



January 5, 2023

Rebekah Robinson  
Conserving Carolina  
847 Case Street  
Hendersonville, NC 28792

Dear Rebekah,

Tryon Fine Arts Center is pleased to provide a letter of support for Conserving Carolina's application to the NC Department of Transportation as a community partner in the development the Saluda Grade Rail Trail (SGRT).

Tryon Fine Arts Center (TFAC) is the state-designated arts council for Polk County, serving the Foothills of North Carolina and Upstate South Carolina. TFAC is a nonprofit organization that operates and programs a 315-seat performance venue, a 100-seat multi-purpose room, meeting and rental spaces, a visual arts gallery and a 150-seat amphitheater – all of which is used regularly by a wide range of audiences to enjoy concerts, theatre, dance, visual art exhibits, arts education, and more.

TFAC relies on residents and tourists visiting downtown Tryon to support both its onsite programming and to generate revenue to support arts outreach programs for local students of all ages.

The SGRT has the potential to increase the number of downtown patrons that can support TFAC. And benefit not only TFAC but several arts organizations and businesses in Tryon that rely on a vibrant downtown with shoppers making a stop for a short while, overnight or longer.

TFAC is excited about the opportunities the SGRT will bring to the town and region and stands ready to support the development of art events and gatherings along the trail. We highly recommend that NCDOT support Conserving Carolina's application for funding to support the SGRT.

We look forward to the next steps in supporting our collective efforts to cultivate a common vision to grow the recreational and arts, cultural and economic development opportunities for Tryon.

Should additional information be needed to support this application, please just let me know.

Sincerely,

Marianne Carruth  
Executive Director