Natural and Cultural Resources Focus Area Grant History

**FY 2023**

$225,000 over three years to Eagle Market Street Development Corporation (as fiscal sponsor for the Catawba Vale Collaborative) to support internal capacity needs related to the Catawba Vale Collaborative’s efforts to bring equitable community development to Old Fort in McDowell County.

$31,000 to Foothills Conservancy of NC to complete the final pre-construction work necessary to develop the 10-mile Wolfpen Loop Trail on permanent conservation lands in McDowell County.

$50,000 to Madison County Arts Council to develop the final engineering and architectural designs for Phase 2 renovations of the Arts Center.

$40,000 to Mainspring Conservation Trust to support the completion of due diligence efforts needed to acquire and remove the Ela Dam, an aging dam and reservoir in Swain County, NC, adjoining the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians' Qualla Boundary.

$10,000 to Toe River Arts Council to support the marketing and promotion of its Cynthia and Edwina Bringle documentary to capture the sisters’ artistic role they have played in the Toe River region.

$15,000 to The Wilderness Society to provide additional facilitation support for the Nantahala-Pisgah Forest Partnership during the critical first 18 months of implementation of the US Forest Service Nantahala-Pisgah National Forest management plan.

$30,000 to Wildlands Network (as fiscal sponsor for the Safe Passage Fund Coalition) to improve communications and outreach work in order to raise financial and public support for mitigation measures to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions along a 28-mile stretch of Interstate 40 in the Pigeon River Gorge.

**FY 2022**

$52,500 to Camp Grier (as fiscal sponsor for the Catawba Vale Collaborative) to support the design and construction of a series of monuments that combine stone architecture with archaeologically-generated stories at specific locations along a new 42-mile trail expansion on USFS land surrounding the Town of Old Fort.

$8,500 to Green Built Alliance to engage with Taproot Consulting in the development of a three-year strategic plan.

$49,742 to Local Cloth to launch Blue Ridge Blankets and, thereby, to support and develop the region’s fiber-arts economy, particularly within the 100-mile region surrounding Asheville.

$36,300 to Mountain BizWorks to increase the geographic reach and economic benefits of the Craft Your Commerce program by building on the successes and lessons of the three-year pilot.

**FY 2021**

$30,000 to Asheville Area Arts Council to support a series of one-time benefit performances in Pack Square Park that align with the City of Asheville’s public space initiative.
$8,500 to Asheville GreenWorks to engage HunterKemper Consulting to build its capacity to maintain financial stability through increasing staff and board member skills in fund development planning.

$15,000 to Brevard Music Center to expand outdoor dining areas, shift to “grab-n-go” meal preparation, and create additional outdoor learning spaces to create a safe learning and living environment for students and faculty during the 2021 Summer Music Institute and Festival.

$20,000 to Center for Craft to assist with construction of the Cherokee Basketry Public Art Parklet to be located at 67 Broadway Street, Asheville.

$7,500 to Conserving Carolina to engage Public Interest Management Group to facilitate a 10-year strategic business plan.

$20,000 to Conserving Carolina toward purchase, transaction, due diligence, and project management expenses associated with acquiring a 19-mile abandoned railway.

$17,000 to John C. Campbell Folk School to catalog the school’s current collection, to acquire artists’ work and historical artifacts for education and outreach efforts, and for a health and safety preparedness project to make pandemic-driven operational changes necessary on the 290-acre campus.

FY 2020

$8,500 to EcoForesters to engage Taproot Consulting to develop a strategic plan and a fundraising plan.

$30,000 (contingent upon other funds) to EcoForesters to seed its Invasive Species Stewardship Fund.

$20,000 to Flat Rock Playhouse to complete upgrades to the theater’s sound and lighting equipment.

$25,000 to Green Built Alliance to support the Blue Horizons Project’s continuing community engagement, marketing, education, and outreach efforts.

$8,500 to LEAF Community Arts to engage Birds Eye Business Planning & Adventure for Strategic Visioning and Planning.

