ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Vibrant HEALTHY ECONOMY

BIG SKY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A Letter from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Community Stakeholder,

As I look back over the last year, some of the most memorable and important conversations I had were one-on-one, over coffee, with business and community leaders. From these "coffee conversations" I learned more about our dynamic business community from your perspective, which is vital to our work as your economic development organization.

If we haven't connected in the last few months, let's make it a priority. Not only do I want to learn about your business, I would like to share with each of you the three most important investments we need to make in our community to strengthen our economic diversity, attract a talented workforce, and compete for private investment. From my perspective those investments are:



Building our healthcare workforce education and training infrastructure in partnership with Billings Clinic, Riverstone Health, St. Vincent Healthcare, MSU Billings, Rocky Mountain College and all of our healthcare partners.

Significant place-making and infrastructure investments, including planned industrial space, continued downtown re-development (i.e. former Battin building, convention space and pocket parks), enhanced trail systems, development of Coulson Park, and beautification of our entryways (just a handful of what must be accomplished).



Strategic investment in programs and facilities at MSU Billings, Rocky Mountain College and our Career Center to establish a framework for research, innovation, entrepreneurship/business incubation and workforce development.

You may have other ideas, but one thing is clear we must come together to make investments that keep us regionally competitive for talent and private investment. This number says it all, 32,000*. That's the number of job openings in Yellowstone County over the next decade. If we don't act now we will miss the mark and lose out on significant economic opportunity.

So, let's have coffee. I want to hear what you think, call me at 869-8401. Let's keep the conversation going and continue to work collaboratively for the vibrant, healthy economy of Yellowstone County.

> STEVE ARVESCHOUG



*Data Source: Jobs EQ

Big Sky Economic Development STAFF









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INTERNATIONAL
Economic development
Council
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The Power of Knowledge and Leadership



STEVE ARVESCHOUG Executive Director BRANDON BERGER Business Finance Director

BRIAN CLEMONS VBOC Region VIII Project Manager

ALLISON CORBYN Business Recruitment & Outreach Program Manager

KATY EASTON Community Development Project Manager

SARA HUDSON VBOC Region VIII Director DENA JOHNSON

Regional Director, SBDC LEESA KENNEDY

PTAC Government Contracting Advisor MAC KETTERLING Loan Officer

PATRICK KLUGMAN Community Development Project Manager

DEANNA LANGMAN PTAC Statewide Program Director/ Government Contracting Advisor

DIANNE LEHM Community Development Director MARY LOU MCMILLAN

Receptionist KATHY MOODY-LUND

PTAC/SBDC Support Specialist

CHAD MOORE Business Expansion Project Manager/ SBDC Business Consultant

BEN ROSE Loan Specialist

MELANIE SCHWARZ Director of Marketing and Member Investors

BRITTNEY SOUZA Director of Billings Works

JIM TEVLIN Controller

Board of DIRECTORS

BIG SKY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

- > DUNCAN PEETE* Chair Moulton Bellingham PC
- > DAVID TROST* Vice Chair St. John's Lutheran Ministries
- > ERIC SIMONSEN* Secretary/Treasurer A&E Architects
- > JOHN WALSH* Immediate Past Chair Montana State University
- STEVE LOVELESS* Member At Large St. Vincent Healthcare
- CRAIG BARTHOLOMEW 360 Office Solutions
- KATHY BOELTER Arrow Solutions Group
- > JOHN BREWER Billings Chamber of Commerce
- DENNIS COOK Crown Realty
- DAVID ELLIS Schnitzer Steel

- > TY ELKIN Yellowstone Bank
- DOUG HANSEN Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.
- > MICHAEL HOTALING ExxonMobil Billings Refinery
- > JANI MCCALL YBGR
- MIKE NELSON
 Northern Hotel
- > WAYNE NELSON Stockman Bank
- > JOHN OSTLUND Yellowstone Co. Commissioner
- MIKE SEPPALA Western Security Bank
- DEBBIE SINGER NorthWestern Energy
- > JAMES SMITH Rocky Mountain College
- > JON STEPANEK KTVQ Communications

*Denotes Executive Committee Member



> DUNCAN PEETE BSEDC Chair

"It has been a pleasure and honor to serve as the Chair of Big Sky Economic Development Corporation this past year. 2016 has been a great year for Big Sky Economic Development which continues to provide worthy and beneficial services to the business community in Yellowstone County and the region.

