



Wyoming State Fair Endowment

PO Box 10 | 400 W. Center st. | Douglas, WY 82633

Cell: (307) 751-3430 | Office: (307) 358-2398

rindy.west@wyo.gov WWW.WYStateFair.com

3/18/2024

City of Douglas  
Attn: Mary Nicol  
101 N Fourth Street  
P.O. Box 1030  
Douglas, WY 82633

Dear Kim, Mary & City Council,

We write to you today in hopes that the City of Douglas might respectfully consider a request of \$25,000 to \$50,000 for the Wyoming State Fair Endowment. We are thankful to bring this request before the Council. The Wyoming State Fair Endowment is seeking support in our efforts to raise funding to provide for the legacy and future of the Wyoming State Fair (WSF).

This application seeks your support in raising funds for an annual pinnacle event and legacy venture that involves so many families from Douglas and Converse County. Your support of this request will directly impact the future of generations of families at the WSF. It's about the legacy and history and western lifestyle that makes Wyoming great!

We are so grateful to have the continued support from the City of Douglas on so many levels and truly appreciate the partnership. Thank you for that, it means the world to what we do!

We look forward to presenting to the City Council on Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup> and seeking your ideas and input on this opportunity. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rindy West".

Rindy West

Wyoming State Fair Endowment Fund | Fundraising & Revenue



**Organization Information:**

Wyoming State Fair Endowment  
PO Box 10, Douglas, WY 82633

**Person Making Request:**

Rindy West, Wyoming State Fair Endowment & Fundraising  
PO Box 10, Douglas, WY 82633  
307-751-3430, [rindy.west@wyo.gov](mailto:rindy.west@wyo.gov)

**Tax Exempt & Deductible Number:** 83-0208667

**Amount Requested:** \$25,000-\$50,000

**Number of People Impacted:** Approximately 2,500 Annually

**Geographic Area Served:** City of Douglas, Converse County, Statewide

**Project Title:** Wyoming State Fair Endowment Challenge

**Background:**

For centuries, agriculture fairs have been the fabric of the life in many parts of the world. In the United States, history of the fair circuit is legendary. People all across the country look forward to fair time, both as exhibitors and participants. The fair brings agriculture, youth, education, and western lifestyles to all participants.

Wyoming is no exception. For 119 years, the Wyoming State Fair (WSF) has showcased pride in our heritage, agriculture, industry, youth, entrepreneurs, artists and more. As the largest education and youth competition in the state, the Wyoming State Fair provides educational experiences, life skill development and exposure to industry that no other educational event and year-round facility does in Wyoming. The WSF is a way to highlight the growth and achievements of local county fairs, as well as the achievements of the whole state.

The WSF brings together generations of enthusiasts that sometimes only gather at that time of year, and offers unique entertainment found no other place. Livestock and rodeo abound, as the lifeblood of the fair, with youth competing in competitions with the best of the best. The 4-H and FFA projects at the WSF are highly anticipated, with participants proudly showcasing their skills and creativity in categories ranging from wool shows to dog agility to robotics.

Each and every young person has worked to hone skills and talents, and all have worked day in and day out feeding, caring and preparing for just that moment. Sometimes, the artwork and talents of many exhibitors is discovered to go beyond the borders of Wyoming later in life. Frankly, the 4-H and FFA members exhibiting are taught skills that no other organization prepares for the real world.



Going back to its roots in the early 1900's, with only a grandstands, exhibition hall, two horse stables, one cattle and one sheep shed, a poultry house and 2/3 mile of board fence, the WSF has always been about a quality educational experience and entertainment for all who attended. In 1905, the ladies race, with 18 heats over 3 days of the fair, was a huge success, and in 1916, Baxter Adams performed loop-the-loops in his airplane for fairgoers. In 1917, the Girl in Red rode on Carver's Diving Horse as an amazing feat, and in 1924, the State Championship Baseball tournament was added as an attraction.



The WSF is truly a showcase event that has impacted many, many, generations of citizens of Wyoming. It has been a constant thread through the fabric of Wyoming history and has impacted thousands and thousands of lives. The WSF continues to strive to become stronger as each year passes.

### **The WSF Endowment Challenge:**

To preserve and expand the WSF not only now, but for what our families need in the future, the WSF was formed in 2018. This endowment was created to help provide a more stable and consistent funding avenue for the future of the Wyoming State Fairgrounds & Event Complex.



However, creating the WSF Endowment was just the beginning. The fund operates with the premise that a penny of every fair-time and non-fair-time revenue (the WSF has more than 470 events days all throughout the year) as well as 75% of the funds generated going back into the account. The remaining 25% of the funds generated are spent to provide awards, contests, education, and improvements to the WSF.

The WSF Endowment account is currently at \$3,820,000 with a goal of \$10Million in 10 years, to more closely sustain the WSF. However, at this time, the WSF is currently working towards a more immediate goal. For the Endowment to truly provide a future of the Wyoming State Fair for generations to come, the fund must continue to grow through donations from donors.

**In the summer of 2023, the Wyoming Legislature voted to provide matching funds in the amount of \$500,000 if the WSF Endowment can raise \$500,000 in private funding before June 1, 2024. All funds must be raised by June 1, 2024 or no matching funds will be given by the Wyoming Legislature.**

## The Request:

This is a significant challenge and to ensure we can pursue future support from the legislature, we need your help to achieve the match of \$500,000 in funding by June 1, 2024. All funds raised will go straight to the WSF Endowment to not only help meet this challenge goal, but for providing opportunities for our youth, families, and communities in Douglas and throughout Wyoming.

We respectfully seek the support of the City of Douglas in the amount of \$25,000-\$50,000 and we would be grateful for your generosity. Thank you for your consideration. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions about this request or the WSF.

## Quotes:

"The State Fair has taught me all about dedication and work ethic. Showing at one of the highest levels, seeing yourself succeed, and developing life skills that you will use in your future is amazing. The friendships and memories that I have made will last a lifetime. State Fair will always be one of my summer highlights."-**Lane Boden, State Fair Exhibitor**

"With a goal of \$500,000, we have a unique opportunity to ensure the fair's vibrant future, supporting youth, agriculture, education, and our cherished Western lifestyle. This campaign is more than a fundraising effort; it is a call to action for every one of us to contribute to a legacy that will inspire generations to come. The WSF continues to serve as a symbol of pride and tradition in our state, flourishing for generations to come."-**Courtny Conkle-General Manager, WSF**

"The ongoing success and rewards of the Wyoming State Fair are vital to Wyoming. Two forces of nature that connect in harmony are kids and animals. Being in touch with animals, and other projects, from the early days, makes a difference in the lives of children. The WSF allows us to focus on the gifts, talents, and energy of our young people. The WSF brings families and communities together; and will continue to do so for many generations to come."-**Barbara Dilts-WSF Participant for 62 years**

