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Re-investment of my tax dollars into Kicking Horse Culture is bringing positive outcomes in attracting new and repeat visitors to our region, which is good for our economy and continued culture development.

Kebyn McGregor

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The cultural offerings facilitated by KHC are one of the most important positive elements of the Community for me and many of my friends and family. Discontinuing funding for KHC would represent a SEVERE setback to this Community.

Leonard Brown

Area 'A' & Town of Golden Cultural Services Delivery Agreement

Mayor Christina Benty

1 Introduction

Since 2006, the Town and CSRD have provided joint annual funding from general taxation through Golden Area Initiatives (GAI) to directly fund the deliverables of a Cultural Services Contract held between GAI and Kicking Horse Culture (KHC). The deliverables,

value of the dedicated personnel, economic and social impact to the community, have been well demonstrated and applauded at a provincial and national level. With the effective demise of GAI, the Town and CSRD must consider the options for continuing this very effective cultural services delivery agreement.

Background Context

I agree that the activities of KHC have enriched the life of the town, making Golden a better place to live. I am happy to contribute to that, even if it means slightly higher property taxes.
Chris Gilmour

In January 2002, CSRD passed Bylaw No. 5342 establishing a local service for the provision of economic development for Electoral Area 'A'. The Bylaw stated: "The costs of providing the service established under Section 1 shall be recovered by requisition of money to be collected by a property value tax on the basis of the converted value of land and improvements."

Later in 2002, the Golden and Area Community Economic Development Society (Golden Area Initiatives) was registered as a non-profit Society with four ongoing members: the Electoral

Area 'A' Director; the Town of Golden Council; the CAO of CSRD; and, the CAO of the Town.

In November of 2005, Kicking Horse Culture made representations to the Electoral Area Director and Golden Town Council regarding consideration of a cultural service delivery contract. Both local governments agreed and directed Golden Area Initiatives to create and manage a contract whereby each local government would provide \$30,000 each in 2006 from tax dollars as per Bylaw No. 5342. These funds would flow to GAI and then on through to Kicking Horse Culture

per the contracted deliverables.

As KHC's delivery of benefits increased over the years, each partner voted to increase their contribution from the original \$30K, to \$40K, to the current \$60K. In 2012, both local governments agreed to a three year contract term through 2014 with provisos for renewal 2015-2017. Last June 2013, KHC's executive director Bill Usher made a presentation to the CSRD board demonstrating the outstanding community economic development accrued from this cultural service delivery agreement.¹

¹ Appendix B: Accrued benefits to CSRD Area 'A' and Town of Golden



Golden without the arts and culture would be just another sad sack small town that everyone was lined up to leave. All of Golden and surrounding area benefit from the vibrancy introduced by Kicking Horse Culture and we should all pay our share to ensure that we can continue to enjoy this vital part of our community life.
Paul Leeson

I find it amazing that my elected representative would consider not supporting Cultural growth in my Community and suggest instead that people go to bars. Kids can't go to bars and not everyone needs to have alcohol as a part of their life, certainly not their education. The amount of my tax dollars that have been supporting this group amounts to a tank of gas for my sled yearly, I would like to continue my support of Cultural growth in Area A.
Gary Simpson



A Change in the Landscape

At the regular open meeting held May 29, 2012 —seeking a more productive way to deliver community economic development services—the Town of Golden Council gave public notice to CSRD and GAI that as of end-of-year 2013, the Town would no longer be part of the Community Economic Development Services Agreement that bound the three entities, effectively terminating it. With GAI out of business for 2014, discussion continued between Golden Town Council, Electoral Area A, and Kicking Horse Culture to determine the ways and means to manage the last year of the 2012–14 cultural service delivery agreement with KHC.

“KHC is a foundational piece of our community.

The work done by this organization is integral to the growth and sustainability of Golden and Area A community residents. It would be a very sad day indeed, a number of steps backward, should we not continue to support this organization.

Karen Cathcart

Golden Town Council wanted to continue with the funding mechanism of Bylaw No. 5342. Electoral Area ‘A’ Director wanted to change the mechanism to use Economic Opportunity Funds (EOF). As a result of these discussions, a cultural services agreement with Kicking Horse Culture was drawn up with local government’s \$120,000 contribution coming from EOF funds

“I would like CSRD and Area A to continue to support KHC and I am willing to pay a fair share of the costs to ensure that the programs continue to enrich our small community.

Charlene Desrochers

for the 2014 calendar term. Subsequently, on March 4, 2014, Golden Town Council passed the resolution 14-045:

Moved by Mayor Benty, Seconded by Councillor Oszust.
Opposed by Councillor Hern.

THAT Council as represented by the Mayor SOLICIT to the Columbia Shuswap Regional District Board to return to the long standing jointly funded tax model with the municipality in support of Kicking Horse Culture in 2015.

Golden Town Council's Position

With the inauguration of the tax funded cultural services delivery agreement with Kicking Horse Culture through its society Golden Area Initiatives in 2006, Electoral Area 'A' and Golden Town Council specifically detailed the deliverables both partners expected.

In all respects, Kicking Horse Culture has met and/or outstandingly exceeded the terms of the contract. The more they did, the more the partners wanted them to do. As previously noted, both local governments have voted twice in the past eight years to increase our tax-funded contributions to support the sustainable operational growth of Kicking Horse Culture.

Our investment in KHC has been paid back many times over.²

The challenge we find ourselves in now is not due to a citizen's outcry to cease using tax dollars for KHC operational support — in fact, it is quite the opposite! There has been no dramatic public outcry to substantially change, restrict, or otherwise terminate this successful contracted service. The shift in the local government funding

mechanism from general taxation to Economic Opportunity Funds was not at the behest of public wishes.

The change in funding to EOF for 2014 was a stop gap, compromise that only became necessary because of the demise of GAI. Cultural service funding and subsequent reporting flowed through the GAI but was not tied to the agency. If GAI would have continued as was, the multi-year contract with tax based funding would have continued without comment. The political choice to shift the funding for 2014 was in order to maintain the obligations of the delivery contract as quickly and seamlessly as possible. It was never intended as a long term solution.

There exists no evidence of public pressure to fund cultural services with EOF. Public outcry in regards

to the possibility of a cessation in funding has made it clear that there is no community push to eliminate this tax funded service.³

Therefore, Golden Town Council confirms the maintenance of tax based funding for cultural services is widely supported by both Area 'A' and Town residents and recommends Economic Opportunity Funds can and should be applied to a strategic and re-energized take on community economic development for the Golden region. We see no reason to muddy these waters by choosing to go a political route and shift away from a perfectly sound and universally applauded model to one using funds that can and should be earmarked for a different shared service.

Mayor Christina Benty
Town of Golden



²Appendix B. Accrued benefits to CSRD Area 'A' and Town of Golden
³Appendix C. Outpouring of Community Support



Area A residents take full advantage of all programs offered by KHC and we should pay our fair share. We participate through attendance and volunteerism. Non-profit organizations need support of local governments in order to leverage additional funds from elsewhere. **Don't mess with success!**
Ann Sutton

Appendix A: Financial Analysis – Tax-funded

The following synopsis is based on information supplied by Peter Jarman (CSRD) and Jon Wilsgard (Town of Golden). All the information below is based on the Cultural Services Delivery amount of \$60,000 transferred to Kicking Horse Culture by each of the Town of Golden and CSRD Area 'A' for an annual total of \$120,000 in 2013.