I am proud of the recent accomplishments of Big Sky Economic Development, which include an expansion of its workforce development efforts under Billings Works, the organization and promotion of the Veterans' Business Outreach Center which is already reaching several veteran entrepreneurs, the completion of substantial planning work for a Targeted Economic Development District (TEDD) in Yellowstone County, and further development of the organization's SBA 504 loan program in Western Montana. Big Sky Economic Development has also offered during the past year several timely and informative forums for its member investors.

I would like to thank the staff of Big Sky Economic Development, the Yellowstone County Commissioners, and the member investors for supporting economic development in Billings and the surrounding area."

BIG SKY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

- KEVIN GUSTAINIS* Chair Montana Peterbilt, LLC
- SHERI NICHOLSON* Vice Chair Beartooth Bank
- JENNIFER SMITH* Secretary/Treasurer American Title & Escrow
- SCOTT CHESAREK* Member at Large J&S Properties
- CORY MOORE* Member at Large Hardy Construction Company
- MITCH GOPLEN Billings Clinic
- LYLE HILL Waddell & Reed
- MARK QUALMAN Swank Enterprises

- ROBIN RUDE
 Department of Revenue
 - CHUCK TOOLEY Tooley Communications
 - KENT WOOD First Interstate Bank
 - EX-OFFICIO:
 - > TERRY BOUCK School District #2
 - > JOHN BREWER CEO, Billings Area Chamber of Commerce
 - ROBYN DRISCOLL
 Yellowstone Co. Commissioner
- HEIDI JENSEN
 Chief Administrator Officer, City of Laurel
- *Denotes Executive Committee Member

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

> ROBYN DRISCOLL > JOHN OSTLUND > JIM RENO

KEVIN GUSTAINIS

BSEDA Chair



"2016 has been an exciting year for the Big Sky Economic Development Authority and I am proud to have served as board chair. We've seen many great ideas and initiatives bear fruit thanks to the hard work and dedication of the BSEDA leadership and staff. Part of our job as board members is to listen to and lend support to those great ideas that lead to increased business recruitment and retention as

well as workforce development here in Yellowstone County and greater Montana.

Two initiatives that are still in the development stages but very promising are the proposed Targeted Economic Development District (T.E.D.D.) in Lockwood and the potential expansion of our SBA 504 Business Finance program. Both of these undertakings will help further our charter in Montana by attracting great companies to invest and grow here through targeted economic incentives and by helping fellow hard working Montanans give life to their entrepreneurial dreams through attractive business finance programs.

Thank you to the Yellowstone County Commissioners, the great staff at BSEDA and all member investors for your hard work and support."



Karell Dyre Haney PLLP

Langlas & Associates. Inc.

Knife River

Kinetic Marketing & Creative

- Beartooth Harley-Davidson/Buell
- Berkshire Hathaway,
- Floberg Home Services
- Best Western Clocktower Inn
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D A Davidson

> DOWI

Diamond B Companies Inc.

Dick Anderson Construction

Yellowstone Electric Co.

Yellowstone Kelly's Catering

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Rocky Mountain Bank

St. John's Lutheran Ministries

Schnitzer Steel

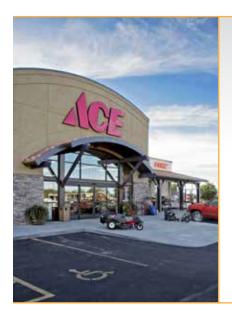
Sign Products













LOCKWOOD ACE HARDWARE



King's ACE Hardware footprint continues to expand in Yellowstone County. In 2016, Skip King opened his fifth ACE Hardware store, located in Lockwood on Johnson Lane. This is the third store in which Big Sky EDC has assisted Skip with financing utilizing the SBA 504 program. The newly constructed Lockwood ACE Hardware building consists of over 16,000 s.f. of retail space providing homeowners and businesses in this community with all their hardware needs.

BillingsWORKS



BILLINGSWORKS IS A LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COLLABORATION HOSTED BY BIG SKY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORTED BY COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND 80+ PRIVATE BUSINESSES.

