

On behalf of Valley Floor Preservation Partners I would like to thank the citizens of Telluride, as well as the many people near and far who have made this success possible. We also want to thank Mayor John Pryor for becoming such an integral part of this campaign. We could not have done this without his hard work.

Telluride is a distinctive resort community. Today, with the completion of this formidable funding challenge, Telluride has defined itself as an extended community with the determination and resolve to stand up for its future and to protect that which sets us apart from the ordinary. Valley Floor Preservation Partners wishes to express its extreme gratitude to each and every participant in this unprecedented community campaign.

The effort to preserve the Valley Floor has been a long and challenging struggle. After more than a decade of outreach, multiple elections, voter approval for town bonding, national exposure on the National Trust for Historic Preservation's "Most Endangered Historic Places," and the generous support from thoughtful private donors, the ultimate future of Telluride's gateway is one huge step closer to being finalized.

Over the past 14 months, VFPP, Telluride citizens, second homeowners, business owners, concerned organizations and government leaders have worked shoulder-to-shoulder with collective commitment to create a model of public and private partnership. We did this together.

All of us at VFPP would like to personally thank the town council, the Open Space Commission and the town staff who have worked diligently on the many details. Kevin Geiger, our town attorney, has shown his skill and intelligence throughout the process. We extend our sincere appreciation to Sheep Mountain Alliance and former director, Joan May, who was the driving force in the early days. Without Joan's heartfelt, tireless work at the start, we would not be here today. Our other partners The Telluride Institute and the National Trust for Historic Preservation provided wonderful support. John and Pamela Lifton-Zoline and Richard Moe respectively steered those organizations to our benefit.

Hilary, Terry, Marla and Dave worked the front lines with incredible dedication. Without the energy and passion supplied by Jane Hickcox, this endeavor would have been exponentially more difficult. Her evenness and foresight pulled us through time after time. Always smiling, always striving for perfection in every detail, she transformed an immense and chaotic undertaking into a class act. She deserves the title of Valley Floor Matriarch.

More than 1700 donors have embraced the message of our incredible preservation story. They stepped up to support this acquisition, understanding that this isn't about politics, this isn't about financial opportunity, nor ownership, nor lawyers. In fact, this isn't even about this decade or this generation. This is a story about place, about stewardship, about a responsibility to preserve Telluride's remarkable physical character, historic integrity and natural assets for its future residents and visitors.

Telluride, today we have made a statement about who we are. We should all be proud. It is a statement that will never be forgotten.