$8,400 to Montford Park Players to engage Taproot Consulting to assist the organization in strategic planning.

$35,000 to National Trust for Historic Preservation to engage key stakeholders – especially African American churches and organizations, local residents, artists and young people – in envisioning the future of Nina Simone’s Childhood Home in Tryon, NC.

$45,000 to Riverlink (as fiscal sponsor for the French Broad River Partnership) to engage consultants to create an economic impact study quantifying the value of clean water and the French Broad River Watershed to the region’s economy.

$13,090 to Western Carolina University/Bardo Arts Center for an exhibition examining the human effect on the landscape and environment, entitled “Plotted and Pieced: WNC from the Air,” by acclaimed photographer Alex MacLean.

FY 2019
$10,000 to The American Chestnut Foundation to further a proactive gene conservation project in which seeds will be collected from remnant, wild American chestnuts across the species range and transplanted in orchards, where they will be used for future breeding.

$30,000 to Asheville Art Museum to support pre-K through 12th grade and adult educational programs in conjunction with the upcoming exhibition Appalachia Now! An Interdisciplinary Survey of Contemporary Art in Southern Appalachia.

$10,000 to Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center to implement community programming related to the Between Form and Content: Perspectives on Jacob Lawrence and Black Mountain College exhibition, the first to open in its new location at 120 College Street.

$25,000 (contingent upon other funds) to Blue Ridge National Heritage Area to complete the Blue Ridge Craft Trails, an initiative to increase income for craft artists and businesses, enhance cultural tourism, and improve economic opportunity in WNC.

$25,000 to Conserving Carolina to acquire 314 acres of land, which will be transferred to DuPont State Recreational Forest.

$35,000 over two years to Cowee Pottery School to support the costs of purchasing two new kilns and hiring a part-time director.

$8,500 to Madison County Arts Council to engage Leslie Anderson Consulting for capital campaign planning.

$8,500 to MountainTrue to engage Judy Futch Consulting and Searchlight Consulting in strategic planning.

$33,912 to Penland School of Craft to purchase a Computer Numerical Control system for its wood studio.

$7,500 to Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards to engage Elly Wells Marketing + Project Management to create a communications strategy and timeline.

FY 2018

$5,618 to American Whitewater to continue the contracted facilitation needed by the Nantahala-Pisgah Forest Partnership during the final phases of the Nantahala and Pisgah Forest Management Plan revisions.

$25,150 to Asheville Symphony to support a recording project that brings the Symphony together with Grammy award-winning bluegrass band, Steep Canyon Rangers.

$27,936 to Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation to purchase technology that would deter poaching of natural resources such as Ginseng, Galax, Bog Turtles, and Peregrines along the Blue Ridge Parkway.

$7,500 to Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy (CMLC) to engage Design One for the purposes of marketing and re-branding. This grant will support the consolidation of CMLC and the Pacolet Area Conservancy.
$25,000 to **Green Built Alliance** to support marketing, outreach and education for the Blue Horizons Project formulated by the 15 organizations that comprise the Energy Innovation Task Force.

$10,000 to **Jackson County Green Energy Park** to assist with the development of a waste vegetable oil burner system that could be utilized by ceramicists, glassblowers, blacksmiths, and others who participate in the Fire Arts, which require high heat levels in their processes.

$30,000 over two years to **Nikwasi Initiative** to further develop the Cultural Corridor by supporting project management and coordinating functions of the Nikwasi Initiative. This effort is an unusual, if not unique, model of equal engagement between tribal and non-tribal participants around a co-developed and managed heritage-related community economic development project.

$7,500 to **Parkway Playhouse** to engage Walker Wilson Consulting in the development of a 2018-2022 strategic plan, which will be the organization's first.

$30,000 to **Toe River Arts Council** to begin fabrication and installation of the first gateway marker, which will be installed at the west entrance to the downtown area off 19E. The Glass Gateway Vision Plan calls for three glass markers of varying heights at the west and east entrances of Burnsville.