(ALLINGS GAISTTE MADE Sante Colour Outsides Children Bay & Latt



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BRITTNEY SOUZA Director of BillingsWorks

4 Strategic Goals

Economic Development: BillingsWorks continues to tackle the issue of finding qualified workers

BY BRITTNEY SOUZA ADY 2. 2016

"BillingsWorks provides resources to employers, works on long-term solutions with our education partners, and is designing a sustainable talent-attraction effort that makes Billings a great place to live and work. The collaborative, positive impacts made by the partners in BillingsWorks helps businesses meet various challenges in a growing economy."



> DAN CARTER Exxon Mobil







Student Entrepreneurship



Capital Infusion: \$5.68 million

"Entrepreneurs in the Billings area are so lucky to the services of the SBDC. Dena and her team do an amazing job walking through the steps and providing knowledge and resources to anyone that wants to start or expand their small business."

profitability, marketing, business planning, succession planning and accounting

Women's Business Uncorked > Business Strategies 2016

for the SBDC team as they continue to grow the program

Pre-Business Workshops > Invest in Success

> JENNIFER MERCER SBDC Advisory Council Leader and Exec Director, Billings Depot

SBDC Advisory Council meets quarterly to provide direction and insight

BUSINESS GROWTH INCENTIVES



BSTF AND WORKFORCE TRAINING DOLLARS:

\$490,000 58 JOBS



"The Yellowstone County and City of Billings tax abatement program helped reduce the risk for Home Science Tools to invest in costly expansion, which will ultimately provide more jobs for the community."

FRANK SCHANER

President, Home Science Tools



Montana PTAC

PROCUREMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER

Personal, timely advice on contracting with the government.

MONTANA PROCUREMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER

BILLINGS

Active Clients

\$20,308,000 in Awards

STATEWIDE:

Active Clients

\$103,989,242

in Awards

1,52

> DEANNA LANGMAN PTAC Statewide Program Director KATHY LUND
 PTAC Support
 Specialist



GRANITE PEAK PUMP, INC.



"I can say with complete certainty, the help I received from Deanna and Kathy at the Billings PTAC setting my company up as a federal contractor was without a doubt the simplest and most efficient process for a small business owner like me. My advisor paid attention to every detail, making sure every "T" was crossed and "I" dotted the first time the registration was submitted. Because of PTAC's help, I was able to get my SAM registration active in a very short amount of time (less than 2 weeks) which enabled me to bid on and be awarded a \$22,000 contract with the National Park Service!"

> JAY GLEN Owner

Peak





> SARA HUDSON Region VIII VBOC Director

In the fall of 2015, Region VIII Veterans Business Outreach Center opened its doors with the goal of helping military veterans, active duty Service members and their spouses start or expand their small businesses.

BIG SKY ECONOMIC IS THE PROUD HOST OF THIS PROGRAM.



Active Duty and Veterans Trained

ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING 567 ATTENDED TRAINING

> IN PERSON > ONLINE > PHONE DIRECT COUNSELING 126 Sessions OUTREACH EVENTS O events with over 850 Attendees

BRIAN

CLEMONS

Region VIII VBOC Project Manager

MONTANA GOVERNOR STEVE BULLOCK, THE YELLOWSTONE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND THE CITY OF BILLINGS DECLARED SEPTEMBER 25, 2015 AS VETERANS BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY DAY IN HONOR OF THE NEW REGION VIII VBOC.





RED OXX

Red Oxx and its owners, Perry Jones and Jim Markel were Awarded Veteran Owned Small Business of the Year from the Small Business Administration. Red Oxx and their team have been avid supporters of the VBOC.



New Business RECRUITMENT AND OUTREACH

> ALLISON CORBYN Business Recruitment & Outreach Program Manager



CREATED ECONOMIC PULSE



Businesses in the pipeline

Responded to over **30** information requests on our community

MET WITH 8 SITE SELECTORS AND 9 FLIGHT PLANNERS TO EDUCATE THEM ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY

Brand new website that is optimized for the purpose of online lead generation

REACHED OUT TO 400+ COMPANIES

"I can't begin to tell you how responsive Allison has been on request for information. We handle all areas of site selection for our BPO, back-office and contact center clients including labor analytics, economic incentives and lease negotiations. State and local economic development agencies can be instrumental allies throughout the process, providing invaluable support services in return for investors' consideration of their communities. The best way for economic development agencies to promote their communities' advantages in this regard is through good old-fashioned relationships. Allison has taken the relationship to an art form. She has bent over backwards (proactively) to provide me the needed data to analyze the Billings Region and the effort her team puts into the presentation materials is top notch."

