



# Mountain View

montessori

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May 15, 2019

Gypsy Cowbelle  
PO Box 809

Thermopolis, WY 82443

To Whom it May Concern:

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation for the Gypsy Cowbelle. I was introduced to “V” through the Nevada Arts Council annual In Schools and Communities Roster. I was in need of a fun, educational, interactive performer to feature at our annual “Growing up in Nevada” Humanities Week, looking specifically at the focus of US history.

We could not have been happier with the outcome. V performed her Homespun Instruments Workshop to our Lower Elementary (grades 1-3). She then gave a musical performance integrating history from the 1860's to our Upper Elementary (grades 4-6). She wrapped up the day with our Adolescent Community providing a Chautauqua style performance as Amelia Earhart. We were shown the full scope of her talents with her visit, and all of her content was interesting and comprehensive, not to mention just plain fun!

The Gypsy Cowbelle was instrumental to the success of this year's Humanities Week as she understood our dynamic here at MVM and worked to make her performances the right fit for our students. She is truly passionate about her work and a constant professional.

We look forward to inviting The Gypsy Cowbelle back to our school in the future and highly recommend her work to other educational organizations!

Sincerely-

Megan Nutt  
Humanities Week Coordinator  
Mountain View Montessori School

Mary Levy  
Head of School

GARY HEINTZ  
(605) 222\*0079

DAKOTA  
WESTERN HERITAGE  
FESTIVAL

CARMEN WOODWARD  
(605) 280\*8938

To whom it may concern;

September 16, 2019

As producer of the Dakota Western Heritage Festival, held annually since 2011, I have known Miss V and have worked with her as a performer and also have benefitted from her excellent workshops, especially concerning her life on primitive ranches in Wyoming and her music education program she has developed to encourage youth to be creative in various arts.

The Festival strives to educate and entertain, and this last year we initiated a youth cowboy poetry/music contest, with the goal being youth creating and performing their own poetry and music. We have always felt that to retain the traditions and lifestyle of the West, the youth had to be aware of it and appreciate it's importance in their lives; I knew the person who would make this idea a reality was Miss V, and for the better part of a year she has developed contacts with schools and teachers throughout central South Dakota, presenting her music program for students from grades 3 through high school, and has encouraged the teachers as well as the classes to become actively involved in the Festival contest that would culminate with performing onstage in September, 2019.

Miss V enlisted the help of other performers who joined with her to promote the contest, and they spent many hours in front of students and teachers promoting our vision.

The result was approximately thirty entries which were judged by cowboy poets and awards were given to ten finalists who performed onstage. The program in my mind had a fantastic beginning with all kinds of opportunities to grow, and the credit for that fantastic beginning without a doubt goes to Miss V. She is the kind of person who makes sure she understands the goal of a project, and builds a program around that goal. She has the life experience, the contacts with knowledgeable people, and is a sure enough self-starter. We could not have chosen a better person to entrust this program to. We eagerly look forward to many years of expanding this important youth program, and will always entrust Miss V with it's growth.

I would wholeheartedly endorse Miss V as a performer, an organizer and a wonderful public relations person to anyone who wants to promote the Western ideals we all hold so precious.

*Gary Heintz*  
*Co Producer of DWHF.*  
*605 224-1096*

P.O. BOX 728, PIERRE, S.D. 57501  
THECOWBOYWAYPIERRE@HOTMAIL.COM





Wyoming Governors' Council  
on Developmental Disabilities

**Governor Mark Gordon**

Josh Bellamy  
**Chairman**

Jennifer Tatro  
**Vice-Chairman**

Shannon Buller  
**Executive Director**

320 W. 25 St., Ste. 119  
Capitol Hill Building  
Cheyenne, WY 82002

P: 307-777-7230  
[wgcdd@wyo.gov](mailto:wgcdd@wyo.gov)

January 6, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I am delighted to write a letter of recommendation for Miss "V" – The Gypsy Cowbelle.

I first met Miss "V" the summer of 2018 at our Wyoming Developmental Disabilities Conference. She hosted a pre-conference event on how to make instruments out of household items. Her energy and pure joy of working with people on their projects, playing instruments and singing songs was uplifting and the feeling was reciprocated by those attending. In fact, people were so enthusiastic about her, upon their recommendations, we brought her back to be the keynote speaker at our March Developmental Disabilities Awareness Luncheon which focuses on the arts and people with developmental disabilities.

