

# *Yancey County Heritage Development Plan*



Prepared by  
The Yancey Heritage Council  
In cooperation with



**Revised October 2008**

## YANCEY HERITAGE COUNCIL TEAM ROSTER

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## YANCEY COUNTY NARRATIVE SUMMARY

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Scenery, history, culture, arts and crafts – Yancey County is home to all these and more. Log homes hug hillsides, white frame farmhouses and weathered 'baccar barns preside over fertile valleys. Around every curve, across every expanse of field and forest, Yancey County appeals to the eye, the ear, the palate (and the palette).

Centrally located between Boone and Asheville in the Western North Carolina Mountains, Yancey County is home to Mt. Mitchell (at 6,684 feet, the highest mountain east of the Mississippi) and 15 additional peaks with elevations exceeding 6,000 feet. Ridges and valleys carved over eons by the South Toe and Cane Rivers and their tributaries alternately reveal and conceal a landscape rich in natural and agricultural resources.

Eight hundred years ago, the Cherokee tended cornfields on the banks of the Cane and hunted elk amid the mountains' towering virgin forests. The elk and Cherokee villages are gone, but corn still grows in the rich bottomlands. Christmas tree plantations of Fraser fir – a dominant species of the mountaintops' spruce/fir forests – pattern sloping hillsides. Nurseries propagate pink shell and flame azalea and Catawba rhododendron that naturally ornament the surrounding mountains' woodlands and balds.

Burnsville, Yancey's county seat, is the only incorporated town, though the back roads are liberally sprinkled with communities with picturesque names such as Celo, Daybook, Egypt, Micaville, Sioux, Pensacola and Beelog. The town is organized around a central square, and offers a pleasant mix of shops, galleries and restaurants, in addition to a library and town and county government buildings.

Burnsville is the kind of town that invites you to park and take a stroll. Just off the square, on West Main St., a Visitor Center that is also home to the Yancey County/Burnsville Chamber of Commerce occupies a restored service station. On a hill just above it, the historic McElroy House (c. 1840) is home to the Museum of Yancey County History. The house served as headquarters for the western North Carolina home guard during the Civil War.

A bronze statue of Capt. Otway Burns, a War of 1812 naval hero, dominates the square itself. Festivals and celebrations-the Mt. Mitchell Crafts Fair the first Friday and Saturday in August, a 4th of July celebration, a summer evening concert series and other special events-take place on and around the square. Biggest event of the year is the Crafts Fair, now in its 50th year, which attracts more than 250 craftspeople and thousands of visitors annually.

The Parkway Playhouse, on the edge of town, offers professional summer theatre musicals, comedies and serious dramas. Two October events – Music in the Mountains Folk Festival, at Patience Mullendore Park on the banks of the South Toe and an Old Timey Days Fall Festival on the Square the last Saturday in September – help Yancey celebrate its musical and rural roots.

The Burnsville Town Center plays host to numerous other musical and cultural venues such as the yearly Leslie Riddle Fest Concert sponsored by the Traditional Voices Group and the monthly 'Java

Jam' sponsored by the Toe River Arts Council (TRAC). TRAC also organizes the bi-annual Toe River Studio Tour featuring over 100 local artist studios.

Yancey is home to a number of world-renowned craftspeople, like glass artists Rob Levin and Bill Bernstein. Potter Pete McWhirter and his wife Kim carry on a family tradition in a small shop and studio in Celo, in the South Toe River Valley.

David Boone's woodcarving studio is tucked in the Cane River Valley at Pensacola. The Boone name has long been associated with Yancey crafts, as multiple generations of blacksmith Boones operated a famous forge in Burnsville in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Toe River Crafts, a co-op in Celo, the galleries in and around Burnsville including the Toe River Arts Council Studio, The Design Gallery, Something Special Gift Shop, Silent Poetry, Artists Statements, A Touch of Cass, and more showcase the best of local and regional crafts. The projected Mitchell/Yancey County Arts and Crafts Trail, the Mountain Heritage Performing Arts Center and Business Incubator are projects aimed at preserving the local traditions and providing increased economic stability and benefit to the local artisans and crafters.

Yancey's outdoor recreational opportunities run the gamut from hiking, camping and tubing, to fishing, hunting, horseback riding and golf. The towering Black Mountains, with Mt. Mitchell as their centerpiece, provide a magnificent backdrop. If you're seeking an extended away-from-it-all, take an overnight hike on the Appalachian Trail, which roughly follows Yancey's northern border from the Nolichucky River to Big Bald, or the Mountain-to-Seas Trail which roughly follows Yancey's southern border from Balsam Gap to Crabtree Meadows. Or explore the network of trails in the Blacks extending from Low Gap to Mount Mitchell to Celo Knob to Bolens Creek.

Those who prefer to reach their scenery by an easier route can access the Blue Ridge Parkway on the county's southern border at Buck Creek Gap via scenic NC-80. The Parkway traces the county's southern boundary, while NC-80 follows the South Toe River as it drains the eastern slopes of the Black Mountains. Within an easy drive are famous out-of-county attractions from Asheville's Biltmore Estate and NC Arboretum to Grandfather Mountain and Linville Falls. The county offers all types of accommodations-in-town and rural bed-and-breakfasts, secluded mountain cabins, gracious inns, primitive (or not-so-primitive) campsites, a dude ranch and spa experience.

The overarching objectives for Yancey County in the development of a heritage plan are to preserve, protect and promote those assets that make the area unique. These assets include the historical and natural resources of the county, the agricultural heritage, the regions points of pride in musical and arts and crafts traditions, the sharing the history and heritage of Scotch-Irish and other settlers, as well as the county's connectivity with the Cherokee Indians. The development of these assets will both enhance the quality of life and also provide new economic opportunity for the area.

Partners in the heritage planning process for Yancey are the Yancey Board of Commissioners, Burnsville Mayor and Town Council, the communities of Clearmont, Micaville, Bee Log, Bald Creek, Pensacola, South Toe, Green Mountain, Egypt, Ramsey Town, Double Island, Jacks Creek, Canes River, Celo, Popular and others; Yancey County Economic Development Commission, Pisgah National Forest, Yancey Chamber of Commerce, Toe River Arts Council, Yancey History Association, Health Yancey, Yancey County Cultural Resource Commission, the Farmers Market, the Town Center, the ENERGY X CHANGE, Yancey County Cooperative Extension; Mt. Mitchell State Park; the Hiking Club; US Farm Services Agency; Parkway Playhouse; Yancey County Health Department and others.

In executing the projects outlined in the Yancey County Heritage Plan, the challenges are to develop core groups of interested persons who will champion each of the projects, to maintain a

high level of enthusiasm to see the projects completed, and to find funding for proposed projects. Projects identified as priority projects by the Yancey Heritage Council and by the citizens of the county during a public community meeting involve the preservation and promotion on the craft and arts heritage that is unique in the county's landscape; the establishment of hiking and water trails; and historic preservation and promotion. A second priority is the development of Yancey County hiking trails as well as improved and organized river access. And partnering with local, state, and federal agencies, organizations and other groups interested in providing opportunities to conserve natural resources while providing increased outdoor recreation will provide benefit to citizens and visitors and improve the quality of life in the county. The third priority are the projects designed to preserve, protect and promote the history, including the oral history of the area through recording oral history and surveying and cataloging physician history including that related to the Cherokee.

As a part of the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area, Yancey County is committed to preserving the unique identity of the county and region. The Yancey Heritage Council and its partners will work cooperatively with other counties in the region and the Qualla Boundary to accomplish this objective.

