



Application for ROCC Financial Support

Date:	April 30, 2024
Name of Your Organization:	Minerva West
Organization Full Address:	PO Box 1126, 44 Aspenglow Lane, Ridgway, CO 81432
Mailing Address if Different from Above:	PO Box 1126, Ridway, CO 81432
Organization EIN:	88-2140426 (organizations must be a qualified 501(c)(3) charity)
Point Person:	Kathleen O'Mara
Contact Email Address:	komara@minervawest.org
Contact Phone Number(S):	970-316-2018 / 413-441-6120
Amount of Support Requested:	\$1,500.00

In answering the following questions, brief answers of 200-300 words are ideal. Answers should not exceed 500 words. Add additional pages if required.



1. Please describe your organization and its mission/goals:

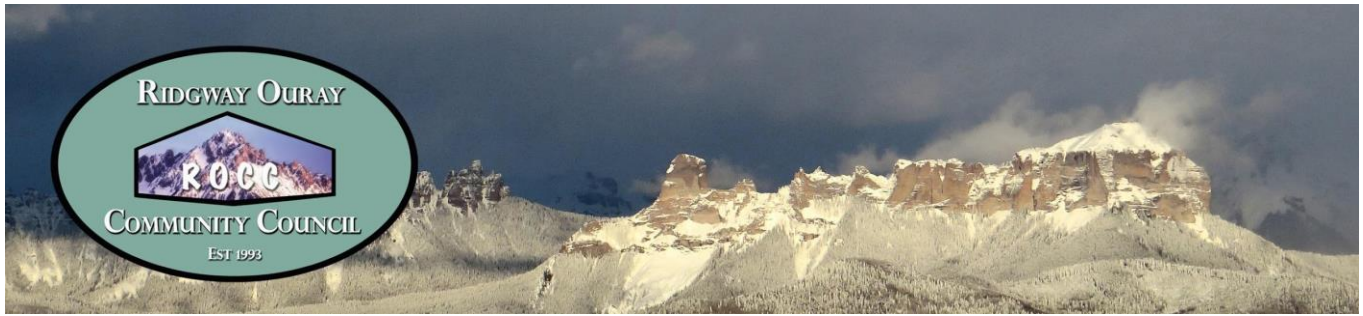
Minerva West is a Colorado 501c3 community theatre organization established in Ouray County in May, 2022. Its mission is to inspire creativity, community, and personal growth by providing equitable performance arts opportunities to all who want to participate. We believe that the performing arts serve as a positive creative outlet and a platform for all voices, and we are dedicated to building a welcoming theatre community that encourages all individuals to participate regardless of age, ability or experience.

To date, Minerva West has served 150 local actors, crew members, and volunteers ranging in age from 7 to 79 through its 19 productions of a variety of genres: dramatic, comedy, musical theatre and cultural commentary. Nearly 2200 people have attended these performances.

Unique among Ouray County's performance companies, Minerva West is the only full-time, year round theatre arts organization. For Youth Theatre programming, Minerva has established after school programs at both the Ridgway Elementary and Secondary Schools through a partnership with the Ridgway School District. Our Adult Community Theatre venue arrangement at the Ouray County 4H Event Center, gives Minerva the ability to produce larger productions, e.g. musicals, and large-cast dramas, which provides unique opportunities for local actors and audiences. This venue also affords performance stage design, set build, and sound and lighting design experience to those interested in learning these behind-the-curtain skills.

2. How will these funds be spent and what will these support funds allow you to do:

Funding from ROCC will assist Minerva Youth Theatre programming in providing reduced tuition and free tuition to participate for our Ouray County students. In 2022 and 2023 combined years we have sponsored \$4,040 in tuition assistance. The support from ROCC will allow us to continue to be able to award assistance to students who may not have the means to participate in Minerva West Youth Theatre productions. Annually, Minerva West produces five Youth Theatre productions: fall elementary and secondary School non-musicals, spring elementary and secondary school musicals, and a summer program that is our "Little to Big" production featuring elementary and secondary students.



3. How will your organization use this support to benefit the community. Will the grant support diversity. In what ways does your project support ROCC's mission (see <https://www.ROCCnet.org>):

Our organization will use ROCC support to benefit the community in a number of ways. Performing Arts education is known to build self confidence and self esteem. Artistic Director Kathleen O'Mara throughout her career has seen the benefit of performance art change a student's life. The approach of her curriculum; Arts and Literacy and the education of the "Art of Ensemble" has proven to be a successful teaching method for the past 25 years. Kathleen and her teaching artists provide a safe and encouraging environment that celebrates the diversity of every student, encouragement and support of every individual's unique talent and person. ROCC's Mission "to build, nourish and protect the healthy spirit of our community" is in line and a natural fit with Minerva West who prides itself as being an inclusive "Community At Play".

We have seen retention throughout the years of teaching and directing that Kathleen has provided in Ouray County. Students return and grow throughout their experiences. Returning students to date have done as many as 18 shows under her direction. The kids are always proud to state how many shows they have done—in the most recent production of Bye Bye Birdie the student with the most shows was 14. Retention in building an ensemble is an important thread of building an active ongoing program. In response to the ROCC mission "being dedicated to the quality of life issues that will help shape the future of Ouray County" we believe that Minerva West is a true community partner to that mission. Teamwork, and friendships built throughout the process, rooted in cooperation and trust, brings our students back to the stage for every production that they are able to participate in. We are nurturing the future youth community with respect for one another, healthy commitment to a production, and the shared success and pride at the final curtain call. We believe we are an active member in our community that is helping shape the future arts culture of Ouray County.

4. In what ways will community members be informed of this award? (Grantee agrees that a notice will be included in promotional materials stating that the activity/event is supported by a grant from ROCC. The ROCC logo can be used in promotional materials that recognize funders.)

Minerva West will provide a Press Release announcing the award to our local news outlets as well as share the announcement on our social media networks. The ROCC logo will be included in the sponsor list for future youth theatre performance posters, production programs, and on Minerva's website, www.minervawest.org.



5. Other issues the ROCC team should consider in deciding to support your request:

Minerva West is still a young organization, only celebrating our second birthday this May. In the two years of being established, Minerva West has produced 19 productions, with 76 performances. 10 of these productions were Youth Theatre totaling 30 of the performances. Celebrating classic literature and contemporary favorites and up beat fun musicals, Minerva has provided a wide range of opportunity to our community members, who may not have ever participated in being on stage before.

We honor our 'newbies' and celebrate the courage that it takes to get out there and take a risk. We thank our 'old schoolers' who return to participate in show after show. It is exciting to see the success of an adult actor, who in 2017 gets cast in his first time being on stage with Kathleen and then years later plays the prominent role of John Proctor in last fall's production of *The Crucible*. Or the young lady who met Kathleen when she was nine years old, participated in a production of *Shel Silverstein*. She became Minerva's first Intern (2023-2024), starred in two adult theatre productions, and she is soon heading off to Colorado College to study Journalism and Theatre Arts.

We are humble in our efforts, and work without ego. The reality of needing funding for arts education is sometimes a difficult reality. Ticket sales do not cover the expenses; grants, and local business and individual support is a crucial part of any arts non profit organization. We appreciate the opportunity to be able to submit this application, and look forward to any support that ROCC may be able to provide.



Submission due date May 1st. Anticipated decision on awards by June 30th. Awardees are required to submit within 1-year of award a report on how the funds were used and outcome measures of success. Questions and completed applications can be sent to Grants Coordinator at roccnet.org@gmail.com.