

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF JACKSON

**LEASE AND USE AGREEMENT**

THIS AGREEMENT, made and entered into this the 1st day of February, 2023, by and between the COUNTY OF JACKSON, a Body Politic and a Subdivision of the State of North Carolina, (hereinafter referred to as “Lessor”), and FRIENDS OF PANTHERTOWN, INC., a North Carolina Non-Profit Corporation, (hereinafter referred to as “Lessee”);

**WITNESSETH:**

WHEREAS, the Lessor holds fee simple title to the “Old Chamber Building”, located at 116 Central Street, Sylva, NC, hereinafter “the Property”; and

WHEREAS, the Lessee desires to Lease the property, hereinafter the “Premises”; and

WHEREAS, the Lessee plans to use the premises for Office and meeting space for Friends of Panthertown, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the Lessor has determined that the Premises, as described, will not be needed by the County for the term of the Lease; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners for the County of Jackson delegated leasing authority to the County Manager for parcels that the County Manager determines are temporarily surplus to the County’s needs for periods of up to one year; and

WHEREAS, the execution of this agreement for and on behalf of the Lessor has been considered and approved by the County Manager for the County of Jackson, and by the Governing Body of the Lessee pursuant to their rules and regulations; and

WHEREAS, the parties hereto have mutually agreed to the terms and conditions of this Lease and Use Agreement, as hereinafter set forth:

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the covenants and promises set forth herein below, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, Lessor does hereby rent, lease and demise unto Lessee for and during the term and under the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth, with all of the rights and privileges thereunto pertaining, to that certain parcel of real property consisting of the Premises at 116 Central Street, Sylva, North Carolina and commonly referred to as the Old Chamber Building.

THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS AGREEMENT ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the Premises for a term of one (1) year, commencing on the 1st day of February, 2023, and continuing through the 31st day of January, 2024, this instrument is a rental or lease of the premises only, and is not a conveyance or transfer to the Lessee of any ownership interest of the Lessor. Although Lessee may make improvements to the site pursuant to this instrument, this instrument confirms that those improvements belong to the Lessor and are subject to this instrument as a rental or lease of the improvements only, and this instrument is not a conveyance or transfer to the Lessee of any ownership interest of the Lessor in the improvements.
2. In the event that the Lessee, for any reason, shall decide to terminate this lease and use agreement during the term of the lease, this lease shall terminate, and any leasehold improvements made shall become the sole property of the Lessor and there shall be no future or outstanding obligation between the Lessor and the Lessee.
3. The parties hereby agree that the annual lease and consideration for said premises shall be seven thousand two hundred dollars (\$7,200.00) and Lessee's promise to put the property to public use, payable in equal monthly installments of Six Hundred Dollars (\$600.00) with the first such installment being due on the 1st day of February, 2023 with a like installment being due on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of each succeeding month during the term of the lease.
4. Lessee shall have the continuous, unobstructed, non-exclusive use of any road right of ways, parking facilities, etc., which are available to the public, to provide reasonable access and public parking for the Premises.
5. Lessee acknowledges that the premises are in good order and repair, unless otherwise indicated herein. Lessor shall maintain the building as it is currently configured, including electrical wiring, plumbing and heating installations, and including any other system or equipment upon the Premises.
6. Lessee accepts the Premises in its present condition. Lessee shall keep the Premises in a clean, neat and orderly manner at all times and shall, without limitation, (i) keep the inside and outside of all glass in the doors and windows of the Premises clean, (ii) maintain the Premises free of insects, rodents, vermin and other pests, (iii) keep the Premises free of dirt, rubbish and other debris, (iv) keep the Premises free of objectionable or offensive odors, and (v) keep all drains inside the Premises clean. Lessee shall arrange for its own cleaning services for the Premises, at Lessee's sole cost and expense. Lessee shall arrange for the regular pickup of all trash and garbage at Lessee's sole cost and expense.
7. Any major repairs that are necessitated by the actions of Lessee, its agent or invitees shall be the responsibility of Lessee. Any major repairs that are necessary and are not the responsibility of the Lessee such as repairs to the roof, exterior walls or HVAC system, shall be performed by Lessor. Lessor shall be responsible for maintaining the curtilage of the property in its current condition including mowing and weed eating. The Lessee shall be responsible for



normal maintenance to the premises, including the costs for all repairs and maintenance to the interior of the premises. Lessor's maintenance personnel may be available to assist Lessee with the normal repairs and maintenance on the interior of the premises. The Lessee shall return the Premises to the Lessor at the end of this Lease in similar condition as the Lessee received it, ordinary wear and tear accepted. Lessor warrants to Lessee at the time Lessee takes possession of the premises that all systems are in good working order and Lessee shall have the option to check out systems to its satisfaction prior to acceptance of this lease.

8. Lessee shall not, without first obtaining the written consent of Lessor, make any alterations, additions, modification or improvements, in or about the premises or overhaul of the landscape. If said modifications are approved by Lessor, Lessee shall provide and pay for all materials, fixtures, plantings etc. and Lessor's personnel will provide the labor to complete the projects. If Lessor's personnel do not have the time or all of the labor capability, Lessee will be financially responsible for all costs associated with the contractors hired to perform the work.

9. Lessee shall comply with all statutes, ordinances and requirements of the municipal, state and federal authorities now in force, or which may hereafter be in force, pertaining to the premises, occasioned by or affecting the use thereof by the Lessee.

10. Lessee shall be solely responsible and liable for all utilities including water, sewer, electricity, internet and telephone service.

