organization

Project for which funds are requested: The Kelsey Community association is a not-for-profit organization that owns, maintains, and operates the Old Kelsey Schoolhouse as a community center and meeting hall for the community of Kelsey, and is also frequented by residents of Garden Valley, Georgetown and other nearby communities. Due to being closed down for COVID, our non-profit lost \$4100 in revenue for 2020, and \$4800 in revenue for 2021, when compared to pre-COVID annual revenues. We appreciate the Board's understanding of the importance of maintaining and operating community centers in our small, rural communities and request \$5,000 to help replace revenues lost in 2020 and 2021.

Project location: 6440 Garden Valley Road, Garden Valley CA 95633

Project Timeline: N/A

Website: oldkelseyschool-kca.org

Name of Contact Person: Debra Reischel-Cree. KCA President

Telephone Number: (530) 663-6639

Email address: hra090@yahoo.com

Total amount Requested: \$5,000

Event/Project Description

Purpose of the project/organization :

The KCA owns and maintains the Old Kelsey Schoolhouse located at 6440 Garden Valley Road in Garden Valley CA, 95633. The original schoolhouse was built on this site in 1858 near several of the largest mines in the Kelsey Mining District. The original building burned in 1902, and was replaced with the current building. Classes were held in the schoolhouse until 1958, when larger schools were built on the Georgetown Divide. It was also used briefly in the 1980's as a continuation high school. The building was deeded by the Black Oak Mine Union School District to the Kelsey Community Association in 1958 for use as a community center.

To secure funds for upkeep of the building, the KCA relies mostly on meager profits from a monthly community breakfast. This event is attended by many Kelsey residents as well as people from other Divide communities. Many attended school here or had parents or ancestors who did.

During the 2020 and 2021 COVID shutdowns, expenses were paid using part of a Certificate of Deposit that had been earmarked for building improvements. Besides resuming the monthly breakfast fundraisers, funds are now being sought by direct donations from the community, and several grant sources, as the building is in need of renovation..

How will the project support or produce a public benefit to El Dorado County:

The building is currently the only building suitable for community gatherings in the area. Besides being a school, it also served as the community center for meetings and community events since 1858. Gold discoverer James Marshall frequented the school during his residency in Kelsey for the last seventeen years of his life. It is currently rented out for various functions such as parties, receptions etc. The Kelsey Cemetery District Board of Trustees meets there monthly for a modest rent payment. The KCA and Kelsey Women's Neighborly Circle also use the space regularly.

Kelsey has been eroded as a population center over the years, losing its postal zip code over 20 years ago. The only government vestige is the Kelsey Cemetery District. The Kelsey Community Association, through its ownership and maintenance of the Old Kelsey Schoolhouse, is the glue that holds the community together. It is imperative that this continue.

Submitted November 21, 2022