> JEFF PAPPAS Managing Director, E Smith Realty Partners



NEW

THINK BILLINGS





"Think Billings Montana; your partner for success."



Community DEVELOPMENT

DIANNE LEHM Community Development Director

Through Yellowstone County Inter-Local Agreement:

- Working Partnerships Interactions 1258+
- Number of staff hours 347.5
- Number of proposals 6
- Total amount awarded \$1,118,535
 Including \$400,000 EPA Brownfields Grant



"I would like to thank BSEDA for securing funding to determine the incidence of fossil fuel and heavy metal contamination with our property in the EBURD.

Your assistance through the process and the expert manner in which you worked with the DEQ and EPA were absolutely perfect. Thank you for the help and hard work you expended on this project. Your involvement was essential to the project moving forward."

CHARLIE YEGEN Peter Yegen Jr. Inc. Project Manager

KATY EASTON Community Development

COUNTY GRANTS APPLIED FOR:

PATRICK KLUGMAN

- PDM Pre-Disaster Mitigation
 Plan Update \$50,000
- TSEP Four county bridge replacements \$310,000
- TAP Sidewalks for Becraft Lane in Lockwood \$300,000
- Communications grant rural fire \$100,000
- CDBG Industrial Park Planning \$50,000
- MT Coal Board 21 mile rd **\$417,200**
- Walmart Community Foundation\$50,000

Over **\$1,000,000** in Grant Awards through BSED Community Development

Total Grant requests: \$1,277,200

OTHER PROJECTS:

- Coal Country Economic Analysis (EDA, BSTF) \$100,000
- > TEDD (BSTF, Private sector) \$50,000
- HAWK (High Intensity Activated Walk Sign) in EBURD
- Brownfields Grant 17 parcels assessed, nearly 10 acres in development
- Fuels Reduction Grant for Yellowstone County DES - 3 completed projects, 6 in process



How our Community is

Building REMARK BLE

Each year our community has a variety of projects that we consider **"Building Remarkble"**. This year we are highlighting three that have certainly impacted Billings now and in the future.



MEDICINE CROW MIDDLE SCHOOL

"The "new house of learning" was the moniker that Joseph Medicine Crow himself bestowed upon Medicine Crow Middle School. This amazing building benefits our school district and community in so many ways. Helping to mitigate accreditation difficulties, updating technology and equipment for 21st Century learning and truly being a facility accessible to all of our community. We are deeply appreciative of our community for making the new Heights middle school a reality."

> TERRY BOUCK Superintendent of School District 2

URBAN FRONTIER HOUSE

"The Urban Frontier House is on the leading edge globally when it comes to approaching a fully self-sustaining residence. (This house has no mechanical heating or cooling system, no gas utility, no city water or sewer service, nor well or septic system, and soon no tie to the electrical grid.) We have chosen to build off-grid on an urban site in Billings, Montana in a way that leverages one of the most challenging climates in the world. We are leading the way using mostly regional professionals, materials, and suppliers. Building upon these ideas and our experience we will continue to demonstrate how to move our community towards a more healthy future. In fact we believe that our community possesses the talent and resources necessary to become a sustainable center of excellence. Billings is one of the only places that it is even possible to build this remarkable house."



RANDY & JANNA HAFER

Owners of the Urban Frontier House and High Plains Architects



RENOVATION AND ASBESTOS REMEDIATION OF THE FORMER BATTIN BUILDING

"Earlier this summer, Billings was excited to learn that the Former Battin Building was getting a new owner. This building has been sitting vacant for several years and was in desperate need of a face lift and a new purpose. When you think about "Building Remarkable" for our community, what better project to be a part of than bringing the former Battin building back to life and have it be a part of our growing and vibrant downtown. EEC is proud to be the general contractor on this project."

