

**Media Contact:**  
Nick Johnson  
Public Information Specialist  
970-375-5088  
Nick.johnson@durangogov.org

949 E. 2nd Avenue  
Durango, CO 81301  
[DurangoGov.org](http://DurangoGov.org)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, AUGUST 17, 2022

# NEWS RELEASE

## Lodgers' Tax: Arts and Culture funding approves 19 projects in first round

**Durango, CO:** During the first round of Lodgers' Tax: Arts and Culture funding the city of Durango's Creative Economy Commission awarded \$250,000 to 19 different projects.

A total of 35 applicants submitted project ideas for the first round of Lodgers' Tax: Arts and Culture funding, requesting over \$ 1 million in funding.

"The intent that we brought into this first round of funding was to show a wide array of projects that represent the full breath of the arts and culture community in Durango," Economic Opportunity Coordinator Tommy Crosby said. "We really wanted to celebrate this new funding stream as a news source of hopefully sustainable funding for the arts and culture community."

Projects that received funding ranged from a youth metalworking and sculpture workshop, multimedia storytelling project documenting Durango's displaced communities, to facility repairs and new permanent public art.

"I think it's very interesting how diverse the projects that have been included and awarded," said councilor Kim Baxter.

For more information about some of the projects that were approved [click here for a slideshow](#) that was presented at last Tuesday's City Council meeting.

The second round of funding closes on August 31<sup>st</sup>, the application can be found in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#). Please send all applications and direct any questions to Tommy Crosby, [tommy.crosby@durangogov.org](mailto:tommy.crosby@durangogov.org).

Lodger's Tax: Arts and Culture office hours will be held to answer any questions about the application process on Monday, August 15<sup>th</sup> from 1 PM - 3 PM and Wednesday, August 17<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM - 12 PM at the Smiley Building in the Durango Creative District office.

"It's so exciting to see this coming into fruition," said councilor Melissa Youssef. "I think this is going to make for a much richer community moving forward, and I'm so thankful that this passed and that we have this funding."