### YANCEY COUNTY PROJECT SUMMARY CHART

Initiative Name	Estimated Costs
* REVISED '08 Mitchell-Yancey Arts & Crafts Trail	\$ 18,000 +
Mountain Heritage Performing Arts Center and Business Incubator	\$ 35,000
Mountain Heritage Center on the Square	\$ 250,000
Designation of NC-80 as Scenic Byway and Kiosk Sign off Blue Ridge Parkway	\$ 10,000
Yancey Extension and Research Center	To be determined
Yancey County Hiking Trails System	\$ 25,000
Recording Local Oral & Physical History	\$ 661,000
Historic Site Tour, Wayside Placards/Exhibit, Map, and Brochure	\$ 28,000
Cherokee Exhibition for Yancey Museum	\$ 75,000
Town of Burnsville Streetscape	To be determined
Countywide Beautification Program	\$ 9,100
New Town Center Heritage Programming & Promotions	On Going
River Access	To be determined
Patience Park Renovation	\$ 500,000
McElroy House Museum	\$ 542,000
Parkway Playhouse	\$ 800,000 to \$1,000,000
Upkeep and Adaptive Reuse of WPA-Era Schools	\$ 150,000
Connect Historic District with Burnsville Main Street	\$ 300,000
Perpetuating the Regions Traditional Music for Youth (modeled after expansion of JAM program)	\$ 85,000
*NEW '08 Traditional Music Clinics	\$16,000 per year

*NEW '08 Historic/Heritage Productions at the Parkway Playhouse	\$48,000
*NEW '08 Quilt Trails of Western North Carolina	\$51,200
*New '08 Burnsville TRAC Gallery	\$26,000
*New '08 Yancey County Public Library	\$2,500,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 6,141,200

## INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

<b>Initiative Title:</b>	<b>Designation of NC-80 as a Scenic Byway with Kiosk</b>
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<b>Project Narrative:</b>	Yancey County/ Burnsville, NC Hwy 80 is a great destination for visitors/tourists traveling on the Blue Ridge Parkway. At this time, Hwy 80 South from the Blue Ridge Parkway does not have a kiosk sign directing visitors/tourists to Hwy 80. The highway offers many things for visitors to enjoy including fishing, hiking trails, waterfalls, tubing, lodging, camping and campgrounds, restaurants, an Inn, gas stations, a dude ranch, a children's camp, golfing and numerous art galleries and art studios. All of this a short distance from the Blue Ridge Parkway.
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<b>Goal:</b>	Designate NC-80 as a Scenic Byway and place a Kiosk Sign either on the parkway next to the exit of NC-80 or right off the exit on NC- 80 to direct visitors to sites and locations at which the natural beauty and history and heritage of the area can be enjoyed.
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Yancey EDC (Jake Blood), WNC Quilt Trails (Barbara Webster), Pisgah NF (David McFee)	\$10,000	1 year

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
NC Scenic Byway Application and Designation, Kiosk Sign, Brochures, Map of the area, Trail Map.	Blue Ridge Parkway- Paul Noblitt, Funds	EDC/WNC Quilt Trails/Pisgah NF

<b>Performance Measures:</b>	N/A
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<b>Status:</b>	NC Scenic Designation Application to be submitted in early 2009
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## INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

<b>Initiative Title:</b>	<b>Mitchell-Yancey Arts &amp; Crafts Trail</b>
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<b>Project Narrative:</b>	Yancey and Mitchell Counties are home to a large concentration of artist and craftsmen. Since visitors do not recognize county lines, the two counties plan to develop a common brand and marketing materials for the area.
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<b>Goal:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To develop a brand for artists/craftsmen/studios/galleries in the area that are open to the public and one that will build on any regional branding for crafts/arts that are developed for the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area.</li> <li>▪ To develop an ad campaign for the area to include maps, brochures and other printed materials as well as TV ads.</li> <li>▪ To work cooperatively with other artists/craft resources in the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area to develop ad and marketing campaign to promote traditional crafts and arts.</li> </ul>
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Mitchell & Yancey County Chamber of Commerce; CRC, TRAC and Penland School	Brochures - \$18,000 Branding - To be determined Ad Campaign BRNHA	9 months

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
Obtain cost estimates before hiring a firm	Funds	Mitchell & Yancey County Chamber of Commerce

<b>Performance Measures:</b>	Brochures, Maps, Print Materials, TV Ads
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<b>Status:</b>	Project has been revised. Two counties met July 2008 and will meet again Jan. 2009 to discuss joint branding around craft heritage and development of an economic impact study to use for grant applications.
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## INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

<b>Initiative Title:</b>	<b>Mountain Heritage Performing Arts Center and Business Incubator</b>
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<b>Project Narrative:</b>	Complete renovation of a National Register Historic Site building is in progress. The building will act as a hub for the development of arts and crafts as a cottage industry in Yancey. It will also have a music-video recording studio for the development of the performing arts. Both areas will have access to individual studio rentals and act as a business incubator.
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<b>Goal:</b>	Complete the reconstruction and be up and running by fall of 2007.
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<b>Person/Organization Responsible:</b>	<b>Cost to Implement:</b>	<b>Estimated Time to Complete:</b>
Cultural Resource Commission	\$ 335,000.	12-18 months

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
Phase one and Two Completed. Initial reconstruction phases cost through TVA, NC Rural Center CDBG and Golden Leaf grants.	\$270,000/ Funded	CRC Director
Completion of third and final phase of a reconstruction costs.	\$200,000	CRC Director
Recording Studio Equipment	\$50, 000	CRC Director
Management Personnel (Start-up) Recording Studio Technician/ Building Manager	\$50,000	CRC Director
Business Manager (Start-up)	\$35,000.	CRC Director

<b>Performance Measures:</b>	The initiative will be assessed and evaluated by the degree of sustainability through the studio rentals of which there will be twelve @ \$150 per mo or \$21, 600 per annum. The facility will also have a small retail sales outlet that will produce income as well as the recording studio. These measures will create a self-sustaining entity. The incubator aspect will be measured by the number of businesses started and entrepreneurs developed.
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<b>Status:</b>	Center is COMPLETE. Business incubator running successfully. However, funds are still required to complete parking area, purchase additional audio, video and artistic equipment, tree removal and possible elevator.
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## INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

<b>Initiative Title:</b>	<b>Mountain Heritage Center on the Square</b>
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<b>Project Narrative:</b>	Renovation of a National Register Building to become a retail outlet and demonstration center for the arts and crafts of Yancey County.
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<b>Goal:</b>	A sustainable wholesale and retail outlet that reflects the mountain culture of Yancey County.
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<b>Person/Organization Responsible:</b>	<b>Cost to Implement:</b>	<b>Estimated Time to Complete:</b>
Cultural Resource Commission	\$250,000.	2 years

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
Building renovation	\$100,000.	Cultural Resource Commission
Yancey Crafted Tile improvements to Building	\$100,000.	Cultural Resource Commission
Miscellaneous improvements (elevator for handicapped accessibility)	\$50,000.	Cultural Resource Commission