Numbers are order of magnitude and will differ from property owner to property owner and business owner to business owner depending on the annual assessed value or taxable value.

The data is based on 2013 records.

CSRD Area 'A'

Average Business valued at **\$138,595** paid: **\$25.10** per annum.

Average Residence valued at **\$281,499** paid: **\$20.80** per annum.

Town of Golden

Business valued at **\$250,000** paid: about **\$45** per annum.

Residence valued at **\$240,000** paid: just under **\$18** per annum.

In summary: for two adults in a single residential dwelling the annual cost per person for the Cultural Services Delivery agreement is \$10.40 for Area 'A' and \$9 for the Town of Golden.

“Kicking Horse Culture has made a significant contribution to the quality of life in Golden, improving the attractiveness of the community for locals (Area A and town), tourists, and perhaps most importantly, young professionals who are looking for a place to settle.”
Dr. Robert Drysdale



“With KHC, economy is very positive and quality of life is better. This is a service, better to be funded under taxation per the bylaw.”
Ian Rowe

Appendix B: Accrued benefits to CSRD Area 'A' and Town of Golden

KHC has become a powerful Community Economic Development driver for the Golden region. The Society delivers on the primary goal of healthy community development with arts and culture activity as the modus operandi.

Since the transformation of the Society began in 2004, Kicking Horse Country has **invested \$720,000** to help support KHC's operational capacity and that investment has helped create **revenues totalling \$3,300,000**. Kicking Horse Culture has created jobs and supported part-time work efforts for dozens, if not hundreds of local people and suppliers.

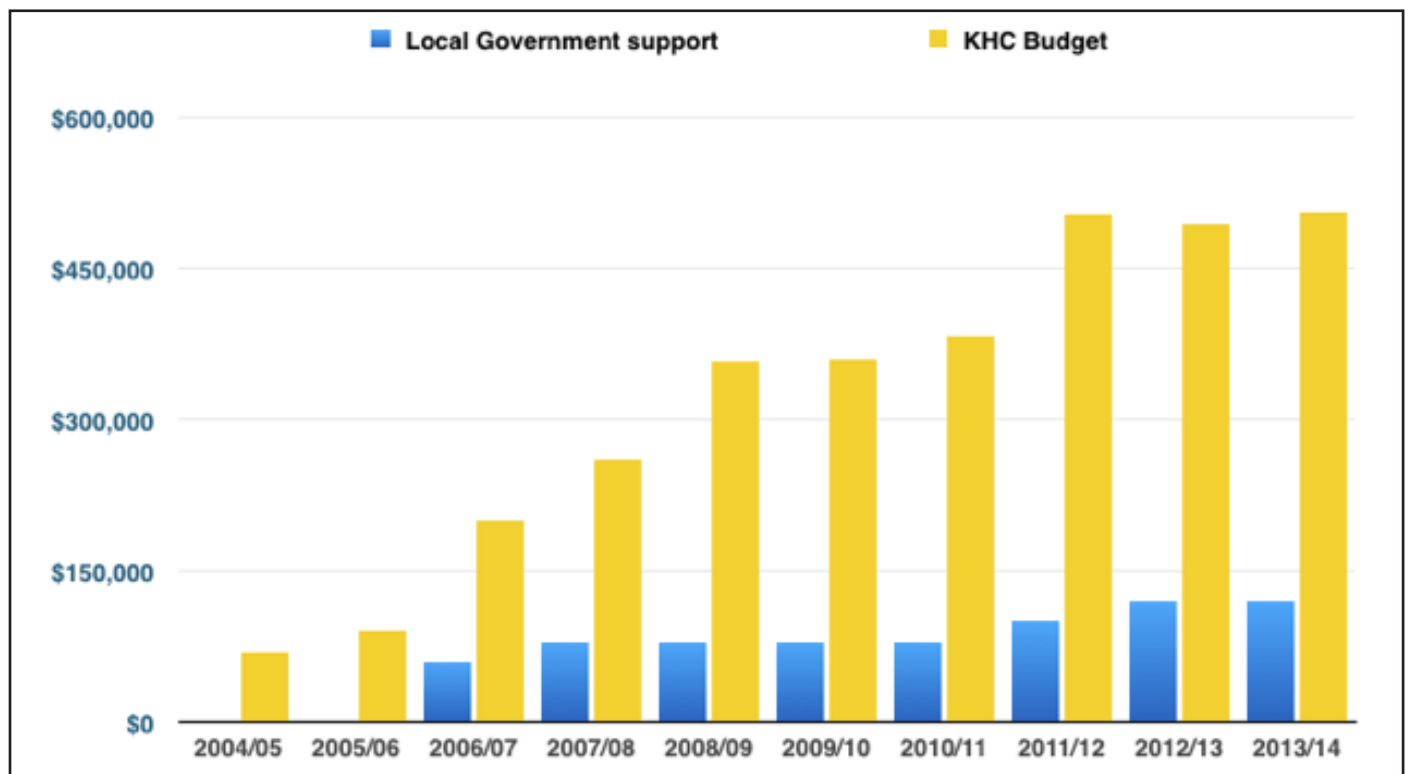
Add to that an additional \$960,000 that Kicking Horse Culture leveraged from provincial and national funders and handed over as cash to support the restoration of the Golden Civic Centre.

Given reasonable assumptions for economic impact analysis, one can realistically project that 60% of the total spending i.e. \$2,556,000 was retained in Golden's local economy. Adding a very modest multiplier effect of 2.0, that benefit doubles to \$5,112,000.

Without even considering the significant "quality of life" benefits generated for local citizens and tourists, one can easily conclude that the cultural services delivery agreement with Kicking Horse Culture has been a very wise financial investment of tax dollars by Area 'A' and Golden Town Council into community development.



“ I fully support the Kicking Horse Culture and as an Area A resident I would like my tax dollars to be used to support Kicking Horse Culture. My family benefits greatly from all of the live concerts, films and arts the council provides to our area.
Carrie Ferguson



Appendix C: Outpouring of Community Support

As we have noted above, local taxpayers of both Area 'A' and the Town of Golden have voiced their overwhelming support in favour of continuing the present cultural services agreement with Kicking Horse Culture. On March 13, 2014 the Board of Kicking Horse Culture addressed a Petition entitled *Please continue your cultural service delivery agreement with Kicking Horse Culture* to Electoral Director Area 'A' Garry Habart and Mayor Christina Benty on the website www.change.org.

The original goal of 500 signatures was reached in the first week, and at the time of the tabling of this document, the total is about 900. It's interesting to note that many locals living in Area 'A' entered their place of residence as "Golden," but by referencing the postal codes they entered we can make a

reasonable assumption that the number of Area 'A' signers is approximately 275. It's also very important to note that the petition software only allows one vote from each computer. — this is not a "vote as often as you can" paradigm.

