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Letter of Intent

**Rapid City Growth
Management Department**

The Staging Grounds LLC, doing business as the Staging Grounds, is a venue for art and creativity of all kinds. It is the mission of this business, and its collection of members, to advance themselves, and their communities through art, education and play. With a heavy bent towards sustainability, and the revitalization of the downtown Rapid City area, the Staging Grounds intends to be a place where young people can come to build their dreams.

Through the creation of art and music of all kinds, the Staging Grounds members practice their creative expression in healthy and supportive ways while contributing to the success of their futures by finding encouragement and validation in each other, and earning money by offering their work for sale in our working gallery.

In order to offer our members the most comprehensive set of tools to advance themselves as artists and musicians, it is the intent of this letter to request an addendum to the Conditional Use Permit on the Buell Building, in which the Staging Grounds is housed, allowing the Staging Grounds and its members to host live music events and art gallery openings featuring live music.

Additionally, an addendum is requested to allow the Staging Grounds to offer private working space for rental to artists. These spaces would allow artists to practice their craft, whatever that may be, including but not limited to sculpture, painting, sewing, jewelry design and assembly, and music.

It is the belief of the owners of the Staging Grounds that creativity, specifically music and art, are great educational sources for all people (see Appendix A). We believe that in offering a place for creative expression and learning, we can improve and enhance the lives of all who participate. It is also our belief, that in offering this kind of space in downtown Rapid City, we can help to build loyalty to our downtown area, businesses, and community as a whole. By encouraging community outreach and supporting members in participation in group projects to that end, we believe we will build a sense of responsibility for the success of our community in our youth.

These elements, taken together, are invaluable in the long term scope and success of downtown Rapid City. Studies have found that economic growth (see Appendix B)

and vitality follow where spheres of art and creativity flourish in communities all over the world. It is the intent of the Staging Grounds to be a part of that force.

I hereby respectfully submit this letter, and supporting documentation, in support of an addendum to the Conditional Use Permit on the property at 632 ½ Saint Joseph Street in Rapid City, South Dakota.

Sincerely,

Jaclyn L. Kennison

Co-owner

Staging Grounds