<b>Performance Measures:</b>	Retail sale of crafts, wholesale sales of Yancey Crafted Tile, number of visitors.
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<b>Status:</b>	2008 -Waiting until the Library, which currently occupies the building, moves into a new facility.
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## INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	<b>Yancey Extension and Research Center</b>
Project Narrative:	<p>Yancey County is a scenic mountain county whose economic prosperity has been historically supported by agriculture, specifically by burley tobacco production. Current trends occurring within the tobacco industry have negatively impacted both the limited resource/small farmers and the economy of Yancey county. Farmers are searching for ways to diversify their crops. Some have experimented with growing Christmas trees, and native ornamentals, boxwoods, mushrooms and nursery crops. These enterprises have been undertaken individually and through organized efforts. With the Tobacco Buy-out, Yancey farmers must continue to find alternative cash crops. To the casual observer this may seem like a simple strategy easily accomplished; however, the reality is far more complicated.</p> <p>A wide diversity of strategies and approaches is necessary to create a more sustainable crop production and a marketing base for Yancey County farmers. While production and marketing of a diverse group of crops will provide an increase in income and stability for farmers and the community-at-large, making the transition from monoculture farming practices to diverse crop production is a complex process that must take into account the topography, soil characteristics, and climate, as well as the individual goals and lifestyle choices of local farmers. No comprehensive facility in western North Carolina addresses all these issues for the small farmers living within our geographic area.</p> <p>We have the opportunity to think bold in the development of a comprehensive agriculture/agribusiness/agritourism plan, not only for Yancey County but for the entire region. By taking a holistic view of agriculture in our community, we will develop the tools for effective stewardship of our land and natural resources while fostering the development of farming practices that meet the employment, educational, health, cultural and spiritual needs of our community.</p> <p><b>The Yancey Extension and Research Center for Small Farmers in Western North Carolina:</b> a comprehensive, interdisciplinary center that integrates research, education and action to address the complex issue facing the small farmers in western North Carolina.</p> <p>For the traditional tobacco farmer in Yancey County, tobacco farming is much more than a way to make a living; it is a way of life. A local farmer best summed up the general sentiment when he said, "I know that I am going to have to grow something else if I want to continue to farm and feed my family. It is just so hard. My granddaddy taught me how to grow tobacco and everybody in the family worked to get the crop in. My family's been farming tobacco as long as I can remember"</p> <p>We now have the opportunity to bring together researchers, farmers, consumers, policymakers, and educators to address these issues and to assure that this valuable piece of our heritage (farming) is preserved.</p>

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
Develop Action Plan Create handout regarding vision Develop community awareness Contact Stakeholders Collect information about building Research funding sources Develop proposal	Vision handouts, possible sites, facilities information, knowledge of grant writing, funding sources	County Extension Director, County Advisory Leaders, County Manager, County Commissioners

Performance Measures:	Monitoring of critical tasks to be done Identifying adjustments in earlier steps in the process
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Status:	Stakeholders have been informed, vision handout has been developed, and information regarding building is being collected. Development of Action Plan to begin in 2009.
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## INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

<b>Initiative Title:</b>	<b>Recording Our Local Oral &amp; Physical History</b>
<b>Project Narrative:</b>	Yancey County has a wealth of both oral and physical history that must be recorded and preserved before it is lost. The proposed project is to preserve, protect, and promote this information for its importance to the identity of the County and the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area of which it is a part.

<b>Goal:</b>	Complete photo collection of our churches, Record oral history by video tape, Record the log structures on photographic paper, Record the barn structure including outhouse etc. in photos, Publish all the above as individual books, Complete the cemetery survey project & record on E911 maps also acquired historic structures.
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Yancey Historic Preservation Commission / Cultural Resources Commission / Traditional Voices Group (Jeanne Ray Styles, Larry Howell and Mike Segar )	\$661,000	2 Years

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
Hire a professional photographer to complete all the above that have not been assigned	\$55,000	CRC
Establish a revolving account from which local land marks (old homes, etc.) may be purchased to save from loss	\$475,000	CRC, Historical Preservation Commission
Purchase supplies to complete staff cemetery survey include GPS, video, books & photos.	\$28,000	Cemetery Committee
Publish findings	\$83,000	YHP Commission
Purchase Video and audio equipment and computer and editing software to record and preserve local culture and history	\$20,000	CRC, Traditional Voices Group

<b>Performance Measures:</b>	YHPC to establish a two year plan with a quarterly work plan in detail to be followed in order to meet the deadline. Progress reports to the commission required.
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<b>Status:</b>	Churches being photographed - 40% complete. Cemeteries recorded with GPS - 35% complete. Traditional Voices Group purchased video equipment with grant from WNC Community Foundation. They hope to receive additional funding from ARC and NEA in partnership with other groups and the Quilt Trails.
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## INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

<b>Initiative Title:</b>	<b>Yancey Comprehensive Countywide Hiking and Multi-use Trail System</b>
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<b>Project Narrative:</b>	Yancey County is fortunate to contain both segments of the Mountains to the Sea Trail and the Appalachian Trail. It is proposed that a partnership between them be developed with the US Park Service and the Pisgah National Forest to design and build a comprehensive county-wide trail system including bike lanes, walking trails, and hiking trails to link these trails. Yancey County has quite a bit of public land and miles and miles of hiking trails, many of which are poorly marked and difficult to access. With decreased funding, many of the trails need much improvement. We need to improve our trails, mark them clearly, and provide adequate parking so that more people can enjoy our county's beauty.
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<b>Goal:</b>	To provide connectivity to existing trails To provide greater opportunity of outdoor recreation and the health benefits to visitors and residents. Also, to improve hiking trails in Yancey County, as well as the access areas to them
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Pisgah NF (David McFee) and EDC (Jake Blood)	\$25,000	4-8 Years

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
<p>Identify trails appealing to all kinds of hikers, ranging from very easy trails to difficult trails.</p> <p>Develop partnerships with Forest Service to improve these trails and clean them up so that visitors can enjoy fully.</p> <p>Develop hiking maps to make locating the trails easier.</p> <p>Develop signage and create parking for visitors.</p> <p>Identify a large number of trails and improve some of them each year until a large network of trails has been made more attractive to visitors.</p>	NCDOT, Forest Service, Funding, Volunteers	National Forest Service District Mgr; partners

<b>Performance Measures:</b>	N/A
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<b>Status:</b>	David McFee and Jake Blood have met to identify short, medium and long range goals. Short range goals are to improve signage and trail-head access and trail improvements. They both are also working with the High Country Council of Governments to identify additional trails to possibly link the
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	Appalachian Trail on the north side of the county with the Mountain-to-Sea Trail on the south end of the county.
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## INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

<b>Initiative Title:</b>	<b>Historic Site Tour, Wayside Exhibits, Map and Brochure</b>
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<b>Project Narrative:</b>	<p>Develop a historic site walking tour of historic properties in the downtown area designated by the Historic Preservation Commission and the National Register.</p> <p>To provide an enhanced visitor experience and encourage conservation of critical historic resources the project will: contract with the state historic preservation office to conduct a survey historic sites throughout the county; partner with property owners to design and erect wayside exhibits that are primary historic sites, design and publish a map of historic sites and design and print a descriptive brochure of properties on the tour.</p> <p>The Historic Preservation Commission has designated 12 sites as historic land marks. 5 local on register, 2 privately owned-Buck house and Nu-Wray Inn and 5 schools, Admin Building, Chamber, McElroy House Museum, Town Hall, Statue on Square, and the Old Library on own square. National Register Properties in the county include David M. Buck House (Bald Mountain) 4/25/2001, (Former) Citizens Bank Building (Burnsville) 3/29/1990, John Wesley McElroy House (Burnsville) 11/29/1990 , Nu-Wray Inn (Burnsville) 4/15/1982, Yancey Collegiate Institute Historic District (Burnsville) 8/21/2003 , Yancey County Courthouse (Burnsville) 5/10/1979</p>
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<b>Person/Organization Responsible:</b>	<b>Cost to Implement:</b>	<b>Estimated Time to Complete:</b>
Historic Preservation Commission/Healthy Yancey	\$28,000	One year

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
Update Yancey survey of historic properties around the county	\$4,000	NC-SHPO
Design and Print Map	\$5,000	HPC
Design and Print Brochure	\$5,000	HPC
Research Design and Erect Wayside Exhibits	\$12,000 minimum	HPC

<b>Performance Measures:</b>	
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<b>Status:</b>	Healthy Yancey partnered with the History Preservation Commission to design and print a "Historic Walking Trails" brochure with map and descriptions. Funds are being sought to design and erect wayside placards/exhibits.
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## INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