In other words, once a computer is used to sign, no one else in the family can use the computer to add their signature. A review of the signatures and comments name by name emphatically suggests that the total numbers of signatures would be significantly higher if both taxpayers in the family were able to use the home computer to add their voice.

From a Golden Town Council perspective, it is extremely gratifying to see the range of "Golden" names as well as the many names from people who

are visitors to Golden (from all around the world), or who own a second home in our region. There are also a significant number of names from people from away who have an expertise in the delivery of cultural services and they

The original goal of 500 signatures was reached in the first week.

have also added their support. The enthusiastic response demonstrates a very real ownership by

our local citizens for the innovative policy development that we and the regional district undertook together more than eight years ago.

It is very gratifying to have our Golden success story for cultural services delivery featured in a keynote address at UBCM last September but, even more so, when our own citizens applaud us for our efforts.

(See Appendix D for Petition Comments)



Appendix D: Petition Comments

change.org Kicking Horse Culture

Recipient: Garry Habart, Christina Benty, and KHC Info

Letter: Greetings,

I agree and applaud local government's committed financial support to the cultural life of the Golden community these past 8 years. Your operating support to KHC provides the underpinning for their programs and activities which deliver significant community economic development and quality of life for our locals and tourists alike. Please continue your cultural service delivery agreement with Kicking Horse Culture.

Comments

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Ken Leonty	Golden, Canada	2014-03-14	I choose to have life in Golden enriched by the events and activities present by Kicking Horse Culture
Mike Cantle	Golden, Canada	2014-03-14	Film Kicks
Sarah Osadetz	Golden, Canada	2014-03-14	This is important to me because it shows our diversity, our cultural and social fabric of this town. This is an investment of good value which puts us on the map as a destination as well.
John Denham	Golden, Canada	2014-03-14	Arts are very important to a community.
Troy Hudson	GOLDEN, Canada	2014-03-14	High value for the arts in our community for our youth and families.
mike pecora	Auckland, New Zealand	2014-03-14	It keeps Golden and Area Vibrant
Ruth Ratzlaff	Golden, B.C., Canada	2014-03-14	Bill has done a masterful job of giving us something to be proud of in this town. Culture is the heart of a community.
Matthew Cote	Golden, Canada	2014-03-14	The arts are a communities soul.
Maryann Emery	Golden, Canada	2014-03-14	Golden is a better place to live with a thriving cultural program. As an Area A resident I support KHC.
Charlene Fairchild	Golden, BC, Canada	2014-03-14	Golden and area soars with its vibrant cultural community. We are blessed to have Kicking Horse Culture. It's an important investment in the life of our community and the lives of our citizens.
Jim/Susan Halvorson	Golden, Canada	2014-03-14	Kicking Horse Culture brings in a much greater variety and quality of entertainment than would normally be expected in such a small town.
Patti/Bruce McFadyen	Burlington, Ontario, Canada	2014-03-14	We have a condo on the mountain and we love everything the town has to offer. We enjoyed the MasqueParade this year, our first! We will go to KH this summer and hope to see some of the entertainment. It adds so much vibrancy to a town.
Kim Younger	Golden, Canada	2014-03-14	Having grown up in Golden my whole life I do not have memories of large community events such as the snow king festival, there was an overwhelming lack of cultural expression. KHC events bring our community together and is planting strong seeds in the children and youth on what can be possible if we all work towards a common vision/goal. The children and all generations are able to foster creativity and imagination. These seeds will then continue to be nourished in their lives by more and more KHC events and all the other ripples that stem out from community engagement. This community cohesion fosters belonging for everyone involved in these events- what a great way to instill inspiration for our next generations to come back to live in golden to continue this strong community feeling in their own children.
Leonard Brown	Golden, Canada	2014-03-14	The cultural offerings facilitated by KHC are one of the most important positive elements of the Community for me and many of my friends and family. Discontinuing funding for KHC would represent a SEVERE setback to this Community. I understand RD Habart does not consider the Cultural aspects of the Community to be important, however his role is not to further his interests, its to represent the Constituency of Area A which is regional to Golden - the people who elected him.
Chris Gilmour	Golden, Canada	2014-03-14	I agree that the activities of KHC have enriched the life of the town, making Golden a better place to live. I am happy to contribute to that, even if it means slightly higher property taxes.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Rachael Shemeliuk	Golden, Canada	2014-03-14	I've always been amazed at how much culture a small place like Golden can pack in! It's wonderful being able to experience the concerts, ballets, theatre productions, etc. here.
Lynne Grillmair	Brisco, Canada	2014-03-14	While we live in between Golden and Invermere we enjoy the cultural programs offered in both communities. It is the unique energy, creative power and stable population of Golden that makes our experiences there extra special. I think it is really putting Golden on the map as a cultural destination place to visit for sport, theatre, music, cinema, festivals.
Rachel Pennell	Golden, Canada	2014-03-14	Arts and culture are critical to creating a town that people want to move to and remain in! Art saves lives...And towns!
neil hudson	parson, Canada	2014-03-14	this is a no brainer. The cultural events that this agreement enables the wonderful staff and sponsors to bring us is really amazing in a small town like Golden
Marie-Helene Bergeron	Golden, Canada	2014-03-14	Because I want my family and I and especially my kids to be exposed to cultural events even if we live in a small town. KHC is such a great organisation and because of it, Golden is seen as a small town with a lot going on culturally, this is one of the reasons why I chose to live there. *I am in this line up with my daughter :)
Becky Leonty	Golden, Canada	2014-03-14	Performing arts are very important to my quality of life. KHC is providing a wonderful variety for this region. They are very successful. Keep them in your funding scheme.
Debra Aumond	Golden, Canada	2014-03-14	Promoting and supporting artistic culture in Golden
Paula McBrine	Golden, BC, Canada	2014-03-14	we need culture in our community
Carol Brown	Golden, Canada	2014-03-14	Arts and culture - so important for emotional and spiritual growth. I can't imagine living here without this aspect. It would be spirit-killing.
Darlene Whiting	Golden, Canada	2014-03-14	I agree that Kicking Horse Culture delivers a service that a town the size of Golden really needs. These events are well attended, both by residents and by visitors. Area A residents enjoy these events as much as town of Golden residents do. Regional funding should continue!
Ian Rowe	Golden, Canada	2014-03-14	Economic are very positive and quality of life is better; this is a service, better to be funded under taxation per the by law
Christine Bernier	Golden, Canada	2014-03-14	Culture is a big part of why people choose to live somewhere. It gives a soul to a town. We need to support the arts.
Pat & Christine Sadler	Golden, Canada	2014-03-14	Gives us cultural entertainment without attending a bar or pub. Just a classier place for entertainment.
Ann Sutton	Golden Area A, Canada	2014-03-14	Area A residents take full advantage of all programs offered by KHC and we should pay our fair share. We participate through attendance and volunteerism. Non-profit organizations need support of local governments in order to leverage additional funds from elsewhere. Don't mess with success!
Lolli Gagnon	Golden, Canada	2014-03-14	As a business owner and resident I want to preserve and sustain a wonderful community environment to pass on to our children and other amazing locals!!
Michelle Nagy-Deak	parson, Canada	2014-03-14	Golden is my town I enjoy everything it has to offer

