

LPEA

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Letter of Support for the Durango Discovery Museum

The La Plata Electric Association endorses and supports the vision of the Durango Discovery Museum to create an energy and science museum centered in the historic Durango Power House. We invite our fellow electrical industry companies and associations to consider supporting the capital campaign for its construction and to provide exhibits, demonstration projects, and materials that tell electricity's story.

This proposed museum will be housed in the power plant that was built along the east bank of the Animas River by the Durango Light and Power Company in 1892 to generate A/C power for the fledgling city of Durango and its streetcars. The Durango Power Plant is the oldest remaining example of an A/C steam plant. The 500 kilowatt turbine, which sits in the center of the building, is one of the last remaining intact atmosphere-type turbines in the world.

Those of us in the electrical industry fully understand the critical importance of A/C power to the development of our nation. Unfortunately, the benefits of electricity remain unappreciated by many of our citizens. This museum, if endorsed and supported by our industry, could provide interactive exhibits and demonstrations that tell the electricity story. The intent of the Durango Discovery Museum is to create an energy and science museum that provides the history of the development of electricity and progresses to the needs for alternative energy solutions in the 21st century.

At La Plata Electric Association, we hope to work with the museum to ensure that the electricity story is told in a way that credits our industry and its success in providing safe, reliable, and economical electricity in environmentally responsible ways. To that end, we have contributed \$10,000 towards the museum's matching funds requirements for its capital campaign and we hope others will consider the potential benefits of this museum and join us in contributing to the capital campaign and providing electrical exhibits.

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