<b>Initiative Title:</b>	<b>Cherokee Exhibition for Yancey Museum</b>
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<b>Project Narrative:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The <u>Cane River Archeological Dig 1989-90</u> was conducted by NC Archives and History who spent 2 summers doing the dig which is located near the football field at Cane River Middle School. Archives and History has most of the collection; however, the McElroy House has best pieces on loan and displayed there of Pisgah culture village AD500-1500. The collection could best be portrayed thorough interpretative displays. In addition, the dig needs to be regenerated. The Pisgah culture village was a 500 member community. In addition, six other communities of this size exist in Yancey that could be good archeological sites. Cherokee sites are very abundant.</li> <li>2. The <u>Soap Stone Quarry</u> is on Blue Rock Road in Yancey. Soap stone bowls were so abundant at one time that they were sold from the porch of the Nu-Wray Inn. Some are on display at the Yancey County History Museum and could benefit by preservation of the traditions and retelling of the story.</li> <li>3. <u>The Gardner Rock Petro glyph</u>, similar to the rock found in Junaluski, to be protected and preserved as US-19E is upgraded to a 4-lane highway.</li> <li>4. <u>Signal Rock</u> in Pensacola has been badly vandalized and needs to be preserved and protected</li> </ol>
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<b>Goal:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To record and preserve this important history and heritage</li> <li>2. To explore ways in which to preserve and/or conserve these valuable historical assets</li> <li>3. To move the Petroglyph and construct housing for it at the History Museum</li> </ol>
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Yancey History Association; Yancey County Historic Preservation Commission  Resource Commission; Warren Wilson College	1a. Interpretive Display - \$25,000 1b. Regenerate the dig - \$50,000 2 – 4. No charge	1a. 6 months 1b. To be determined 2 – 4. 24 months

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Organize a meeting of potential partners</li> <li>2. Contact Warren Wilson about resuming dig</li> </ol>	Volunteers, Funding	Yancey History Association & Yancey County Historic Preservation Commission

<b>Performance Measures:</b>	
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<b>Status:</b>	Gardner Rock has been surveyed and will not be impacted by the US-19E project. Meeting will be held in late 2008 to discuss preserving and
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	protecting Gardner Rock with concerned entities, including Cherokee representatives.
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## INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

<b>Initiative Title:</b>	<b>Town of Burnsville Streetscape</b>
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<b>Goal:</b>	Continue downtown Burnsville Streetscape project until all streets are completed
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Town of Burnsville (Tom Storie) / Small Town Main Street Program Director (Cristal Randolph)	To be determined by a master landscape/streetscape design plan	1-5 Years

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To work with a consultant</li> <li>2. Seek assistance and plan design from a landscape designer and/or the Small Cities Program of the NC Main Street Program or the Small Towns assistance program from Handmade in America to develop unified plan.</li> <li>3. Implement unified streetscapes throughout town</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Appointment of committee by Burnsville Town Council</li> <li>2. Funding or assistance to develop unified plan for downtown appearance and streetscapes</li> <li>3. Funding to expand streetscapes</li> <li>4. Phased Implementation</li> </ol>	Cristal Randolph and Tom Storie

<b>Performance Measures:</b>	Cohesive and attractive streetscapes throughout Burnsville
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<b>Status:</b>	Burnsville was selected to participate in the NC Small Town Main Street Program in September 2008. The town has formed three committees to look at economic restructuring, design and promotion and will develop further plans and projects to be improve the streetscape of Burnsville.
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## INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

<b>Initiative Title:</b>	<b>Burnsville Town Center: A New Gateway Celebrating Yancey's Identity</b>
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<b>Project Narrative:</b>	<p>The new Burnsville Town Center, located on the corner of Highway 19E and South Main Street in Burnsville, is the hub for local entertainment, premier events, meeting space, continuing education, the Farmer's Market, and much more! This 10,000 square foot facility is fully equipped to serve with meeting rooms, a full scale auditorium with top of the line sound, additional space for ceramic workshops, agricultural training sessions, continuing education and theatrical and musical performances. The Center fully accommodates expo events, conferences, reunions, receptions, business and social meetings, special events such as festivals, art and crafts demonstrations, and concert and entertainment venues.</p> <p>The Town Center is designed to showcase and promote the area's identity; this multi-purpose community center features local artisan craftsmanship, exhibits and displays reflective of the Appalachian culture and heritage. Serving as the gateway to Burnsville Town Square, the Town Center provides information regarding downtown shops, galleries and restaurants, and welcomes visitors and tourists alike to swing by for a quick tour of the facility or for general information.</p> <p>The Center opened with a grand opening weekend starting on July 22, 2005 and IIIrd <i>Tyme Out</i> is one of the top bluegrass groups in the world with seven consecutive IBMA awards as Vocal Group of the Year in 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, and most recently 2000, was the opening performance. The Town Center will seek avenues to promote the traditional music, culture, heritage, arts, crafts, agriculture, and natural resources of Burnsville, Yancey County and the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area by providing a venue in which these significant elements of the landscape of the area are preserved and promoted.</p>
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<b>Goal:</b>	As a multi-purpose community center to provide programs, festivals, performances, meetings, agricultural events, the farmer's market and events that celebrate, promote and preserve the unique identity of the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area including traditional music, arts, crafts, culture, natural resources, the Scotch-Irish and connectivity with the Cherokee.
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Town Center Mgr. ; Mayor of Burnsville; Burnsville Town Council; Yancey County	\$100,000.00	1-10 years

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
1. Develop partnership with BRNHA, Yancey Chamber of Commerce, NC Division of Travel, Tourism, Film, and Sports Development to provide information about programs and events. 2. Schedule programs, events, happenings in support of BRNHA regional projects including music, arts, crafts, agriculture, Scotch-Irish and other cultures, history, heritage, and the Cherokee.	Coordination Grant funding for programming	Same as person/organization responsible

Performance Measures:	Events scheduled. Visitors to programs etc.
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Status:	Building/Renovation Project is COMPLETE – 2008 Programs, events, etc. are on-going and ways to make programming sustainable are being explored
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## INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

<b>Initiative Title:</b>	<b>Countywide Beautification Program</b>
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<b>Project Narrative:</b>	<p>Form a Beautification Commission to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Conduct a countywide assessment of entryways</li> <li>b. Partner with civic groups to upgrade/beautify community gateways/entrances throughout the county</li> <li>c. Develop a countywide cleanup and education and awareness campaign.</li> <li>d. Involve youth groups within schools and churches in existing cleanup efforts including the lake and river. Work with extension service as a primary sponsor.</li> </ol> <p>Develop a region-wide partnership with local corporate offices of fast food restaurants to promote litter reduction.</p>
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<b>Goal:</b>	Develop strategies through a Beautification Commission to preserve the natural beauty of Yancey County
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Yancey County Chamber of Commerce, EDC, Town of Burnsville, Civic Organizations, The Community	\$9,100	2- 6 years

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
Chamber of Commerce requests Yancey Commissioners to appoint a Beautification Commission with broad based community involvement	minimal	
Committee develops guidelines for beautification	minimal	
Update/create attractive gateways at entrances to Burnsville and other community gateways	\$4,000	Civic groups
Conduct county- wide assessment of entryways	\$400	
Partner w/civic groups to upgrade/ beautify entryways	\$700	
Develop cleanup & education and awareness campaign	\$2,000	
Get youth groups, school & church involved in existing cleanup efforts	nominal	
Multi-county effort w/fast food businesses to promote litter reduction	\$2,000	
Create beautification commission	nominal	

<b>Performance Measures:</b>	
<b>Status:</b>	2008 -Initial assessment and programs/projects are being considered by the Burnsville Small Town Main Street Program which will be expanded upon to include the entire county.

## INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

<b>Initiative Title:</b>	<b>River Access</b>
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<b>Project Narrative:</b>	Yancey County is blessed with the beautiful natural resources of the Toe and the Cane Rivers. Many persons who visit the area are interested in experiencing these natural features. The proposed project will include partnering with the Pisgah National Forest and with the assistance of the U.S. Forest Services Department of Agriculture, conduct a comprehensive assessment of existing and potential river put-ins and take outs along the Toe and the Cane River. In addition the opportunity for business development with the potential for concessions opportunities are to be developed. These will provide business opportunities for local entrepreneurs and assist in enhancing the economic well being of the county and region.
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<b>Goal:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop paddle trails along the Cane and Toe Rivers</li> <li>Provide opportunity for entrepreneurial development of concessions</li> <li>Enhance the economy of the county</li> </ul>
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Yancey Chamber of Commerce; Yancey County Government; Pisgah National Forest , EDC, Toe River Watch Council	To be determined	1-10 years

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assess existing river access points</li> <li>2. Determine potential river access locations</li> <li>3. Develop plan for access</li> <li>4. Provide information about developing concessions</li> <li>5. Market Access</li> </ol>	Partnership with National Forest	Same as organizing group

<b>Performance Measures:</b>	
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<b>Status:</b>	Toe River Watch Council, working with both Mitchell and Yancey Counties has secured funds to produce a canoeing brochure and to remove hazards on the Toe and Cane Rivers. The brochure is under development.
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## INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

<b>Initiative Title:</b>	<b>Patience Park Renovation</b>
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<b>Project Narrative:</b>	<u>Patience Park</u> is potentially a good site to develop as a new music venue especially for local residents. Music Hostel-Music in the Mountain is already an annual event held there. The site was donated to the county by Patience Mullendor and local campers go there and set up for the summer. The property was impacted by flooding and areas are in the process of re-evaluation. The facility also will require structural upgrade if the hall is to be used to host musical performances.
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<b>Goal:</b>	To develop facility into a venue for the performance of traditional music
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Toe River Arts County; music groups; Yancey County Government; Yancey County Chamber of Commerce	\$500,000	1-5 Years

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
1. Conduct an assessment of property and structure 2. Seek funding for renovation	Funding; partnerships	TRAC; Yancey County

<b>Performance Measures:</b>	
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<b>Status:</b>	2008 – The county owned park is sub-contracted.
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## INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

<b>Initiative Title:</b>	<b>McElroy House/ Museum of Yancey County History</b>
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<b>Project Narrative:</b>	<p>The McElroy House Museum, the Yancey County Museum of History, is important in what has emerged as a trail of small Western North Carolina museums. It like others helps preserve the shared history and heritage of the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area and will play a significant role in the further development of heritage tourism in the region.</p> <p>The Yancey County Museum of History offers a glimpse of the history and heritage of this beautiful Western North Carolina County. It preserves the stories, events, people and natural beauty that shaped the area. Among Museum collections are Native American artifacts collected locally, exhibits of textiles which shaped the industrial base for this community, an exhibit on the Civilian Conservation Corp, part of a collection of works by local authors, and an array of memorabilia celebrating the area's history. The Museum is housed in the historic McElroy House built about 1840 which is significant itself having served as the headquarters for the Home Guard for much of Western North Carolina. The Museum not only preserves the uniqueness of Yancey's heritage, but also the history and natural beauty Yancey shares with all of the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area.</p>
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<b>Goal:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To restore and improve the circa 1840 McElroy House Museum</li> <li>• To preserve and acquire museum collections in a climate controlled facility</li> </ul>
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<b>Person/Organization Responsible:</b>	<b>Cost to Implement:</b>	<b>Estimated Time to Complete:</b>
Yancey County History Association	\$542,000	1- 5 years

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
1. Exterior Restoration	1. \$ 10,000	1. – 9. YHA
2. Handicap Porch Entry	2. \$ 20,000	
3. Completion of Special Collection Room including Climate Control	3. \$ 31,000	
4. Relocation of Log Structure to Premises	4. \$ 29,000	
5. Relocation of Log Structure to Premises	5. \$ 8,000	
6. Completion of Smokehouse/Well Restoration	6. \$ 100,000	
7. Expansion of Property	7. \$ 50,000	
8. Property Improvement	8. \$ 250,000	
9. Operational Stability	9. \$ 44,000	
9. Purchases for museum addition		

<b>Performance Measures:</b>	Approved and monitored by Museum Board of Directors Set goals by six months intervals to develop a quarterly work load to be completed for total task.
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<b>Status:</b>	Well Restoration – 100% complete. McElroy House – 80% complete. Log
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	Structure - 75 % complete. House painted and lights added to perimeter and in well. Seeking funding for climate control. Seeking state library funds since genealogical information is housed in the House library.
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## INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

<b>Initiative Title:</b>	<b>Parkway Playhouse Renovation Project</b>
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<b>Project Narrative:</b>	Since 1946, The Parkway Playhouse has been producing live theatre in the mountains of North Carolina. Over the years the Playhouse has been operated by UNC-G, University of Miami, and is now working to realize its vision of being a draw for tourists as well as residents to the Burnsville area. The Playhouse facility has remained the same for the 59 years it has been in operation. In need of increased lobby, office, and other amenities- as well as looking to make the building operational for more of the year- the Parkway Playhouse Board of Directors, along with Managing Director, Andrew Gall has been developing plans to renovate the Playhouse, and ensure that it will be entertaining for generations to come.
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<b>Goal:</b>	To renovate the current Parkway Playhouse facility by bringing the building up to code, adding lobby and office space, and updating the lighting and sound systems.
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<b>Person/Organization Responsible:</b>	<b>Cost to Implement:</b>	<b>Estimated Time to Complete:</b>
Andrew Gall, Managing Director	\$800,000- 1,000,000	10 years

<b>Action Items:</b>	<b>Resources Required:</b>	<b>Who's Responsible:</b>
Complete Code evaluation of building, finalize renovation designs and bids, and break work down into phases with timelines	Financial resources	Andrew Gall, Managing Director, Parkway Playhouse

<b>Performance Measures:</b>	Making the Playhouse usable for more of the year. Having upgraded amenities that will make the building an attractive gathering place for the community.
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<b>Status:</b>	Currently we are exploring the changes that will be mandated by the NC Building Code. 2008 The Playhouse which serves 5,000 to 7,000 persons annually and has an economic impact to Yancey County of ½ million dollars continues to need renovations. Funds are being sought and the season is in development.
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## INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

<b>Initiative Title:</b>	<b>Upkeep and Adaptive Reuse of WPA Era Schools</b>
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<b>Project Narrative:</b>	Yancey County school buildings constructed by the WPA in the 1940's will soon need to be replaced and will become a part of the historic landscape. Potentially, the buildings can be converted to community centers and adaptive plans developed for each when they are no longer used as schools. The proposed project is to ensure the schools are maintained and to conduct a feasibility study to determine potential adaptive reuse of these facilities.
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<b>Goal:</b>	Maintain the schools and conduct a feasibility study to determine how best to preserve the history of WPA constructed school buildings while developing a plan for adaptive reuse.
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Historic Preservation Commission ; Cultural Resources Commission, Yancey County Schools	\$150,000	18 months

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Seek funding for study</li> <li>2. Contract for study to be completed</li> <li>3. Report findings</li> <li>4. Develop reuse plan</li> <li>5. Maintain schools and inhibit any deterioration</li> </ol>	Funding	HRC & CRC

<b>Performance Measures:</b>	
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<b>Status:</b>	2008 – Schools are still in use for public education and need to be maintained and if new schools are built, the existing structures re-used.
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## INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

