

430.4 Ajo Curley School Gym, Town Plaza & Other Historic Buildings

Location: Ajo Townsite, Western Pima County.

Scope: Planning, design, construction, rehabilitation, restoration, and renovation of historic properties in the Ajo Townsite and Ajo Curley School Campus, including the Gymnasium that is owned by Pima County for use as a recreation and community facility. Improvements and rehabilitation of the Ajo Plaza and other historic properties in the Ajo Townsite Historic District will facilitate continued use and access. Preservation easements will be obtained for any properties not owned by Pima County prior to expenditure of bond funding.

Benefits: Rehabilitation of the Ajo Curley School Campus, Gymnasium, Plaza, and adjoining buildings are contributing properties within the Ajo Townsite Historic District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Rehabilitation of these structures will help to promote economic development through heritage tourism and will benefit the residents of Ajo by putting these historic building and structures into continued use. The Curley School Campus, Gymnasium, Plaza, churches, and residential neighborhoods were constructed (ca.1916-1919) for Phelps Dodge's New Cornelia mine, which operated from 1914 until 1984. The Ajo Townsite is listed at the national level of significance due to its rarity as an "architect designed company town" developed according the principles of the "City Beautiful" movement of the early 20th century. The Curley School Campus anchors the west end of the Townsite and the Plaza anchors the east end. These buildings and plaza are essential features of the town's symmetrical design, having symbolic locations between the civic hub of the town (the central plaza), and the Curley School. The rehabilitation of these public features and other historic buildings will allow for their preservation, and continued public use and will further enhance the economic revitalization efforts begun in Ajo with the first phase of rehabilitation and adaptive use of the Curley School for artisan live-work space.

Total Cost Estimate: \$1,300,000

Bond Funding Estimate: \$1,300,000

Other Funding Estimate: None at this time.

Total Cost Estimate by Major Task: Planning and design at \$170,000, construction at \$1,130,000.

Implementation Periods: 5, 6

Project Schedule by Major Task: Planning and design 6-12 months, construction 12-18 months.

Project Manager: Pima County

Operator: Pima County

Future Operating and Maintenance Costs: Estimated to be \$200,000 annually to be paid through the general fund.

Regional Benefits: Supports recreation in the area and the economic revitalization of Ajo as a unique and picturesque historic town, helping to bring heritage tourism to the area.