



RICARDO SAMANIEGO
El Paso County Judge

December 12, 2022

Krista Muddle
Regional Partnership Coordinator – IMR
National Park Service
12795 West Alameda Parkway – OCR
Lakewood, CO 80228

Dear Krista Muddle,

On behalf of the El Paso County Economic Development, Heritage Tourism Division, please accept this letter of support for the proposed Abara House Interpretive Charrette Workshop and West Viewing Terrace Construction Project SWBRPP grant proposal. The La Hacienda/Onate Crossing/Harts Mill property is owned by Abara Inc., located at 1228 Wyoming, El Paso TX, 79912 and has offices in Ciudad Juarez. The resources will be used to organize and conduct the Interpretive Charrette Workshop that will focus on mapping out the site and historical interpretive program and create the Action Plan for implementation. The previously funded Cultural Landscape Report executed for this site will serve as the basis of the research and interpretive planning.

The property lies on an important historical stop of the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro and the County is honored to support the continued preservation and adaptive reuse of the site known as Harts Mill, or, La Hacienda, or Onate Crossing. The National Trails, Intermountain Region has supported the County's collaborative project to complete a Historic Structures and Cultural Landscape Reports of the site, building upon the work begun in Albuquerque to complete a Cultural Landscape History. We are thrilled that the new owners, Abara House, are actively engaging with the community to reactivate this important cultural resource in a meaningful way, using the three documents as resources in maintaining and rehabilitating the cultural and architectural integrity. The fact that the proposed adaptive reuse of the site includes so many critical elements and shared goals in cultural heritage tourism, and opportunities to engage in binational quality of life, public health, healing, and wellness only confirms the County's continued support of the redevelopment and success of this multi-year project.

Thank you for accepting this letter of support on behalf of the grant application submitted by Abara, Inc. Funding this project will bring a greater appreciation to this historically significant site along the Camino Real and continue to expand our efforts to promote and encourage opportunities for cross-cultural exchange between the U.S., Mexico, residents, and visitors.

Sincerely,

Ricardo Samaniego
County Judge