<b>Initiative Title:</b>	<b>Connect Historic District with Burnsville Main Street</b>
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<b>Project Narrative:</b>	<p>We want to create a visible link between our retail area and our historic district. We will accomplish our goal by extending the brick sidewalk the town is using in downtown Burnsville to the cultural district, about a half mile away. We will also extend the street lights that are used around the square in downtown Burnsville to the cultural district. In addition, we plan to develop a walking tour of Burnsville that will highlight our history. We will have markers with reading materials that will acquaint people with our heritage. The walk will end at the cultural district where the Parkway Playhouse (the oldest, continuously running summer stock theater in North Carolina), the new library (the renovated Yancey Collegiate Institute where teachers were trained in the early 1900's), the old Brown Dorm (originally a dorm for the Parkway Playhouse folks and now the Mountain Heritage Center to celebrate the arts), and an old WPA-built building are located. The trail will enhance tourism, as well as encourage locals to exercise and learn the history of their community.</p>
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<b>Goal:</b>	To enhance tourism and provide local people an exercise opportunity that will acquaint them with the history of their town
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Town of Burnsville / CRC	\$300,000	Six months, if funds are available

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
Extend street lights	\$25,000	Town of Burnsville
Extend decorative sidewalks	\$250,000	Town of Burnsville
Develop print materials and exhibits	\$25,000	History Association

<b>Performance Measures:</b>	Completion of street lights, sidewalks, print materials, and exhibits
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<b>Status:</b>	2008 – The project may become a part of the overall Burnsville Small Town Main Street Program.
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## Multi - County Heritage Plan Initiative

Initiative Title:	<b>Perpetuating the region’s traditional music for youth (modeled after and an expansion of the JAM program)</b>
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Project Narrative or Description:	<p>The traditional music of North Carolina’s Appalachian region has taken its place as one of the nation’s renowned art forms. Introduced by immigrants from the British Isles, Africa, and Europe, and influenced by American Indian tradition, the stringed instruments, tunes and songs of our mountains play an enduring and dynamic role in the development of American popular and classical music.</p> <p>Programs that provide a growing number of North Carolina students with the opportunity to learn the music of their region from master players in an after school setting are gaining recognition and popularity (i.e. the JAM program that originated in Alleghany county and is now in 7 western counties and that receives support from the NC Arts Council)</p> <p>The proposed project would allow for the creation/expansion of such a program into three new communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Yancey</li> <li>- Madison and</li> <li>- East Buncombe Co.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, the proposed project will draw on the experience of an established program in Haywood County to broaden the program’s scope allowing for cross-county teacher/tradition exchanges and two events designed to bring students from the four-county region together for exposure to national artists and to play together.</p>
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Goal:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Assist children to identify and appreciate their mountain heritage through first hand experiences with the musical traditions of the North Carolina mountains.</li> <li>◆ Provide instruction in the stringed instrument and song traditions rooted in the cultural heritage of the Appalachian region.</li> <li>◆ Bring together families and community by providing opportunities for students to connect with the wider community, through student performances at schools, festivals, or community events.</li> <li>◆ Support local music and culture by employing traditional musicians as teachers and performers for JAM, as well as by training a new generation of musicians and appreciative listeners.</li> <li>◆ Provide opportunities for positive growth and social interaction.</li> </ul>
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Black Mountain Center for the Arts; along with - Haywood County Arts Council - Madison County Arts Council, & - Toe River Arts Council	\$85,000	18 months

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who’s Responsible:
- See timeline		
Performance Measures:		
Status:	2008 Project is underway in several counties including Mitchell. Collaboration is ongoing and a regional project is under development.	

## INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

<b>Initiative Title:</b>	NEW 2008 - Quilt Trails of Western North Carolina
<b>Goal:</b>	To expand the existing Quilt Trails Project to encompass Mitchell, Yancey, and Avery Counties.

	<p><b>Purpose:</b> The three equally important purposes for this project are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To enhance economic development in a three-county area of Western North Carolina (which has suffered severe setbacks through job losses in traditional manufacturing and agriculture) by increasing historic and heritage tourism.</li> <li>2. To preserve many of the unique stories of history and heritage of families and communities in this area.</li> <li>3. To provide the people of the area with a sense of pride in their history, an awareness of alternative economic opportunities for themselves and their communities, and an opportunity to become engaged in a community building venture.</li> </ol>
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Barbara Webster	\$51,200	2 years

Action Items:	Resources:	Who is Responsible:
Project Coordinator	\$15,000	Barbara Webster in collaboration with the QTWNC Board
Construction Materials	\$20,000	Construction Team Leader
Printing	\$5,000 (brochures, newsletter, guidebooks)	Barbara Webster
Travel (PC to meetings, PC and partners to visit sites)	\$1,200 (\$100/month for 12 months)	Barbara Webster
Writer	\$10,000	QTWNC Board in collaboration with Barbara Webster

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
Performance Measures:	Expand the WNC Quilt Trail	
Status:	Quilt Trail is active in several WNC counties.	



## INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

<b>Initiative Title:</b>	NEW 2008 -Establish a WNC regional center for the advancement, study and mastery of stringed instruments commonly used in the creation of Bluegrass and Old Time Appalachian music
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<b>Project Narrative:</b>	Project coordination would continue throughout the year and work to enlist known, respected and accomplished local, regional and national musicians to teach the art of playing Appalachian-based music. Twice a year, various level quality classes would be offered for novice, intermediate, advanced, and professional students in playing banjo, fiddle, guitar, mandolin, dobro, dulcimer and bass instruments, Each multi-day clinic would focus (specialize) on a particular instrument. In addition, each clinic would culminate (usually on Saturday night) with concert at Burnsville Town Center. The goal would be for each concert to showcase a clinic instructor and that instructor's band. Due to the high quality of instruction that will be offered at each clinic, bands scheduled for the Town Center will be of highest caliber.
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<b>Goal:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support, enhance and celebrate the tradition and art of playing Appalachian-based stringed instruments.</li> <li>• Regardless of age or ability, provide people access to the highest form of Appalachian stringed instrument instruction.</li> <li>• Create a dependable and sustainable institute of Blue Ridge Appalachian musical instruction and instruments knowledge commensurate with the level of art, character, and heritage for which our region is known.</li> <li>• Act as an on-going gathering place for regional musicians.</li> <li>• Offer quality Bluegrass and Old Time concerts to our communities</li> <li>• Initiate an associate program aimed at providing a limited number of scholarships for local and regional musicians who otherwise would not be able to afford the level of instruction that will be available.</li> <li>• Enrich the Yancey County economy by regularly attracting musicians and their families to town for overnight stays.</li> </ul>
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Rod Johnston Village Productions (an established 501© 3 nonprofit) POB 816 Burnsville, NC 28714	\$8000 per clinic or a total of \$16,000 for two clinics per year.	Two multi-day clinics in one calendar year

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
Well experienced at organizing clinic and concerts, we understand what it takes to succeed. We are engaged.	Any and all funding covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Hall rental</li> <li>✓ Classroom rental</li> <li>✓ Hiring</li> </ul>	Rod Johnston of Village Productions 828-682-2402

	instructors. ✓ Hiring a band ✓ Printing and postage ✓ Radio & print advertising ✓ Misc. expenses ✓ Village Productions acts strictly as volunteers. No income is taken	
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Performance Measures:	Growth of clinics, civic participation, and overall attendance.
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Status:	In planning, first training session is planned for November of 2008 with a concert at the Burnsville Town Center.
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## INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	NEW 2008 - Historic/Heritage Productions at the Parkway Playhouse
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Project Narrative:	The Parkway Playhouse has begun to create plays and musicals that are based on historical and cultural events in the Appalachian region- with a specific emphasis on Yancey County, Mitchell, County, regional music, and the civil war era. The first production will be a musical that chronicles Burnsville native Lesley Riddle, an African-American musician who influenced country music through his long association with A.P. Carter of the Carter Family Singers and Mike Seeger. Additional productions being researched include productions chronicling the Battle of Burnsville, the involvement of Thomas Wolfe in a murder and trial in Yancey County; and production about the influence and craft of quilt making in the region.
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Goal:	To educate students, residents and visitors about the areas rich cultural traditions and history of the region.
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Andrew Gall/Parkway Playhouse	Varies on production	12-18 months to create a new stage production