FY 2017

$65,000 over two years to **American Rivers** to plan the preliminary work needed to remove the Cullowhee Dam and create the Tuckasegee River Blue Trail (TRBT). The TRBT plan will guide local efforts to enhance the river, promote family-friendly recreation, connect people to nature, and boost the local economy.

$10,000 to **American Whitewater** toward continued professional facilitation for the Nantahala-Pisgah Forest Partnership, a diverse collaborative group that has been working for nearly four years to develop consensus-based approaches to the management of the region’s National Forests. Their work dovetails with the USFS’s current effort to revise the management plans for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests.

$7,500 to **Asheville Art Museum** to engage Joyce Fitzpatrick of Fitzpatrick Communications to create a 20-month communications portfolio, including a timeline related to the Museum’s construction and grand re-opening.

$8,000 to **Asheville Museum of Science (AMOS)** to develop a series of four short video vignettes that orient museum visitors to WNC’s unique geological, ecological and cultural setting. AMOS hopes to educate and inspire residents and tourists to celebrate and protect WNC’s unique natural landscapes.

$25,000 (contingent upon other funds) to **Blue Ridge National Heritage Area** to help launch the Blue Ridge Craft Trails, a craft trail system for 25 WNC counties intended to increase income for artists and craft businesses, enhance cultural tourism, and improve local economies.

$20,000 to **Carolina Public Press** to provide in-depth, investigative and explanatory journalism on the present and future of the more than 1.1 million acres of national forests spanning WNC in a public awareness effort to inform and engage readers on one of the top issues facing the region.

$7,500 to **Friends of the WNC Nature Center** to engage Walker Wilson Consulting in business planning to take over management of the food and gift services at the Nature Center. This proposed plan will
create a long-term, sustainable source of income for the non-profit Friends, and will directly help to fulfill their mission.

$50,000 over 5 years to Madison County to create an art sculpture park along the greenway in Mars Hill in order to enliven the rural landscape, create a dynamic visual experience for residents and visitors, create more venues for public art in Madison County, increase opportunities for artists who work in the region, and connect a manufacturing history to an economic development future.

$30,000 to NC International Folk Festival/Folkmoot for the continuing development of the Folkmoot Center as a Multi-Cultural Exchange location.

$25,000 (a second award of $12,325 for phase II was made on 9/8/17) to The Center for Craft, Creativity and Design toward a two-part feasibility assessment that will result in relevant and actionable data to inform and advance place-based affordable mixed-use developments for artists and the creative sector.

$7,500 to WNC Green Building Council to engage Design One for marketing and branding in order to determine a new name, logo, and tagline, as well as gain support in creating a marketing and outreach strategy.

FY 2016

$35,000 to Asheville Art Museum to deliver its Literacy Through Art program to students in rural WNC counties.

$25,000 to Asheville Downtown Association Foundation to support the rebranding of its Urban Trail marketing project, including a mobile-enabled website and curricula for school field trips.

$17,500 to Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center to support the 2016 M.C. Richards Centennial Celebration honoring the 100th birthday of poet, potter, author, visual artist, and educator M.C. Richards (1916-1999).

$20,000 to Carolina Public Press to provide in-depth, investigative and explanatory journalism on the present condition and future of our region’s water systems and national forests.

$4,000 to Cowee Pottery School to purchase five new pottery wheels, splash pans, chairs, and other essential items in order to offer additional and larger classes.

$8,000 to Flat Rock Playhouse to engage David Mallette of Management Consultants for the Arts to facilitate Phase II of a strategic planning process.

$30,000 to Mainspring Conservation Trust to support continued facilitation costs for the next phase of Mountain Partners, an economic development and cultural heritage venture.

$30,000 to NC International Folk Festival/Folkmoot to continue planning and development of the Center for Multi-Cultural Exchange in an effort to transition from a two-week summer festival into a year-round community and cultural resource.

$7,500 to Toe River Arts Council to engage Walker Wilson Consulting in the development of a 2017-2020 strategic plan to guide future decision-making and clarify governance, financial structure, and its relationships with the Toe River Arts brand and other partners.
$6,300 to Tryon Fine Arts Center to offer an arts education program via an Artist in Residence at Tryon Elementary School.

