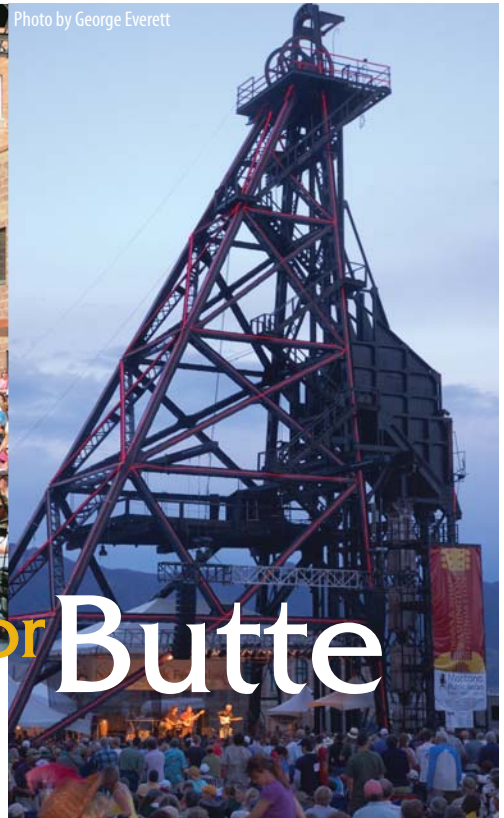


Photo by George Everett



The Dennis And Phyllis Washington Foundation Doubles Its Support For The National Folk Festival With \$200,000 Challenge Grant To Mainstreet Uptown Butte

THE DENNIS AND PHYLLIS WASHINGTON FOUNDATION awarded an unprecedented \$200,000 challenge grant to support the National Folk Festival returning to Butte July 9-11, 2010. In 2008, the Foundation sponsored the family area of the Festival, and in 2009, sponsored the Original Stage at the \$100,000 level. This year, seeking to amplify the economic and cultural opportunities presented by the Festival, the Foundation doubled its support to a \$200,000 challenge grant. "In 2008 and again in 2009, the Festival experienced an huge increase in visitor attendance, proving that Butte could host such a high-quality family event and people would attend from all over," said Mike Halligan, Executive Director of the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation. "The National Folk Festival provided a platform to showcase the culture and rich history of the people of Butte and Montana as a whole and we are honored to partner with Mainstreet Uptown Butte to help sponsor the event in 2010."

The Foundation hopes its support will

The Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, *The Cornerstone*

ensure the success of the 2010 National Folk Festival by encouraging other Montana businesses to chip in. This year's event will help set the stage for a self-sustaining annual event that will bring world class talent to Butte and much needed tourist dollars to Butte and all of Montana.

George Everett, Executive Director of Mainstreet Uptown Butte, said, "The challenge

"The challenge grant comes at a critical time and is an excellent means to inspire other individuals and businesses to support the 2010 festival."

grant comes at a critical time and is an excellent means to inspire other individuals and businesses to support the 2010 Festival. We're excited to get started and the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation's commitment to match sponsorships up to a total of \$200,000 will give business contributions twice the impact.

According to one survey, the Festival had a statewide economic impact of more than \$17 million in 2009.

"This was not an easy choice for us in these turbulent economic times, but it was made easier by the demonstrated economic benefits of the Festival to the region over the past two years," said Rolin Erickson, Montana

Resources President and member of the Foundation's Board of Directors. "We see it as an established benefit for the entire state that continues to expand and have a greater economic impact each year."

The Festival is a fantastic event for all ages, so be sure to mark your calendar for July 9-11! The event requires around 900 volunteers to make the event happen, creating a variety of jobs during different times of the weekend. You won't want to miss the third year of this fantastic event in Butte. For more on the Festival and how to help out please visit their website at www.nationalfolkfestival.com.

BANJOS, BAGPIPES & BOOGIE IN BUTTE

Top Left: The view from the Granite Street stage behind Sierra Hull, looking out on the crowded downtown boulevard .

Top Right: A tightly-packed audience enjoys the music at the Foundation-sponsored "Original Stage" at dusk in July 2009.
Photos courtesy of Mainstreet Uptown Butte