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
Research and adapt Lesley Riddle story for the stage and school productions in the fall and winter of 09/10.	\$7,000	Parkway Playhouse
Mounting of Lesley Riddle musical scheduled for summer of 2009	\$20,000	
Commission and develop play about Thomas Wolfe and murder trial in Burnsville for 2010 or 2011 production.	\$7,000	
Commission and develop play about the Battle of Burnsville for either a 2010 or 2011 production.	\$7,000	
Commission and develop play about Quilt Trail that ties into existing tour project.	\$7,000	

Performance Measures:	Response of audience/students at performances
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Status:	The first play about Lesley Riddle is already in the development process and will be presented at the Parkway Playhouse in 2009. Additional productions are in the process of being researched and commissioned.
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## INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

<b>Initiative Title:</b>	Yancey County Public Library
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<b>Project Narrative:</b>	The purpose of the project is to renovate the Yancey Collegiate Institute building and move the Yancey County Public Library and its services to that facility.
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<b>Goal:</b>	To provide the people of Yancey County with excellent library service.
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Theresa Coletta and the Steering Committee	\$2,500,000	2010

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
Capital Campaign underway	Money and Community Support	Theresa Coletta

<b>Performance Measures:</b>	The final measure is opening the doors to the public in 2010.
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<b>Status:</b>	In progress.
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## INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

Initiative Title:	*New 2008 - Burnsville TRAC Gallery
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Project Narrative:	The TRAC Gallery serves as a point of connection with the local arts and in addition serves as a network point for area artists and arts organizations. The Gallery consists of a Gift Shop featuring local handmade arts and crafts and an exhibition area that features rotating exhibits in a variety of mediums. The building also serves as a meeting space and houses the administrative offices of TRAC. Various expansive and renovation projects in the works will increase its viability.
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Goal:	Improve technology to provide access for artists and to local arts on the web. Expand the current arts directory. Renovate classroom/meeting space to accommodate growing needs. Provide proper storage and catalog TRAC's growing music collection, art books and instruments. Work on windows and doors in the building to provide more efficient use of energy.
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Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Toe River Arts Council	\$26,000	

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
Purchase 4 computers with appropriate software, plus 2 new printers/copiers	\$6,000	TRAC
Renovate upstairs rooms to accommodate classes and meeting rooms (also improve insulating efficiency of walls and windows)	\$ 5,000	
Purchase shelving, filing cabinets for music, art books and instruments	\$10,000	
Replace 4 outside doors, insulate walls, replace some windows	\$5,000	

Performance Measures:	Increased traffic and use of resources in the Gallery.
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Status:	Currently researching grants and funding.
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## Yancey County Assets

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1. Many small communities: Clearmont, Micaville, Bee Log, Bald Creek, Pensacola, Burnsville, South Toe, Green Mountain, Egypt, Ramsey Town, Double Island, Jacks Creek, Canes River, Poplar is a 40 minute drive, Celo.
2. 5000 elevation change from Mt. Mitchell Black Mountains running North/South to lowest elevation. Green Mountain runs East/West resulting in geographic isolation of small communities. Still have 5 community based elementary schools.
3. 12 Historic Local Landmarks
4. 5 properties on the national register and 1 on the historic district
5. Cherokee Sites are very abundant. Cane River Site 1989-90 archeological dig conducted by NC archives and history spend 2 summers doing the dig located near the football field. Archives and History has most of the collection however, McElroy House has best pieces on loan and displayed there. Pisgah culture village AD500-1500. Need interpretive center for the collection. Need to regenerate the dig. Was a 500 member community. There are 6 other communities of this size in Yancey that could be good archeological sites.
6. Soap Stone Quarry on Blue Rock Road in Yancey. Soap stone bowls were so abundant at one time that they were sold off the porch of the Nuway Inn.
7. Gardner Rock is a large petrocliff like Judaculla. It needs to be moved to the Museum. It fell down from its original site when hit by a bulldozer. The original site is on private property and overgrown with multi-flora rose.
8. Lloyd Bailey Book. Native American artifacts in Yancey County. Many artifacts in private collections in Yancey County.
9. Archeological survey has been done. Forest service also has digs but they keep the information and artifacts private. Archeologists for the State Forest Service digs are underway. Items go to Cherokee. Only artifacts found on private land can stay in Yancey and then some go to the local museum. All state and federal artifacts go to Cherokee.
10. Music at Young's Mountain. A roadhouse. Have traditional music and Dance. Denise worked with Wayne Martin on the BR Music Trails.
11. Patience Park is possible a good site to develop as a new music venue especially for local people... Music in the Mountain is already an annual event held there. Site donated to the county by Patience Mullendor. Local campers go there and set up for the summer.
12. Festivals: 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Mt. Mitchell Crafts Fair and Old Timey Fall Festival and Spring Arts Festival
13. New Recreational Facilities large enough to attract tournaments are planning which could also be used as venue for festivals and other cultural events.
14. Nolichucky River, Toe River and Cane River. Need to talk to Pisgah National Forest about concession opportunities for entrepreneurs.

## Yancey County Heritage Council Minutes

### Stakeholder Analysis:

#### Core Team

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1. Agriculture- David Fleckenstein about the Farmers Market and Joyce Watts with Cooperative Extension
2. Chamber- Miki Pontorno and EDC -Gwen Harris
3. Local Government and Health-Tonda Gosnell from Healthy Yancey. Pedestrian Plan.
4. Arts and Culture-Denise Cook and Jim Priesmeyer.
5. Historic Preservation-Elaine Dellinger Yancey History and Cemetery Association
6. Natural (hiking Club, National Forest, Mt. Mitchell State Park, USFS. Paul Bagley

### Five sectors for project identification

1. Historic Preservation
2. Community Infrastructure
3. Arts
4. Agriculture
5. Natural

### Approach to Yancey:

1. General Community information session
2. Heritage Council members will request meeting of the respective boards to inform them about the heritage planning process, share the planning session notes and ask for additional input using the survey.
3. Complete Plan
4. Develop a PowerPoint Presentation and Present a final plan to the community

### Reports and Planning Documents:

1. 21st Century Community. Shannon. We can use the SWAT as part of the inventory.
2. Land use Plan. Shannon.
3. Historic Preservation Commission. Jim. Have an inventory of historic structures and a strategic plan.
4. Cultural District included in 21 Century Communities
5. Hugh amount of genealogical work has been done. Heritage of Toe River Valley.
6. Pedestrian Plan due in December
7. TRAC Toe River Arts Council has a strategic plan
8. Mt. Mitchell Development Plan
9. Pisgah National Forest Development Plan

## **Five Sectors for Project Identification**

### **1. Historic Preservation (including Native American)**

- a. Twelve Historic Landmarks designated by the Historic Preservation Commission, all on public property need unified signage
- b. Parkway Playhouse, Brown Dorm, Mt. Heritage Center, Admin Building, Chamber, McElroy House Museum, Town Hall, Statue on Square, Old Library on own square,
- c. National Register Properties. Nu-Wray Inn, Statue, Old Library, Town Hall, David Blackhour House and Old Library.
  - David M. Buck House (Bald Mountain) 4/25/2001
  - (Former) Citizens Bank Building (Burnsville) 3/29/1990
  - John Wesley McElroy House (Burnsville) 11/29/1990
  - Nu-Wray Inn (Burnsville) 4/15/1982
  - Yancey Collegiate Institute Historic District (Burnsville) 8/21/2003
  - Yancey County Courthouse (Burnsville) 5/10/1979
- d. Community School Building need adaptive reuse plans as they are closed for use as schools. Possibly convert to community centers. Historic Preservation is the lead.
- e. Update list of historic properties around the county. Create a driving tour and map to sites. Mitsey Presnell study was done 20 years ago. Historic Preservation Commission is the lead.
- f. Video Oral History Project. Have already collected 20 and need to continue. Ron Ruehl is available to continue collection.