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Brenda Bernat	Golden, Canada	2014-03-14	<p>I love the art scene that has happened since KHC has come into being. The amount and quality of performers that have come through our town is spectacular. There have been performances that appeal to all segments of our population – both young and old. KHC has given us a large spectrum of diverse cultural, musical and artistic performances to feast our ears and eyes on. This is excellent for our area – it has brought the world to us. KHC is one of the best things that has happened since I arrived here. Because I have a rural lifestyle does not mean that I do not want to have culture around me. At two different concerts there has been a show of hand on who is from regional district A – on both occasions more than 2/3 have been from the rural area. Those are the people you represent.</p> <p>I know that you have voiced the opinion that one can go to the bars and hear music groups playing and therefore we don't need to support KHC. You have failed to realise the difference between a bar and KHC. A bar only allows adults, drinkers and acts that are very targeted to a certain crowd (the young drinking crowd) and sure to make a profit for the owner. A bar does not give back to the citizens of the area. They are not the same.</p> <p>Maybe Gary, you should come to some of the performances so you can see what is being presented as well as how many of your neighbours and constituents are there.</p>
Carol Lechky	Golden BC, Canada	2014-03-14	without KHC Golden would be almost unbearable to live in for a person my age.
Ryan Harvey	Golden, Canada	2014-03-14	KHC is an important and valuable part of our community and I support my tax dollars going towards this.
Krista Polley	Golden, Canada	2014-03-14	Why would it not be important to me? Our small town needs some culture, and Kicking Horse Culture has done a fantastic job of providing us with arts, music, and film.
Paula Jennings	Golden, Canada	2014-03-14	We enjoy seeing quality entertainment, Golden is a great community and Kicking Horse Culture help strengthen the sense of community by getting people together and with a sense of pride and worthiness.
Jean Dakin	Golden BC, Canada	2014-03-14	Some years back, didn't Kelowna research the payback garnered from the city by contributing to CULTURAL activities? As I recall, it was significant. For every dollar given, we can expect 5 to 9 back. Golden needs Kicking Horse Culture along with all the other cultural events happening here.
Jerry Yoshitomi	Oxnard, CA	2014-03-14	Kicking Horse Culture is an important asset, well-known outside of Canada. It's a magnet for people to buy real estate and move there. It's also an important tourism booster and important to economic development and jobs.
John McLachlan	Hornby Island, Canada	2014-03-14	<p>Golden is on the cultural map of BC as a shining example of what can be done with the support of local government. For once, we have an example of a forward-looking BC community which found a way to create value, both economically and culturally (which results in more economically). Don't wreck what you have going by cutting the support unless you want to go back to the dark ages and been seen that way by the rest of the world.</p> <p>I work with arts councils throughout BC. Golden is a star, a gem and should continue to live up to its name.</p>
Brad Tataryn	Golden, Canada	2014-03-14	Music above all else soothes the soul! Keep the arts alive in Golden!
Debbie Peters	Whitehorse, Canada	2014-03-14	Arts & Culture make our communities great places to live. KHC delivers that quality of life to Golden.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Robert Drysdale	Golden, Canada	2014-03-14	Kicking Horse Culture has made a significant contribution to the quality of life in Golden, improving the attractiveness of the community for locals (Area A and town), tourists, and perhaps most importantly, young professionals who are looking for a place to settle.
Gary Simpson	Golden, Canada	2014-03-14	I find it amazing that my elected representative would consider not supporting Cultural growth in my Community and suggest instead that people go to bars. Kids can't go to bars and not everyone needs to have alcohol as a part of their life, certainly not their education. The amount of my tax dollars that have been supporting this group amounts to a tank of gas for my sled yearly, I would like to continue my support of Cultural growth in Area A.
Chris Drysdale	Golden, Canada	2014-03-14	KHC is the core of Golden's cultural transformation; it is equally if not more important than all the efforts the town has made in recent years to beautify the town, improve signage, attract tourists, and improve quality of life for residents. KHC provides accessible, high-quality, family-friendly entertainment that would otherwise not exist in Golden. It puts a cosmopolitan face on the town and makes us more attractive to visitors...just this year I've had several people ask me "What is living in Golden like? What is there to do? Would you raise your kids here?"...and in addition to telling them about the various outdoor opportunities in the area, I can hold up the events organized by KHC and championed by local businesses as examples of how there is more to Golden than meets the eye.
Warren Garrett	Toronto, Canada	2014-03-14	The role of local leadership is to create the conditions in which citizens may grow and prosper. It requires the alignment of cultural, economic, social, and environmental strengths to create a thriving and flourishing community in which citizens (not consumers) care for one another. Kicking Horse Culture is one of Golden's signature strengths. It is well-regarded by Golden's citizens because it demonstrates time and again that it cares for them.
Shelly Vida	Kelowna BC, Canada	2014-03-14	I agree and applaud local government's committed financial support to the cultural life of the Golden community these past 8 years. Your operating support to KHC provides the underpinning for their programs and activities which deliver significant community economic development and quality of life for our locals and tourists alike. Please continue your cultural service delivery agreement with Kicking Horse Culture.
Stephanie Ballendine	Revelstoke, Canada	2014-03-14	I travel to golden from revelstoke to see some if your events.
claire dibble	Golden, Canada	2014-03-14	KH Culture makes Golden a better place to live and visit in so many ways. Please continue to support this important aspect of our community.
Moralea Milne	Victoria, Canada	2014-03-14	I visit Golden often and always enjoy them any and varied arts and cultural activities that you support. They have enhanced my experience and enjoyment of your beautiful area. I have been so impressed with the obvious pride Golden and surrounding areas take in showcasing your many talents and attributes. Kicking Horse Culture is a great model of the positive use of tax dollars!
Thelma Brown	Golden, BC, Canada	2014-03-14	Arts & Culture are an integral part of a healthy community. When the economy is struggling there are those that feel Art & Culture should be the first to go. I feel this is misguided and shortsighted. When I attend a KHC event and feel and see the sense of community, from babies to grandparents participating, enjoying and being part of the social fabric of this place, I am proud. Many of the young people deciding to make Golden & Area A their home have made that decision based on the rich and varied Arts & Culture that is available. The cost to the taxpayers of Area A is miniscule compared to the return. The thread of comments displayed here from the residents of Area A and Town of Golden is proof of the need for the continued support of KHC.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Sue Gould	Golden, Canada	2014-03-14	Everywhere I go up and down the valley, I hear folks talking about how great the scene is in Golden. And they are jealous!