From these two experiences, I can tell you Miss "V" is a thoughtful, kind, energetic and humorous person. Her presentation during the luncheon on not being afraid to follow a path or open a door to new experiences was illuminating and instructive. People enjoyed the interaction with the audience and I can tell you, if you have not heard 300 people fully engaged in a sing-a-long, you missed a wonderful opportunity!

From my experiences her unique style, flexibility, and downhome fun ensure a romping good time and leave the people she meets with a positive message.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shannon Buller".

Shannon Buller  
Executive Director





Cheyenne  
Burns  
Pine Bluffs  
Bookmobile



October 10, 2013

Dear Wyoming Arts Council,

I wholeheartedly recommend renewing Miss V, the Gypsy Cowbelle as a Wyoming Arts Council (WAC) Roster Artist.

Miss V gave a performance at the Laramie County Library on September 6, 2013 to an audience of 90 people of all ages to help us open the *America's Music* project (an exclusive film and discussion series through the American Library Association, the Tribeca Film Institute and the National Endowment for the Humanities). Those who attended the concert thoroughly enjoyed Miss V's mix of sing-along favorites and her original storytelling songs. She told background stories about her songs, and had the audience engaged with her charismatic personality. After the concert she gave individual attention to those who asked her questions and just wanted to talk with her. She also sought feedback from me as to how the performance went and how she could improve.

The next morning Miss V gave a Homespun Instruments Workshop to 20+ children and their parents, which was a big hit with everyone. Children learned how to play music on buckets and other items that are easily found around the house, and Miss V engaged them with enthusiasm and patience.

Both of Miss V's performances were made possible with funding from a WAC grant written by Carrie Lucas, Assistant Manager, Youth & Outreach Services, who worked with me to coordinate and implement Miss V's performance and workshop.

Miss V also handcrafts banjos out of wooden planks, and exhibited one that has traveled the country with her. More than 50,000 people have visited the library while her banjo has been on exhibit.

Having coordinated dozens of presenters for library events, I consider Miss V one of the best that I have worked with. She was prompt, professional, communicative, and as many other library staff members stated, delightful to work with. Carrie is working with her again to schedule future events. This fact alone indicates Miss V's appeal to the general public the library serves and her professionalism.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer Rife', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jennifer Rife  
Design & Humanities Coordinator





# Meeteetse Museum

Meeteetse Wyoming the Way the West was

September 20, 2013

Wyoming Arts Council  
2320 Capitol Avenue  
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Dear Wyoming Arts Council,

I would like to submit this letter of recommendation in support of "V, the Gypsy Cowbelle," who is a candidate for your Artists Roster. Miss V has performed at Meeteetse Museums on several occasions over the past few years and I am the museum representative who has had direct contact with her during these times.

As I stated, Miss V performed here on multiple occasions. In July 2012, I booked her to perform during "Cowboy Day in Meeteetse." During her two hour concert, Miss V performed original compositions, as well as country and cowboy favorites. V's on-stage style was very pleasant and relaxed, which carried over to her interaction with the audience. She communicated with the audience very well, explaining the meanings of songs and providing interesting information about their origins and relevance to her.

She performed for us twice in 2013. In April she presented the "Modern Day Homesteader." Again, Miss V successfully engaged the audience, explaining to them in her conversational manner, the difficulties associated with the homesteading way of life. I personally spoke with one young lady in her 20s who was very inspired by V's story and her determination. The audience, which was of all ages, enjoyed the video presentation, stories, and songs that were part of the show. I invited V to return for Cowboy Day in Meeteetse in 2013 because we were so pleased with her earlier performances. As before, the audience enjoyed her musical concert and even took part in a couple of songs.

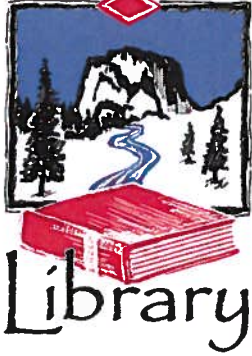
Again, I would like to highly recommend Miss V for your Artists Roster. As director of Meeteetse Museums, I can tell you that she was well-prepared, on time, conscientious, and personable on and off stage. In addition, her performances exemplify the spirit of Wyoming and are always presented in a manner that engages the audience and makes everyone "feel at home."

