

August 21, 2024

Dear Mrs. Ruffieux,

After submitting our grant application for an Appalachian Heritage Festival planned for April 19, 2025, we realized that April 20 is observed as Easter. We would like to request a change of date from April 19 to May 3 for the upcoming festival.

We have always believed that April is the best time for this festival, and that remains true. However, we have been unable to find an alternate date within the month of April that doesn't conflict with another event and/or the potential for cold or inclement weather. Saturday, April 12 is observed as Good Friday and Palm Sunday, as well as the beginning of Spring Break for Haywood County families. We are concerned this will make it difficult to recruit volunteers and the necessary manpower that we will need. Sylva's annual "Greening Up the Mountains" festival will be April 26. We are not only concerned about competing for visitors, but more importantly vendors and demonstrators. We considered choosing a date earlier in April but have concerns about weather during that time. We believe that May 3 is our best option for an alternative date for the 2025 festival and keeps the event as close to our original date as possible.

We are requesting your approval for an amendment to our grant application to allow for this change. It is our intention to move the festival back to April in the future when Easter falls on a different weekend.

Thank you again for awarding us the grant and for considering our request to change the date.

Sincerely,

Beth Gilmore, DWC Executive Director

Tonya Harwood, HCAC Executive Director

Alicia Blanton, Folkmoot Executive Director

Mark Stoffan, Shelton House, Board of Directors Chair