**FY 2015**

$42,391 to Land Trust for the Little Tennessee to engage the Catalpa Group consulting firm in a project with potential cultural, environmental and economic benefits.

$7,500 to North Carolina Stage Company to engage Walker Wilson Consulting for facilitation of a 2015-2018 strategic planning process to give the organization a decision-making guide in order to grow its current and future offerings in a financially sustainable way.

$7,500 to Pack Place Performing Arts Center/Diana Wortham Theatre to engage Gary Landwirth for planning during the major restructuring of the Pack Place complex, including new financial and operational obligations to the city, increases in building management costs and duties, and the creation of two new performance venues, as well as maintenance, programming and management.

$60,000 over two years to The Wilderness Society to sustain the Nantahala-Pisgah Forest Partnership, which was chartered in December 2013 to engage diverse interests in establishing common goals for forest management, recreation, cultural resource protection, and new wilderness designations, as well as to influence the USFS's Management Plan Revision for the Nantahala-Pisgah National Forests.

$50,000 to Toe River Arts Council toward consultant fees related to branding Mitchell and Yancey counties as one cultural arts entity. The project will support cultural district planning, beginning with branding and advancing to the establishment of an artist-designed, arts wayfinding system in the Toe River Valley.

$50,000 to Wild South for its Cultural Heritage Assistant (hired with support from CFWNC last year) who has increased staff capacity and markedly accelerated the success of Wild South’s Cultural Heritage program.

**FY 2014**

$30,000 to Asheville Community Theatre to stabilize the Blomberg Building after a structural engineer determined the building needed several significant repairs to prevent it from eventual collapse. Adjacent to the main theatre, the Blomberg Building will house the organization’s education programs once renovated.

$12,600 to Cradle of Forestry in America Interpretive Association to fund the development of a mobile application to encourage and guide recreation activity in the most popular sections of Pisgah National Forest in Buncombe, Henderson and Transylvania counties.

$50,000 to Exploring Joara Foundation to hire an executive director to expand educational programming and heritage tourism in Burke County. EJF supports work at the local Berry site, an archaeological dig located at the site of the Native American town of Joara, which was later Fort San Juan in the sixteenth-century.

$50,000 to Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy/Blue Ridge Forever to assist in the Blue Ridge Forever land trust coalition efforts to permanently protect ten properties vital to the natural and
cultural heritage of the region. Grant funds will be utilized to provide $5,000 sub-grants to BRF members to assist with transaction closing costs.

$40,000 to Wild South to accelerate the growth of its Cultural Heritage Program, which provides ongoing support for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians through educational resources and the archiving of historical documents, as well as participation in the Nantahala-Pisgah Forest Partnership to identify areas for protection in the USFS plan revision.

FY 2013

$35,000 in two grants to The Wilderness Society to provide professional facilitation services for the Nantahala-Pisgah Forest Partnership, a community-based collaboration for the Nantahala-Pisgah National Forests’ plan revision, and to purchase Community Viz software with mapping tables.

$30,000 to Western North Carolina Alliance for a three-pronged approach of scientific research, public engagement and citizen volunteerism to build regional engagement in the U.S. Forest Service planning for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests.

FY 2012

$75,000 to HandMade in America to expand technical assistance and community development efforts as part of their Economic Development program for rural communities.

$1,250 to Town of Murphy to match grant funds for the Small Towns Economic Prosperity Program, which helps communities seek ways to overcome adversity by building on assets through the former NC Steps grant program.

$1,250 to Town of Rutherfordton to match grant funds for the Small Towns Economic Prosperity Program, which helps communities seek ways to overcome adversity by building on assets through the former NC Steps grant program.

$50,000 to WNC Nature Center/Friends of the WNC Nature Center for interpretive enhancements to the red wolf exhibit and to build a covered pavilion, two priority projects in the 2020 Vision and Master Site Plan for the nature park that serves the region.