Respectfully,

David Cunningham  
Director  
Meeteetse Museums  
307-868-2423  
806-217-0672 cell

Sublette County

14 September 2013



P.O. Box 489  
155 S. Tyler  
Pinedale, WY 82941  
307-367-4114  
Fax 307-367-6722

Dear Wyoming Arts Council,

The Sublette County Library has been fortunate enough to have Miss V—  
The Gypsy Cowbelle perform for us on more than one occasion.

Her most memorable visit was during Women's History Month a few years back. She is such a professional! On her own time she researched some of the more notable Suffragettes and created an entertaining program in both story and song to honor these famous women! The most remarkable thing is that she was able to adjust programs for each of the audiences she performed for that day – pre-schoolers in the morning; senior citizens at lunch; elementary aged children after school and then adults that evening.

Hard to say who had the most fun – the kids of all ages playing her homemade instruments or V herself performing for the crowd? Fun was certainly had by all

We are looking forward to her return to Sublette County Library for three performances in a few weeks. Her shows always delight!

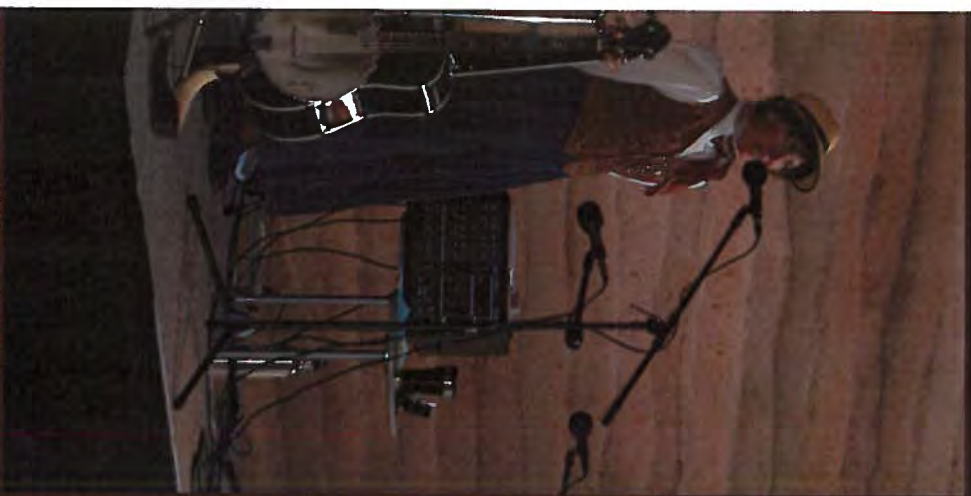
I would highly recommend her for children of all ages!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julia Winthers".

Julia Winthers

Adult Programming Coordinator  
Sublette County Library  
155 S Tyler Ave ~ PO Box 489  
Pinedale, WY 82941









Wyoming **PBS**

Virginia Moore  
Music Showcase Producer


To Whom It May Concern,

Wyoming PBS employed "V" the Gypsy Cowbelle to play a concert on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010 as part of our music series, "Wind River Music Showcase". The concerts were held at the Museum of the American West in Lander, Wyoming. "V" the Gypsy Cowbelle not only acted in a very professional manner, but delivered a beautiful and engaging performance. We would highly recommend working with her to any music promoter.

Our mission as a public media outlet and television station is "to connect and enrich Wyoming lives through innovative media." We strive to bring quality arts and music programs to Wyoming citizens. In planning the "Wind River Music Showcase", we sought professional musicians who live and work in Wyoming, and make original music about Wyoming. We selected "V" the Gypsy Cowbelle because she has a fascinating personal story reflected in her music and presentation. A true artist through and through, she incorporates many handmade elements into her performances. Many songs make use of her handmade banjo, and her exquisite handmade clothes are hard to miss. "V" the Gypsy Cowbelle is an authentic Wyoming artist, bringing elements of the past to the present.

Many of "V" the Gypsy Cowbelle's songs tell unique Wyoming stories based on her personal experience. Her songs "Dandelion Wine" and "Modern Day Homesteader" are inspired by her personal experience living on a remote Wyoming ranch in the Wind River Mountains, a style of living that is as integral to Wyoming history as it is fading from modern memory. Audiences' understanding of Wyoming heritage is enriched through her music. "Nothing fancy but guaranteed authentic", "V" the Gypsy Cowbelle is the quintessential Wyoming singer/songwriter, and Wyoming is lucky to have her as a cultural ambassador.

Sincerely,

  
Virginia Moore  
Music Showcase Producer  
Wyoming PBS

11/15/10