Ron van Vugt	Parson, Canada	2014-03-14	For our social/cultural enrichment, it is imperative that Rural Area A continues to provide funding to KHC. It is a "quality of life" issue.
taraha dixon	golden, Canada	2014-03-14	Because it is a great way to give some diversity to my children other than outdoor sporting activities and broaden their minds.
Gwen Sirianni	Calgary, Afghanistan	2014-03-14	While visiting relatives in Golden we attended a concert and enjoyed it very much.
Wendy Pecora	Golden, Canada	2014-03-14	Kicking Horse Culture has made Golden and area a far richer place. We are lucky to have it.
Suzanne Cooper	Golden, BC, Canada	2014-03-14	I'm an artist! One who both sells and buys work there! With all the businesses closing..beauty matters in a town that relies on tourism!
lucas myers	nelson, Canada	2014-03-14	I have performed as part of Kicking Horse Culture's performance series and reinforce the essential service that it provides to the community.
Lynn Martel	Canmore, Alberta, Canada	2014-03-14	Having moved to Golden only 16 months ago, KHC is the RFIRST thing I sing the praises about when I tell people why I'm happy living here. KHC provides an invaluable richness to Golden. It gives me social life, musical joy, dancing pleasure and the richness of art. KHC is the #1 reason why Golden is no longer a hick, redneck backwater. KHC makes Golden a truly rich and vibrant place to live - and shop, buy property, do business.
Glenn Fiebig	Golden, Canada	2014-03-14	Cultural events are what keeps communities alive.
Kequyen Lam	Golden, Canada	2014-03-14	This town needs to grow and KHC is one avenue in which it will
Carmen Narancsik	Golden, Canada	2014-03-14	KHC brings so much life into our town!!
Ross Horne	Golden, BC, Canada	2014-03-14	The Kicking Horse Culture events are a backbone to the community bonding and how we can promote our community as strong culturally.
Justin Telfer	Golden, Canada	2014-03-14	A lot of the programs and performances are amazing for my daughter.
Charlene Desrochers	Golden, Canada	2014-03-14	As an Area A resident I greatly appreciate the diversity of arts and culture programing that KHC brings to Golden. I would like CSRD and Area A to continue to support KHC and I am willing to pay a fair share of the costs to ensure that the programs continue to enrich our small community.
Justin Telfer	Golden, Canada	2014-03-14	My 6 year old daughter absolutely loves KHC summer kick's concerts and the Masque Parade! She can't read this yet but I can sign it.
Huw Michael	Golden, Canada	2014-03-14	I love great music and the fact that it brings the towns people to enjoy it together
Barbara Friedli	Golden, Canada	2014-03-14	Kicking Horse Culture is an important part of our town. We can't NOT have it.
Sue Mann	Beaverton, OR	2014-03-14	I will be retiring to my property on Campbell Road/Parson next year and I want to enjoy all Kicking Horse Culture offers our community.
Pierre Lambert	Golden, Canada	2014-03-14	Excellent cultural performances
Melissa Huntley	Golden, Canada	2014-03-15	Events are almost always great cultural family events and the ones that aren't are great date nights. Also, has a small business owner (bnb) it is a fabulous perk for selling my business throughout the year.
Stephen Dykes	Golden, Canada	2014-03-15	It is the essential organization behind cultural experience for Golden and the surrounding area.
Rebecca Labonville	Golden, Canada	2014-03-15	Culture is an important component of a well-rounded community.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
John Janzen	Golden, Canada	2014-03-15	I am 66 years old and have lived in many different places across Canada. I have never encountered a cultural body as vibrant and effective as KHC. Period! KHC makes our town special... for residents and visitors equally. Our Civic Centre is an historical and architectural gem... with great accoustics to boot!
Rob Brown	St. Albert, Canada	2014-03-15	I was married in Golden and go back every year if I can - these new programs and facilities are very exciting which makes Golden (with its world class skiing) stand out from so many other destinations - don't stop now!
Virginia Clark	Golden, BC, Canada	2014-03-15	provides fantastic affordable entertainment such a small town would not normally attract
Jeff Mann	Beaverton, OR	2014-03-15	My wife and I enjoy these venues. We think they are important to the community. Golden needs them.
Vi Compeau	Golden, B.C., Canada	2014-03-15	The performers we have had the pleasure listening to and watching brought to us by KHC have been enjoyed by many people from Area A, as well as the town of Golden. We want to continue.
Loris Martin	Golden, Canada	2014-03-15	KHc is one reason we moved to this community. It makes Golden special.
Evelyn Kellenberger	Grindel, Switzerland	2014-03-15	This petition is important to me because Whilelivingn Golden for 9!years my kids and husband and I enjoyed various concerts, festivals, etc organized by KHC.
John Jenkins	Golden, Canada	2014-03-15	Art unites people off all ages, and uplifts the spirits of many young and old.
Helen Lane	Manchester, United Kingdom	2014-03-15	I have family with young children who live and work in Golden. I have also enjoyed part of the cultural provision when visiting Golden. This is an important part of people's well being and helps to reinforce a supportive community spirit, that makes Golden special.
Marissa Schiesser	Toronto, Canada	2014-03-15	I grew up in Golden and the arts and culture available to me is part of why I have an appreciation for the arts and I am an artist. Please, keep it going! Art and culture and creative expression are a very important part of life. They bring joy, insight and a sense of community.
Todd Craig	Golden, Canada	2014-03-15	We are beginning to really have a vibrant cultural community here in Golden, it makes no sense to hinder this. Lets keep making Golden and area a better place some our families and others will want to stay here.
Caren Nagao	Golden, Canada	2014-03-15	Without the arts our culture will decline at all levels. At a community level, there are many many people outside of the Golden township who access and support the arts activities in town. It the taxation is withdrawn, there is potential for neither them, nor the township, nor the tourists to have access to the art activities we presently have. I believe it would be ludicrous to even consider withdrawing funding.
Art Hindmarch	Golden, Canada	2014-03-15	KHC is huge for Golden and Area A
Abdul Carl Trinkwon	Golden, BC, Canada	2014-03-15	I Love Golden and I want to see more Cultural Events Happen. It is well worth my tax dollars to see this happen
Sandy Musclow	Portland, OR	2014-03-15	The Kootenay Mountain region attracts a lot of individuals to it that are conscious and very aware of the importance of relationships with other humans, and nature. To keep this in balance not only do we need to work hard, but we need to be creative, to seek out new ways of creating these relationships. Being inspired by other musicians, artists, builders, naturalists, etc is important in keeping that spirit alive in this area. Please continue to support creativity, we need it if we want to continue to have thriving towns were folks feel connected and live with a sense of purpose and meaning!