> QUENTIN EGGART Owner EEC

SPONSORS













Big Sky Economic Development Corporation STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

JUNE 30

ASSETS	2016	2015	
CURRENT ASSETS			
 Cash and cash equivalents 	\$414,305	\$506,825	
 Accounts receivable 	21,905	13,250	
 Notes receivable, current 		221,395	
Prepaid expenses		905	
> Total current assets	723,516	742,375	
Restricted cash	852,889	847,579	
Notes receivable, net of current portion	1,434,609	1,414,337	
> Total assets	\$3,011,014	\$3,004,291	
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
 Accounts payable and accrued liabilities 		\$12,521	
Due to related party		126,191	
Current portion of long-term liabilities	43,240	20,991	
> Total current liabilities	94,488	159,703	
LONG TERM LIABILITIES			
Business incentive commitment, net of current portion	23,585	45,835	
➤ Total liabilities		205,538	
NET ASSETS			
Unrestricted	572,223	480,035	
Temporarily restricted	2,320,718	2,318,718	
	2,892,941	2,798,753	





A copy of our audited financial statements is available upon request.

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BSED CORPORATION FINANCIAL REPORT

Big Sky Economic Development Corporation STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

YEARS ENDED JUNE 30

	2016			2015		
	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	TOTAL	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	TOTAL
SUPPORT AND REVENUE						
Small Business Credit Initiative grant	\$-	\$ -	\$-	\$ -	\$485,000	\$485,000
Small Business Credit Initiative interest		Ţ	35,513	19.423		19.423
Member-Investor support	191.626		191,626	168,812		168,812
 In-kind support from related party 			289,401	367,935		367,935
> Loan fees			401,421	365.949		365,949
Interest income	•		10,696	13,266		13,266
 Opportunity Fund contributions 		2,000	2,000		1,000	1,000
 Recovery of bad debt 	3,800		3,800	3,600	,	3,600
 Program event revenues 	43,050		43,050	107,928		107,928
> Other income	•		17,863	14,289		14,289
Total support and revenue	993,370	2,000	995,370	1,061,202	486,000	1,547,202
EXPENSES						
Program expenses						
 Business recruitment and retention 	199 519		199.519	293.779		293.779
 Member-Investor relations 	,		143,891	255,819		255,819
 Business financing 			440,827	381,536		381,536
> Total program expenses	784,237	-	784,237	931,134	-	931,134
 General and administrative expenses 		-	113,563	102,512	-	102,512
Total operating expenses	897,800	-	897,800	1,033,646	-	1,033,646
OPERATING INCOME	95,570	2,000	97,570	27,556	486,000	513,556
OTHER EXPENSE						
 Interest expense 	3,382	-	3,382	4,603	-	4,603
 Change in net assets 	92,188	2,000	94,188	22,953	486,000	508,953
Net assets, beginning of year	480,035	2,318,718	2,798,753	457,082	1,832,718	2,289,800
Net assets, end of year	\$572,223	\$2,320,718	\$2,892,941	\$480,035	\$2,318,718	\$2,798,753

Focused on sustaining our region's Vibrant, Healthy Economy through:

> BUSINESS GROWTH SERVICES

- > Business Finance
- BillingsWorks
- Small Business Development Center
- › Veterans Business Outreach Center
- Montana Procurement Technical Assistance Center
- Business Growth Incentives
- > Business Expansion & Retention Team

NEW BUSINESS RECRUITMENT AND OUTREACH

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Building REMARK/BLE

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES (FY2017-18)

- 1. Strengthen Opportunities for Business Expansion and Economic Diverstiy
- 2. Workforce Development and Talent Attraction— BillingsWorks
- 3. Lead/Partner on Key Building Remarkable Community Investments
 - > Entryway Corridor Enhancement
 - > Battin Building "Restart"
 - > Expanded Air Service and Modernized Facilities
 - > Redevelopment (EBURD) and Convention Center
 - > Planned, Ready-to-Go Industrial Space (TEDD)
 - > Corette/Coulson Park Mixed-Use Concept

Find our complete 2017-18 Strategic Plan at www.bigskyeconomicdevelopment.org/strategicplan

BIG SKY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

BIGSKYECONOMICDEVELOPMENT.ORG

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