### **2. Cherokee**

1. Cane River Archeological Dig 1989-90. Conducted by NC Archives and History who spent 2 summers doing the dig which is located near the football field. Archives and History has most of the collection however McElroy House has best pieces on loan and displayed there. Pisgah culture village AD500-1500. Need interpretive for the collection. Need to regenerate the dig. This 500 member community. 6 other communities of this size in Yancey that could be good archeological sites. Cherokee Sites are very abundant.
2. Soap Stone Quarry on Blue Stone Road in Yancey. Soap stone bowls were so abundant at one time that they were sold off the porch of the Nu-Wray Inn.
3. Papaw Grady's Petro glyph like Judaculla Rock in Jackson. Needs to be moved to the Museum. It fell down from its original site when hit by a bulldozer. The original site is on private property and overgrown with multi-flora rose.
4. Lloyd Bailey Book. Native American artifacts in Yancey County. Many artifacts in private collections in Yancey County.
5. Archeological Survey has been done. Forest service also has digs but they keep the information and artifacts private. Archeologists for the State Forest Service digs are underway. Items go to Cherokee. Only artifacts found on private land can stay in Yancey and then some go to the local museum. All state and federal artifacts go to Cherokee.
6. Signal Rock in Pensacola has been badly vandalized and needs to be protected



### 3. **Community Infrastructure**

- a. The ENERGY EXCHANGE formerly Yancey Mitchell Landfill Greenhouse and facility for crafters. Want to make the site an attraction. Crafters sell products in other national markets but not on site. Are developing an e-commerce website for the crafters at this location sponsored by Mountain Heritage Center and Arts and Crafts Incubator.
- b. Town of Burnsville Streetscape
- c. New Town Center as multi-use facility revenue generating for use as a farmers market, community meetings, classes, performances, festivals, music, bluegrass festivals, storytelling. Town is currently conducting visioning for the facility. We need to look at that information and see if there are good project ideas for the heritage council.
- d. Beautification Program
- e. Increase River Access
- f. County Fair Ground. Chamber is the lead
- g. Patience Park is possible a good site to develop as a new music venue especially for local people. Music Hostel-Music in the Mountain is already an annual event held there. Site donated to the county by Patience Mullendor. Local campers go there and set up for the summer. Do not use the hall much though it is where to host the music.
- h. New Recreational Facilities large enough to attract tournaments are planning which could also be used as venue for festivals and other cultural events
- i. Visitor Center Co-location with US Forest Service Paul Bradley

### 5. **Cultural Arts**

- a. McElroy House Museum and Chamber of Commerce. Designated as one of two regional historic sites. McElroy Museum expansion planned with acquisition of former Graham Children's Clinic bldg. Colette Blankenship is the lead. 5year transition plan.
- b. School Circle Historic District-Old Yancey Collegiate Institute. Library and County are project lead agencies.
  - Old Brown Dorm will become the Mountain Heritage Center and Arts and Crafts Incubator. Webpage for E-Commerce is being developed for crafts people. Partially funded. \$600,000 project has received \$265,000 from TVA and \$53,000 from Golden Leaf.
  - Library. 2.2M renovation. Completed exterior renovation. Need to have interior renovation. Will house the Everett Kivette Collection
  - Parkway Playhouse. Warren Hugh Clerk of Court is a key board member.
  - School Board Building in old Yancey High School administration building built by WPA.
- c. Music at Young's Mountain. Have traditional music and dance.
- d. Blue Ridge Music Trails Denise and Wayne Martin.
- e. Festivals: 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Craft Day and Old Timey Fall Festival
- f. Toe River Arts Council Projects that Denise wants to bring forward

### 6. **Agriculture**

- a. Farm Market Pavilion
- b. Farm Tours and Alternative Energy Tours are already underway but need additional marketing assistance.
- c. Ceramic tile at Celo Health Center

## 7. Natural

- a. Nolichucky River, Toe River and Cane River. Need to talk to Pisgah National Forest about concession opportunities for entrepreneurs
- b. Increase river access
- c. Comprehensive Countywide Multi-use Trail System planned in cooperation with Pisgah National Forest Paul Bradley and Health Center. A wrap-around for the pedestrian plan underway to be completed in December 05.
- d. Four Wheeler Trails developed with cooperation of USFS
- e. Skeet Shooting Range developed with cooperation of USFS
- f. Horseback Riding developed with cooperation of USFS
- g. Explore Concessions Opportunities with the National Forest

### **Committee meeting notes identify existing projects:**

10. School Circle Historic District-Old Yancey Collegiate Institute. Library and County are project lead agencies.
  - a. Old Brown Dorm will become the Mountain Heritage Center and Arts and Crafts Incubator. Webpage for E-Commerce is being developed for crafts people. Partially funded. \$600,000 project has received \$265,000 from TVA and \$53,000 from Golden Leaf.
  - b. Library. M2.2 renovation. Completed exterior renovation. Need to have interior renovation. Will house the Everett Kivette Collection
  - c. Parkway Playhouse. Need to get with Warren Hugh Clerk of Court. He is a key board member and can provide theatre plans for us.
  - d. School Board Building in old Yancey High School administration building built by WPA.
11. McElroy House Museum and Chamber of Commerce. Designated as one of two regional historic sites.
12. McElroy Museum expansion facility into former Graham Children's Clinic bldg... Colette Blankenship is the lead. 5year transition plan.
13. Historic Preservation Commission has designated 12 sites as historic land marks. They are all on public property
  - a. Parkway Playhouse, Brown Dorm, Mt. Heritage Center, Admin Building, Chamber, McElroy House Museum, Town Hall, Statue on Square, Old Library on own square,
14. There are National Register Properties. Nuway Inn, Statue, Old Library, Town Hall, David Blackhour House and Old Library.
15. Old School buildings need adaptive reuse plans as they are closed for use as schools. Possibly convert to community centers. Historic Preservation is the lead.
16. Yancey Mitchell Landfill converted to The ENERGY EXCHANGE. Greenhouse and facility for crafters. Want to make the site an attraction. Crafters sell products in other national markets but not on site. Are developing and e-commerce website for the crafters at this location
17. Toe River Arts Council serves Mitchell and Yancey. Need to sit down with Denise and learn about all their projects. Very active council and do a lot of community education.
18. Town of Burnsville

- a. Town Center as multi-use facility revenue generating for use as a farmers market, community meetings, classes, performances etc. Will be used as a venue for festivals, music, bluegrass festivals, and storytelling. Town is currently conducting visioning for the facility. We need to look at that information and see if there are good project ideas for the heritage council.
  - b. Streetscape
  - c. Beautification Program
19. County Plans
- a. River Access
  - b. County Fair Ground. Chamber is the lead.
20. Update list of historic properties around the county. Create a driving tour and map to sites. Mitsey Presnell study was done 20 years ago. Historic Preservation Commission is the lead.
21. Video Oral History Project. Have already collected 20 and need to continue. See if Ron Ruehl is available.
22. Farm Tours and Alternative Energy Tours are already underway but need additional marketing assistance.
23. Ceramic tile at Celo Health Center