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Jane tevelein Doel	Golden BC, Canada	2014-03-15	As an artist residing in Area A, working in Golden and area, I have seen first-hand many times the economic, social and health benefits to our community of KHC's dedication to the Arts. It is a small price to pay for such benefits.
Sonya Lindell	golden, b.c., Canada	2014-03-15	Culture is important for a community to grow!
Brenda Managh	Golden, Canada	2014-03-15	Community culture is more than its parts - embracing all aspects of community is reflected in the multiple perspectives, the multiple partnerships, the multiple interests that defines our complex nature as well as our love of vibrant, community living. We must sustain those things we love, and at the same time, be open to endless possibilities through commitment to holistic community development. Thanks Kicking Horse Culture for bringing social, intergenerational diversity to the forefront of our community. You lead by example.
Andrea Soles	Golden, Canada	2014-03-15	Golden and area is a fairly isolated community, especially in the winter time. Kicking Horse Culture has been brightening my dark winter months with its outstanding performances and events! Thank you KHC and keep enhancing our cultural experience in the future!
jaki fraser	lawrencetown.ns, Canada	2014-03-15	arts and culture is an essential part of life.. and needs to be supported.
evelyn thompson	Calgary, Canada	2014-03-15	we own a place up at Kicking horse and have for 6 years but have been coming to Golden for probably 15 years and really appreciate the way the community is developing. I think to stop would be the wrong move economical. Golden will continue to benefit monetarily as well as culturally if this is continued
Annette Luttermann	Golden, Canada	2014-03-15	The arts programming is one of the wonderful things about living in Golden. I believe strongly that it makes this town much more attractive for people to live here and to visit. The support by taxpayers is certainly worth it in terms of the wider economic benefits even for those who do not attend shows.
Leslie Hein	Golden, Canada	2014-03-15	KHC has worked so hard to bring culture to Golden, let's continue to support this direction!
deanna andersen	Golden, Canada	2014-03-15	Because without artists, we are lost. A community that chooses not to recognize the value of cultural events to the point of not seeing the beauty they have added to Golden since their inception is just plain blind. I hope you wake up, open your eyes and realize that renewing your contract with KHC will continue the rise of cultural expression in this Town.
Susan Stolberg	Golden, Canada	2014-03-15	Life is never as rich without the arts to spice is up.
Maryann Formby	Golden, B.C., Canada	2014-03-15	Golden needs KHC. It is important for the community at large.
Evie Willox	Golden, Canada	2014-03-15	Golden has fantastic arts, music, film because of KHC. It is amazing to be able to show our kids this rich culture and the possibilities for them in the arts as well enjoy it ourselves. The arts and music in Golden is one of the things that we love so much about living in the Golden area.
Andrea Archibald	Golden, Canada	2014-03-15	Because the arts and culture in golden makes this small town even more awesome. I am proud to bring my visiting friends and family to a KHC event, and they love it too!
Joan Grant	Golden, Canada	2014-03-15	that is my home town!
Helen Campbell	Golden, Canada	2014-03-15	We live in a depressed area. Important to have this as it keeps our town floating somewhat. People want to live here because of these things, not the boarded up stores... and perhaps as time evolves Golden will also, and those stores may one day be vibrant again.
Chad Willox	Golden, Canada	2014-03-15	One of the heart beats to our community

