

July XX, 2026

Re: Letter of Support for Lost Province Arts CDBG-DR Application

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Ashe County, I am pleased to offer this letter of strong support for Lost Province Arts' application for Community Development Block Grant–Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding to restore and redevelop the historic Lansing School campus into a Regional Creative Economy, Entrepreneurship, and Community Resilience Center.

This project represents a transformational investment in Ashe County's long-term economic recovery following Hurricane Helene. The proposed rehabilitation of the historic campus will preserve an important community landmark while creating new opportunities for entrepreneurship, small business development, workforce training, arts and cultural programming, tourism, and community engagement. The project will strengthen Lansing as an economic and cultural destination while generating benefits that extend throughout Ashe County.

The restored campus will serve as an important catalyst for economic growth by supporting existing businesses, attracting new visitors, encouraging creative entrepreneurs to locate in our community, and expanding opportunities for local artists, makers, and small businesses. This investment will complement Ashe County's outdoor recreation and tourism economy while diversifying our economic base and creating quality jobs for our residents.

Following Hurricane Helene, the Lansing School campus demonstrated tremendous value by serving as a regional recovery hub for volunteers, donated supplies, and community assistance. This project builds upon that proven success by creating a permanent community asset capable of supporting future disaster response, economic resilience, and long-term community development.

Ashe County is proud to partner with Lost Province Arts in advancing this important initiative. I respectfully encourage the North Carolina Department of Commerce to give this application its highest consideration. This project will have a lasting positive impact on the residents, businesses, and communities of Ashe County for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Adam Stumb
County Manager
Ashe County, North Carolina