11. Given reasonable notice to Lessee, Lessor shall have the right to enter and to grant licenses to enter the premises at any time and for such lengths of time as Lessor shall deem reasonable to inspect the premises, and as necessary for the operation and maintenance of the premises. No such entry by Lessor shall in any manner affect Lessee's obligations and covenants under this Lease and no such entry shall of itself without affirmative proof of negligence on the part of Lessor render Lessor liable for any loss of or damage to the property of Lessee.

12. To the extent allowed by North Carolina law, the Lessee agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Lessor from any and all claims demands, suits or liabilities whatsoever by virtue of its use and occupancy of the Premises.

13. Lessee, at their expense, shall maintain public liability insurance including bodily injury and property damage insuring Lessee and Lessor with minimum coverage of at least \$500,000.00 per occurrence and Lessee shall provide Lessor with a Certificate of Insurance showing Lessor as additional insured. The Certificate shall provide a ten (10) day written notice to Lessor in the event of cancellation or material change of coverage. To the maximum extent permitted by insurance policies which may be owned by the Lessor or Lessee, Lessee and Lessor, for the benefit of each other, waive any and all rights to subrogation which might otherwise exist.

Lessee shall also maintain insurance on all personal property and contents within the leased premises.



14. If the Premises or any part thereof or any estate therein, or any part of the building materially affecting Lessee's use of the Premises, shall be taken by eminent domain, this Lease shall terminate on the date when title vests pursuant to such taking. Lessee shall not be entitled to any part of the award for such taking or any payment in lieu thereof, but Lessee may file a claim for the taking of fixtures and improvements owned by the Lessee, and for moving expenses.
15. In the event of a partial or total destruction of the building in which the Premises are situated, this lease shall be terminated and the Lessor and Lessee may negotiate a new agreement.
16. Any notice or demand which by any provision of this agreement is required or allowed to be given by either party to the other shall be deemed to have been sufficiently given for all purposes when made in writing and sent in the United States mail as certified mail or registered mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid and addressed: (a) if to the Lessee, to the Executive Director, P.O. Box 51, Cashiers, North Carolina, 28717 or other persons and places as Lessee may notify Lessor in writing; (b) if to the Lessor, to Jackson County Manager, 401 Grindstaff Cove Road, Suite A207, Sylva, North Carolina, 28779.
17. Lessee shall not assign this Lease or sublet the premises or any part thereof, without the prior written consent of Lessor.
18. Lessee may terminate this lease upon the giving of ninety (90) days written notice.
19. This Lease is binding upon and inures to the benefit of the parties, their successors and assigns in interest.
20. This lease is made upon the condition that the Lessee shall punctually perform all of the conditions, covenants and agreements required of it. If, at any time, there shall be any default on the part of the Lessee in the consideration given for the lease, and any such default shall not be cured within ten (10) days, without notice, or if there be any default in the performance or observation of any of the other covenants or conditions of the lease required to be performed by the Lessee and not relating to the consideration, and any such default shall continue for a period of ten (10) days after written notice thereof addressed to the Lessee and sent by regular mail or if the Lessee shall file for bankruptcy or if an involuntary petition for bankruptcy is filed against the Lessee, and any such petitions shall not be withdrawn in ninety (90) days after the entry thereof, or if a receiver or trustee be appointed for the property of the Lessee and the order appointing such receiver or trustee not be set aside within ninety (90) days after the entry thereof or if the Lessee shall assign its property or assets for the benefit of creditors, or if Lessee loses its status as a non-profit corporation, then and in any such event, the Lessor may at its option and without further notice, terminate the lease and re-enter upon and take possession of the premises and may remove any and all property belonging to the Lessee from the premises, using such force as may be necessary to accomplish such purpose and henceforth hold and enjoy the Premises leased as the former estate of the Lessee for all purposes as if this lease had not been made, subject to applicable laws. Without prejudice, however, the Lessee shall be liable for all

damages occasioned to the Lessor by reason of said default and to that end all payments required to be paid during the term of this lease, if any, shall become immediately due and payable.

21. This entire agreement, intent and understanding between Lessor and Lessee is contained in the provisions of this Lease and any stipulations, representations, promises or agreements, written or oral, made prior to or contemporaneously with this Lease shall have no legal or equitable effect or consequence unless reduced to writing herein. This Lease shall be governed by and construed pursuant to the laws of the State of North Carolina, with venue in Jackson County.


22. E-verify. Lessee shall comply with the requirements of Article 2 of Chapter 64 of the North Carolina General Statutes. Further, if Lessee utilizes a contractor or subcontractor, Lessee shall require the contractor or subcontractor to comply with the requirements of Article 2 of Chapter 64 of the North Carolina General Statutes.

23. Iran Divestment Act Certification: As of the effective date of this agreement, Lessee is not listed on the Final Divestment List created by the State Treasurer pursuant to North Carolina General Statute § 147-86.58. The signatories for Lessee hereby certify that they are authorized to make the foregoing statement.

[SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE]

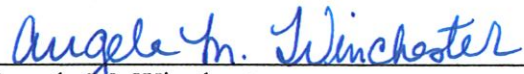
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this instrument to be signed in their respective names by their duly authorized officers, on the day and year first above written.

**LESSOR:  
JACKSON COUNTY**

By:   
Name: Don Adams  
Title: Jackson County Manager



**ATTEST:**

By:   
Name: Angela M. Winchester  
Title: Clerk to the Jackson County Commissioners

**LESSEE:  
FRIENDS OF PANTHERTOWN, INC.**


By:   
Name: Margaret Carston  
Title: President, Board Chair

**ATTEST:**

By:   
Name: Jason Kimerker  
Title: Executive Director

This instrument has been pre-audited in the Manner required by the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act.

This the 25<sup>th</sup> day of January 2023

  
Finance Officer  
Jackson County, North Carolina