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Sarah Kennedy	Golden, Canada	2014-03-15	I love the amazing talent that comes to us in Golden, BC!!!!
Dani Loewenstein	Golden, Canada	2014-03-15	Art is a super important element that will help take Golden towards a more positive, vibrant future.
Inge Clapperton	Golden, Canada	2014-03-16	Kicking Horse Culture has added much to the community of Golden and makes Golden an interesting place to live and to visit.
Bettina Jones	JINDABYNE, Australia	2014-03-16	I have spent two winters in Golden and was fortunate enough to see the Kelowna Ballet and other diverse cultural events while I was there. The Snow Kings parade was also a highlight. The improvements to the town and river area from when I first visited to the last season I was there transformed the town into a beautiful, cultural community. I would love to see this continue.
Lindsey Welsh	Golden, Canada	2014-03-16	I am an artist and want to be able to show my art at the Gallery and buy other artists wares there. If there's no culture, there's no town.
Guy Booth	Toronto, On, Canada	2014-03-16	As visitors to Golden with relatives in the area it is important to keep the culture vibrant. It would be fiscally and culturally short-sighted to stop the funding.
Diane Pinch	Victoria, Canada	2014-03-16	One of the reasons I love visiting Golden for 3 months every winter is for the cultural events.
maureen hogan	Golden, Canada	2014-03-16	Please keep the Arts going in Golden!! This is not just important to me but to my children as well. The Arts have always been a big part of our lives and as both my kids are up and coming artists, I will continue to support them!
Karen Cathcart	Golden, British Columbia, Canada	2014-03-16	KHC is a foundational piece of our community. The work done by this organization is integral to the growth and sustainability of Golden and Area A community residents. It would be a very sad day indeed, a number of steps backward, should we not continue to support this organization.
Charles Scott Ryan	Golden, Canada	2014-03-16	Because Art and Culture enrich our lives and there is nothing more important for a strong community then its art and culture
Heidi Kalmar	Golden, Canada	2014-03-17	The cultural life that KH Culture brings to Golden is integral to living in Golden
Paul Leeson	Golden, Canada	2014-03-17	Golden without the arts and culture would be just another sad sack small town that everyone was lined up to leave. All of Golden and surrounding area benefit from the vibrancy introduced by Kicking Horse Culture and we should all pay our share to ensure that we can continue to enjoy this vital part of our community life.
Tony Berryman	Radium, Canada	2014-03-17	Without the arts a community dies. Without your support KHC suffers. Don't shoot yourself in the head by withdrawing this support.
Shawna Edworthy	Calgary, Canada	2014-03-17	We own a cabin in the area and enjoy the active art and culture scene in Golden. We can't think of a better way to get people to stop and enjoy time in the town than this. Otherwise, folks like us just go to our cabins and hike, etc., but don't go to town.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
wayne manzer	golden, Canada	2014-03-17	<p>To CSRD and Gary Habart:</p> <p>Gary, I have lived in the valley since 1971, primarily as a resident in the CRSD and only recently have become a 'townie'. I find it hard to believe that you would even consider not supporting the arts and KHC. I would love to hear and refute your rational. You have lived here long enough to know how somewhat isolated the area can become. One of the major contributors to the quality of life of any rural community is the 'arts'. We have always had a committed and often hard pressed core of folk from both town and CRSD who keep the rest of us alive and thinking.</p> <p>The last decade or so has seen an even stronger arts community thrive in part due to support from the CRSD. Just look at what we have now with the recent Masque Parade, the new Civic Centre-the envy of many other areas and a joy for performers to play in. This is just a scratch on the surface of what the arts do the sustain and enrich life in the valley.</p> <p>Please give your head a shake, open your eyes and look around at what we have and need to support.</p> <p>You can always tell when a community begins to go toxic by cutting support to arts and education.</p> <p>Thanks Gary, hope you get to read this. Would love to continue this discussion.</p>
Dana Hawkes	Saskatoon, Canada	2014-03-17	I lived in Gokden and still visit often. We attended 75% of these events. Always a great time and instills a close sense of community while enjoying the Arts! It was one of my favorite things about Golden.
Douglas Brown	Edmonton, Canada	2014-03-17	Visiting
Caleb Moss	Golden, Canada	2014-03-17	Note: I own two residential properties in Area A.
dawn major	surrey, Canada	2014-03-17	Golden's vibrant cultural community is very important. For years, the community has managed to provide rich cultural experiences for the folks in the Valley. It must continue!
Andrew Vavasour	Oakville, Canada	2014-03-17	A community that does not support it's culture through funding and participation is destined to shrivel and dry up becoming irrelevant in the province. A culturally rich town attracts more citizens to relocate to it and also holds on to its youth. This of course results in growth and brings extra wealth to the town.
Hilary Vavasour	Oakville, Ontario, Canada	2014-03-17	Contrary to how some may think there is a vibrant arts community in rural areas of Canada. This needs to be met by continued fiscal funding to offset structural and operating costs. Canada, especially rural Canada is renowned for the hundreds of thousands of hours provided by volunteers but this cannot meet those structural and operating costs.
Kevyn McGregor	Golden, BC, Canada	2014-03-17	re-investment of my tax dollars into Kicking Horse Culture is bringing positive outcomes in attracting new and repeat visitors to our region, which is good for our economy and continued culture development.
Robb Eggertson	Morinville, Canada	2014-03-17	I visit Golden annually for the Snow King Festival; Kicking Horse Culture is a huge part of the festival and put on a great show!
Anita Verwijs	Den Haag, Netherlands	2014-03-17	Because my very close friends who lives in Golden lives tot visit the cultural agenda in Golden! Also with me when i am visiting her □
Kersti Holsmer	Blue Mountain, Canada	2014-03-17	I visited my friend in Golden last week and saw Le Vent de Nord and was amazed at the quality of the show and the venue.
K Patterson	Nelson, Canada	2014-03-18	KHC delivers amazing benefits to the community (economic and cultural) as a result of this investment - it has been a great example of an effective partnership which benefits the community as well as the region.
Susan Bateman	Golden, BC, Canada	2014-03-18	Best place to shop in Golden!

