

**SHERIDAN COUNTY**

**APPLICATION FOR ONE CENT OPTIONAL SALES & USE TAX FUNDS**

**FISCAL YEARS 2020 TO 2023  
(July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2023)**

**GENERAL INFORMATION:**

**NAME OF ORGANIZATION:** Sheridan County Historical Society & Museum   **PHONE:** (307) 675-1150

**CONTACT PERSON:** John P. Woodward   **MAILING ADDRESS:** 850 Sibley Circle, Sheridan, WY 82801

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** john.woodward@sheridanmuseum.org

**AMOUNT OF FUNDS REQUESTED:** \$180,000 (Total amount of the 4-year period)

**TAX STATUS:** 501(c)3 Non-Profit Corporation

**DESCRIBE PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF YOUR ORGANIZATION OR MISSION STATEMENT:**

The Mission of the Sheridan County Historical Society Museum is to preserve and share the rich historical and cultural heritage of the Sheridan County Area with present and future generations in order to promote a greater understanding of the American West.

**NO OF BOARD MEMBERS:** 10

**NAMES OF BOARD MEMBERS:**

Stephanie Babione  
Jennifer Betz  
Linda Brownell  
Molly Dow  
Helen Laumann

Edre Maier  
Christopher Sherwood  
Sharie Prout  
Carol Watkins  
Michael Wallop

**PROVIDE A BRIEF HISTORY OF YOUR ORGANIZATION IN SHERIDAN COUNTY, INCLUDING ANY SERVICES PROVIDED TO AREA RESIDENTS:**

In 1960, a group of Sheridan County residents created an organization to preserve and promote local and area history. Their efforts culminated with the Sheridan County Historical Society. The Historical Society provided regular community programs and sought to preserve local historic landmarks. These early members led efforts to preserve the Sheridan Inn and the Trail End Mansion. In 2004, the Historical Society established a small museum near the Fulmer Public Library. The building was too small for our collections and exhibits. Thus, a new building was secured and renovated over the next 18-months. In July 2006, the Sheridan County Museum opened at our current location.

Aside from preserving local and area history, the Sheridan County Historical Society & Museum (SCHS&M) serves the educational and economic interests of Sheridan County residents. We operate a first-rate historical museum interpreting the history of Sheridan County, the Bighorn Mountains, and western Powder River Basin. In this capacity, we maintain a 2,500 sq. ft. exhibit gallery which is now open year round. We welcome approximately 4,000 visitors annually, including several hundred school children. The SCHS&M is a stop for

tourists visiting Sheridan County. Besides the exhibit gallery, the SCHS&M provides educational and outreach programming. Last year, the SCHS&M's educational programming reached approximately 2,300 area residents. These programs aim to instill and maintain a lifelong interest in history and cultural topics. We also work with teachers to develop learning materials and classroom activities. Within the community, we work with area businesses, government agencies, non-profits, and individuals to provide historical information and resources. Current partners include Black Tooth Brewing Company, Sheridan County Conservation District, and the Downtown Sheridan Association.

**BRIEFLY LIST PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES FOR REQUESTED FUNDS:** *(Indicate if the funds are to be used for an operational subsidy or for one-time expenditures such as a project or equipment acquisition or capital improvements; indicate whether other sources are available and been applied for; indicate if you have requested 1% funding from the City of Sheridan and/or the towns of Dayton, Ranchester and Clearmont)*

The requested funds will serve as an operational subsidy and to leverage grant funding. The SCHS&M currently uses optional 1% sales tax funding for the following:

- Utilities
- Exhibit Supplies
- Advertising
- Salaries for part-time education and collections staff

Over the last four years, the SCHS&M has used optional 1% sales tax funding to leverage grant funding for public benefit. Past grants include:

- Homer A. & Mildred S. Scott Foundation (Education), \$30,000 project, 2017-2018
- Sheridan Travel & Tourism (Advertising), \$ 2,575.70 project, 2017-2018
- Denver Foundation/Greenwood Fund (Collections Management), \$3,000 project, 2017-2018

The SCHS&M draws on several sources for operating income in addition to optional 1% sales tax funding. These sources include private donations, investment returns, retail sales, and admissions/memberships. We have applied for optional 1% sales tax funding from the City of Sheridan. Pending the 2018 reauthorization, the City Council has approved \$15,000 per year, a decrease of 23% from the previous 1% cycle.

**BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR ORGANIZATION GOALS AND ESTIMATE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE YOU SERVICE IN THE COMMUNITY:**

The SCHS&M has three institutional goals derived from our mission. First, to collect, preserve, interpret, and exhibit historical materials relating to the history of our mission area. We preserve the unique material and historical culture of Sheridan County and the surrounding area. Using these objects, documents, and photographs, our staff develops and maintains historical exhibits and interpretive programming. Exhibits are regularly changed on a 1-2 year cycle. Our second goal is to provide educational opportunities for people of all ages to promote our mission. The SCHS&M hosts several different education and outreach programs that educate and inform Sheridan County residents while fostering a life-long love of history. Our third goal is to promote and encourage historical entities and programs in our mission area. We seek out and build partnerships with other historical and cultural entities in Sheridan County and Northern Wyoming.

The SCHS&M, based on a five-year average, serves approximately 6,500 people annually. We admit approximately 4,000 general admission visitors to the Museum each year. Using Zip Code information, we've found our general admission visitors are a mix of locals and non-locals. Non-local visitation peaks during June, July, and August. Our education programs, including Tidbit Tuesday/Saturday programs and school tours, serve over 1,300 people annually. Outreach programs, including our Trivia Night and Casual Conversations in History programs, account for over 1,200 people annually. Sheridan County residents account for the majority of our education and outreach program participants. The majority of these programs are available to the public at no cost. Based on our averages, we expect similar attendance and participation numbers in the future.

**Complete this section if your agency has previously been awarded One Cent Funding for the period of July 2015 through March 2018:**

**Amount Awarded:** \$47,200 of \$73,600 has been awarded to the SCHS&M as of March 31, 2018.

**Have all the funds been expended:** As of March 31, 2018, all of the funds disbursed since July 2015 by Sheridan County have been expended. The SCHS&M received a disbursement payment of \$4,400 on April 11, 2018. Those funds will be disbursed over the next three months.

**Did you receive 1% Optional Tax Funds from the City of Sheridan or the towns of Dayton, Ranchester and Clearmont. If so what amount was awarded:** The SCHS&M receives optional 1% sales tax funding from the City of Sheridan. The current amount is \$78,320 for the period of July 2015-June 2019.

**Briefly describe the impact that the previous award has had on your program, project or organizational operations. Some discussion items to cover in this section may include:**

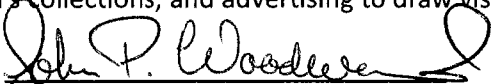
- *Number of persons served, and demographics of persons served (income level, age, race, etc.)*
- *Describe the overall impact of these funds on your program, project or organization*
- *If your agency has not yet to spent all the awarded funds, please briefly describe your plans to expend the funds by the end of the fiscal year*
- *Did your agency use One Cent funding to leverage additional funds, either through grants or other means?*

During the period July 2015-March 2018, the SCHS&M served 18,130 people. More than 9,500 general admission visitors perused the Museum. Demographics within general admissions are delineated by age or special category (veteran or member for example). A demographic breakdown includes: Seniors (26.72%), Adults (21.12%), Child (8.2%), Veteran (6.49%), SCHS&M Members (.5%), Student/Youth (2.9%), and Non-demographic categories (34.07%). Based on Zip Code data from admissions, Sheridan County residents comprise over half of the general admissions.

The SCHS&M served 8,601 people through education and outreaching programs during the current 1% sales tax period. Demographic information about program participants is not currently collected. Some programs and/or events are designed and/or marketed for specific age groups. An attendance breakdown for this group includes: adults/seniors (41.9%), school tours (20.88%), youth (13.21%), and mixed attendance (21.01%). Most of our education and outreach participants are Sheridan County residents.

The SCHS&M receives quarterly disbursements of 1% Sales tax funding from the Sheridan County Treasurer. As an operational subsidy, those funds are regularly spent on routine expenses, including, but not limited to, utilities, advertising, salaries, and exhibits. All unexpended optional 1% sales tax funds will be spent on these ongoing expenses by June 30, 2019.

Besides serving as an optional subsidy, the SCHS&M uses optional 1% Sales Tax funding to leverage additional funding. Over the last three years, the Museum has received over \$40,000 in grant funding using 1% dollars as a complete or partial match. Past and ongoing grants include education, collections, and exhibit projects. Granting partners include the Homer A. and Mildred S. Scott Foundation, Wyoming Community Foundation, Wyoming Humanities Council, State of Wyoming, Vernon & Rowena Griffith Foundation, and others. As described above, these grants have helped to fund educational projects, materials to better preserve the SCHS&M's collections, and advertising to draw visitors into the Museum and Sheridan County.

**SIGNED:** 

**Title:** Museum Director

**Date:** 4/26/2018