

December 6, 2009

Bullion Plaza Cultural Center and Museum
Attention: Thomas N. Foster
P.O. Box 786
Miami, Arizona 85539

I am writing to applaud the board and staff for the progress that you have been able to achieve to date in your efforts to stabilize and improve the Bullion Plaza Cultural Center and Museum.

As a researcher, I have found Miami to have one of the best under-known photographic history in Arizona. This material is particularly rich in the 1900 – 1930 era. I have enjoyed the opportunity to begin to explore this important legacy with your staff, and have been impressed by your group's efforts to identify images, research them, and present them to your community in interesting and meaningful ways.

Your organization has been able to obtain funding to repair the facility and insure at least an acceptable environment for the materials in your care. You have leveraged grants and gifts far beyond what I have seen in similar institutions, and have begun to create a cultural destination that can become a foundation for promoting and understanding the important history of the area.

Your ability to create enticing exhibits and provide historic context has been exceptional. Your capacity to begin to use the space by generating exhibition materials and create facilities for traveling exhibitions bodes well for the cultural and political development of the region.

Though the Arizona Centennial celebration appears to have stalled in today's challenging economic environment, there will be at least some funding available to promote the history of our state, and the Bullion Plaza Cultural Center and Museum is well positioned to take advantage of both these monies, and public interest in the history of Arizona. Miami is particularly well positioned with its rich history of mining and its role as a prototypical rapid growth mining town in the West.

I have been noting your progress to potential funding agencies, such as the Arizona Humanities Council and hope that these contacts begin to open opportunities for your facility and its programs. As you know, I have donated images and time to assist, which indicates my confidence that you are on the right path.

Your organization has made significant progress to date. Unfortunately the current budgetary environment will make progress challenging, but you have built a great foundation upon which to build.

I wish you good luck as you continue your efforts to evolve the Bullion Plaza Cultural Center and Museum into a significant historical and cultural resource for your community.

Best regards,



Dr. Jeremy Rowé
Arizona State University