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Derek Smith	Golden, Canada	2014-03-18	Strong belief in Garry and in KHCulture
Lillian Cacaci	Parson, Canada	2014-03-18	KHC has taken Golden out of the red neck Middle Ages into the new age of cultural diversification and appreciation of the arts. There is no sound reason why Mr. Habart would not support KHC as has been done in the past. Hopefully, he will get behind KHC and throw in his support for the few years term that is requested of him.
Danny Moolhuizen	Harderwijk, Netherlands	2014-03-18	Our good friends live in golden. They have shown us that the inhabitants are culturally very involved with each other. That is special.
Dawn Brown	St.Albert, Canada	2014-03-18	Golden is a great place to visit. We were married there and the spirit of the community is beautiful.
Victor Boyko	Golden BC, Canada	2014-03-18	KHC is doing an excellent job and any lack of funds may be detrimental to the group
Andrea Thomsen	Aarhus, Denmark	2014-03-18	Makes a better place to visit
Eden Yesh	Invermere, Canada	2014-03-18	Because we need to support community and culture as much as we can - we're losing that support.
chris jinot	golden, Canada	2014-03-18	let's not be penny wise and pound stupid about this
Diana Booth	Toronto, Canada	2014-03-18	Whenever we visit Golden, we take advantage of the cultural events. Please continue to support these activities.
John Person	Calgary, Canada	2014-03-19	Keep supporting the culture for the area
Laura Prather	Golden, Canada	2014-03-19	Brings the community together to see great talent.
Brandi Romano	Golden, Canada	2014-03-19	Our town and the culture that I have seen grow in the last 6 years is what keeps me wanting to be a part of it. I think it also keeps tourists engaged.
Lynda Conway	Golden, Canada	2014-03-19	KHC adds a special spark to our community which we should be incredible grateful for.Thank you KHC.
Jane Fearing	Golden, Canada	2014-03-19	With respect, I am having trouble understanding why Mr. Habart would consider not continuing this agreement. The performances that we have been able to attend over the last several years have been amazing! I feel very lucky to have the choice to take in such great concerts and in such a lovely setting as the restored Civic Centre. We are fortunate to have this in our community. It is important.
Jerry Nieuwesteeg	Fernie, BC, Canada	2014-03-19	Coming from the small town of Fernie, I understand what a community needs to thrive and survive. i visit Golden many times a year and must say that the changes in the community are awesome. I sure would hate to see a positive social and economic culture growing within that city be undermined by yet another politician with his/her own political agenda. It is time for Gary to get his head out of proverbial butt and take a look at the positive things that have happened as a result of the KHC.
Wendy Summers	North Saanich, Canada	2014-03-19	I have a large family living in Golden.
f kamphorst	Den Haag, Netherlands	2014-03-19	important for tourists and hometown people. Without culture life is empty.
jennifer walton	golden, Canada	2014-03-19	art and music bring so much joy to our lives how could we live with out it
Ralph van Drielen	Golden, Canada	2014-03-20	Culture is important
Jacque Hamilton	Castlegar, Canada	2014-03-20	Golden is soooo lucky to have a facility that gives such excellent service to cultural activities - it is worthy of substantial support.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Anne Jardine	Radium Hot Springs, Canada	2014-03-20	I often attend cultural events in Golden and very much value the programs put on by KHC.
Chris Brown	Golden, Canada	2014-03-20	We live part time in Golden and KHC has been an important doorway to our Golden community as a vibrant and culturally sophisticated place to live. The strength of KHC sets Golden apart from every other community of similar size that I know increases Golden's desirability as a place to invest our time and resources--and we spread the word to anyone who will listen.
catherine lund	kelowna, Canada	2014-03-20	friends who love the arts and live in Golden!
Dylan Sadlier brown	Calgary, Canada	2014-03-20	It is important to support arts and culture everywhere!!
Teresa Van Den Bosch	Calgary, Canada	2014-03-20	The arts. Community. Increased quality of life. 'Nuff said.
Dubreen Alas	Kamloops, Canada	2014-03-20	I grew up in Parson and come back to visit the area frequently. It is wonderful to see what the community has done and especially what KHC has and continues to accomplish. Please continue this funding to such a well deserving group.
Cheryl Chapman	Golden, Canada	2014-03-20	I love what's happened to our Arts Council and find it extremely important to the vitality of our small community. It brings me pride and I brag about it. Having been very involved in the 80's and continued support now. Very proud
Diana Taufer	Golden, Canada	2014-03-20	Art is an important way to bring community member's from all ages together
Marjie Beal	Golden, bc, Canada	2014-03-20	Arts & Culture is a critical part of our lives. The events bring hundreds of locals together. Summer kicks is an event that everyone in Golden looks forward to; children to seniors.
Michael Schultz	Edmonton, Canada	2014-03-20	I enjoy visiting Golden and have seen the results of efforts by the KHC. Go Golden!
Patricia Healy	Marsh Lake YT, Canada	2014-03-21	We spend our winters in Golden . The highlight of our time there is the amazing performances we have gone to at the Civic Centre.
jim king	Invermere BC, Canada	2014-03-21	Arts are very important to our community
Carrie Ferguson	Golden, Canada	2014-03-21	I fully support the Kicking Horse Culture and as an Area A resident I would like my tax dollars to be used to support Kicking Horse Culture. My family benefits greatly from all of the live concerts, films and arts the council provides to our area. Thank you for your consideration.
Pam Williamson	Parson, Canada	2014-03-21	The best support in the area for artists
Gwen and Lorne Peterson	Calgary, Canada	2014-03-21	Having spent nearly 8 wonderful years in Golden we feel justified in commenting on the spirit and vitality that KHC brings to the area and will encourage folks (like ourselves) to return to Golden frequently. Also huge kudos to Bill Usher for making this happen.
Runa Bjarnason-Wilson	Golden BC, Canada	2014-03-21	The arts and culture KHC provides enriches my life and the lives of my children!
Shannon Hood	Golden, Canada	2014-03-22	Shouldn't this be important for EVERYONE!
Karen Smedley	Golden, Canada	2014-03-22	While the mountain lifestyle is an important aspect of Golden & area lifestyle diversity in terms of culture is also a key aspect of community life.
Christoph Loesch	Parson, Canada	2014-03-22	It is the only cultural organization in our part of the province! Our whole family enjoys the various performances - it is without a doubt the best thing our area has going! Golden and area would be a sad place without Kicking Horse Cultur. It is also supporting local artists, which in turn creates revenue for our local economy.
marty ryan	parson, Canada	2014-03-22	We need to maintain support of the arts for local people and tourism.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Elena Loesch	Parson, Canada	2014-03-22	We are really enjoy all concerts, this is the only organization which brings culture to town for all ages.
Maxine Lockeridge	Golden, Canada	2014-03-22	Arts and culture enriches one's life. As an Area A resident I support funding to KHC
Lorraine Daley	Golden, Canada	2014-03-22	We need this cultural service in Golden and I love the Opera
Andre Weilenmann	Golden, Canada	2014-03-22	KHC is part of our life here and I want to stay it that way.
Martina Loesch	Parson, Canada	2014-03-22	I always enjoy the great summer parties on Spirit Square where I meet all my friends to dance to the great music. Please please please don't stop Kicking Horse Culture - we love all the shows, the music, the ballet and all the good things! I want to be a ballerina too!
Brian Shell	Kicking Horse, Golden, B.C., Canada	2014-03-22	We should all be supporting the community we are poart of, including for all artistic events and endeavours
Helen Barry	FIELD, Canada	2014-03-22	I would like to continue to be able to access the wonderful cultural events in Golden.
Heather Beaton	Golden, Canada	2014-03-22	Cultural is one of the great foundations of Golden
Monica De	Golden, Canada	2014-03-22	Personally, I enjoy community events such as the Masque Parade and summer concerts at the Spirit Square as well as some of the entertainment (e.g. ballet, plays, movies, concerts, etc.). On a community level, it's important to bring people together in fun and positive ways. It also keeps the town interesting so that people will want to live here. I think it's also important to keep the fees affordable (and even free) so more people are able to participate. KHC is an asset to the community and contributes to making Golden a better, more vibrant place to live, so it makes sense for the Town to support KHC.
Michelle Bastock	Golden, Canada	2014-03-22	The quality of the work that has been done by the Kicking Horse Culture has been fabulous to engage the community and visitors to Golden! Keep up the great work! Michelle
robert banting	Golden, Canada	2014-03-22	Excellent communal effort
Vreni Tobler	Golden B.C., Canada	2014-03-24	If financially feasible I would very much like to continue to support KHC
Ted Whanstall	Golden, Canada	2014-03-24	I enjoy the events. I also support that we should do our due diligence and check this is still what the community wants. Good Job Guys.
Joan Stevaux	Golden, Canada	2014-03-26	Limited income and also limited mobility. It is not always possible to go to Calgary or Vancouver to enjoy what is offered here at a price I can afford. Indira Gandhi said that two things were necessary for her country to flourish: people should have food for their stomach and flowers for their soul. Here KHC provides flowers for the soul
Tammra Broughton	Squamish, Canada	2014-03-29	Art and Music is the heart and glue that keeps this community together. Taking this away would leave a serious void.
DAN MAISONNEUVE	golden, Canada	2014-03-31	Great for our town!!
Deborah Petersmeyer	Kamloops, B.C., Canada	2014-04-07	Cultural events bring visitors to the Region and brings much needed revenue to the town of Golden.
Chris Scrupa	Calgary, Canada	2014-04-07	As an owner of a vacation condo in Golden, I am in the community frequently and appreciate the cultural events organized by KHC, CSRD's continued financial support will help grow a great quality of life residents and visitors alike.
Dana Setter	Golden BC, Canada	2014-04-07	Kicking Horse Culture is one shining star in Golden When so many lights are going out in our little town. We need Arts and Culture to build in this Community not burn out.> Please find a way to continue funding this valuable program.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Don McTighe	West Kelowna BC, Canada	2014-04-08	Golden needs events like the ones this funding provides to keep the community strong and alive.
richard johnson	Warrenton, OR	2014-04-08	art and culture is incredibly important to our quality of life
David LaHay	Kelowna, BC, Canada	2014-04-11	As founding Artistic Director of Ballet Kelowna, it has been my great pleasure to bring Ballet Kelowna to Golden for the past several seasons. Originally self presenting, we have now become an annual event in Kicking Horse Culture's series of presentations at the Golden Civic Centre. I have witnessed the amazing reception we receive from the enthusiastic audiences that have so warmly welcomed us into their community and into their hearts. I have also witnessed the rejuvenation of the Golden Civic Centre and been so very impressed with the commitment of Kicking Horse Culture to provide a professional facility for local and touring artists. I have always championed Kicking Horse Culture's and the Golden and area's phenomenal support of arts and culture as an example of what a community can do to enrich the lives of its citizens. It is so vitally important to continue to support Kicking Horse Culture and the most positive economic effect it has on the community and to recognize its importance as a most positive influence on the lives of everyone who is given the opportunity to partake in its arts and cultural presentations.
Justin Tataryn	Golden, Canada	2014-04-12	Love the shows its important for our children to get exposure to the arts.
ATMA SANDHER	GOLDEN B.C, Canada	2014-04-14	KEEP THE COMMUNITY ALIVE
Barbara Holliday	West Kelowna, Canada	2014-04-16	It is critical for small communities to have access to the variety of live performance events that an arts organization like KickingHorse Culture presents. A community that does not support the arts to the fullest extent it can does a disservice to its citizens. Culturally-rich communities are better places to live and enrich the lives of its residents, particularly its children.
Anne Magnusson	Golden, Canada	2014-04-24	KHC's many offerings make Golden a great place to live. Visitors who experience the events will be likely to return. These events enrich the experience of our youth.
Leanne Ritter	Calgary, Canada	2014-04-29	We have a resort home in Kicking Horse that we use and rent out. In order to attract visitors to the golden area in the shoulder and summer season it is critical to have cultural amenities. It is also a way to bring guests of Kicking Horse into the town to extend their stay and spend valuable tourist dollars. If that area of BC hopes to gain and retain tourists and homeowners it needs to enhance and expand on the great work that KHC is doing for Golden and the entire East Kootenay region.