



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.

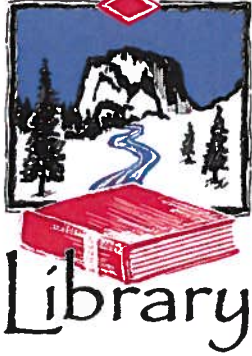
Again, I would like to highly recommend Miss V for your Artists Roster. As director of Meeteetse Museums, I can tell you that she was well-prepared, on time, conscientious, and personable on and off stage. In addition, her performances exemplify the spirit of Wyoming and are always presented in a manner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

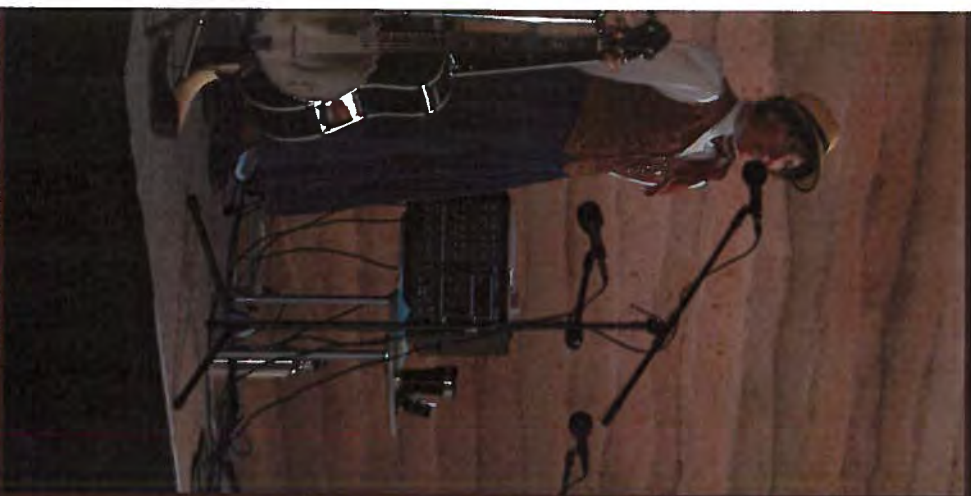
We are looking forward to her return to Sublette County Library for three performances in a few weeks. Her shows always delight!

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