

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Patricia McCrystal
RedLine Contemporary Art Center
Email: pmccrystal@redlineart.org



WHAT: Announcing the 2024 grantees for the Arts in Society Program—a collaboration between Bonfils-Stanton Foundation, Colorado Creative Industries, Colorado Health Foundation, The Colorado Trust, Denver Arts & Venues, and a cohort of funders from Southern Colorado including El Pomar, Bee Vradenburg Foundation, Chapman Foundations, and the Joseph Henry Edmondson Foundation.

WHEN: April 2024

CONTACT: Lares Feliciano, Arts in Society Manager, RedLine Contemporary Art Center. lfeliciano@redlineart.org

\$661,000 GRANTED TO 27 ARTISTS and ORGANIZATIONS FOSTERING CROSS-SECTOR WORK IN COLORADO

Denver, CO: [Arts in Society](#) is a cross-sector grant program that seeks to support art projects that positively impact cross-sector initiatives, such as health, environment, and other human service programs statewide. Founded in 2017, this unique collaboration between Colorado funders and administered by RedLine Contemporary Art Center seeks to meet what is now over \$6 million in cross-sector grant requests across the state of Colorado each year. To-date, Arts in Society has granted over \$4 million for projects fostering cross-sector work and supporting the integration of arts and culture into multiple disciplines critical to the health and well-being of Coloradans.

"We're proud to be a key funder for the Arts in Society Grant," said Tariana Navas-Nieves, Denver Arts & Venues deputy director. "By joining efforts with other funders, this collaborative grantmaking program makes a larger impact on the artists and organizations doing cross-sector work, which are critical to our creative sector."

27 projects were funded for amounts ranging between \$15,000-\$35,000 for the 2024 grant cycle, which will be announced and grantees will be acknowledged during RedLine's annual [EPIC Gala](#) on April 18, 2024.

"Colorado Creative Industries is honored to partner with the Arts in Society collaborative, investing in projects using the arts as the conduit for addressing social issues across Colorado. Evidence consistently demonstrates how arts and culture are an antidote for challenges related to environmental sustainability, health and mental health care access, and other social service-related concerns that impact communities and individuals of diverse backgrounds and walks of life."

-Josh Blanchard, Director, Colorado Creative Industries

From January 2024 to March 2024, a 14-member panel composed of individuals across the state of Colorado assembled to review over 344 grant applications. Grant applications were assessed based on the applicant's ability to illustrate artistic commitment, broaden the understanding of the role arts play in society, demonstrate cross-sector work, exhibit cultural relevance, foster community engagement, and present opportunities for shared learning. New grantees from across the state will join in a learning community cohort that will meet throughout the next year to share best practices, challenges, and opportunities related to their projects.

"I'm always impressed by the applications for Arts in Society," said Brooke Dilling, Denver Arts & Venues manager of cultural programs and review panelist.

"Through the work of all grantees, art is an integral element in building thriving communities with a focus on social justice and community welfare."

To learn more about Arts in Society, the funding partners, grantees, and history of granted projects, please visit <https://www.redlineart.org/arts-in-society>.

Congratulations to all the 2024 Arts in Society grant recipients! Learn more about the grantee projects and organizations below.

Ute Storytelling is Our Lineage

Bruce Borowsky - Southwest Colorado

We will facilitate youth and young adults in the Ute Mountain Ute tribe to create a story that we will then help them make into a short film. Collaborators in the surrounding community will contribute to the finished product by utilizing their talents and cultural knowledge. Storytelling is a traditional and intelligent means of conveying information between generations and in this

project we are encouraging the youth and young adults to convey their story through film, a creative and relevant means.

Unshuttered: A Youth-Led Exploration of Intergenerational Trauma

Shutter and Strum - Pikes Peak Region

With "Unshuttered: A Youth-Led Exploration of Intergenerational Trauma," Shutter and Strum aims to empower young survivors of intergenerational trauma through free photography workshops, therapeutic support from licensed clinicians specializing in youth trauma, and public exhibitions of participants' work that ignite community dialogue. This unique blend of artistic expression and expert guidance will foster empowered agents of change who can break cycles of marginalization in the Colorado Springs community and build supportive networks throughout our city. This project is guided by instructors who themselves are trauma-informed, drawing from years of experience working within the challenging and dynamic context of alternative education.

Art in Prison

Art Students League of Denver - Metro Denver Seven-County Region

Since 2019, Art in Prison has offered hands-on visual art education workshops at the Denver Women's Correctional Facility. The program's long-term objective is to reduce the recidivism rate in Colorado, while the immediate benefit of the program is improving the quality of life within the correctional system. Expressing oneself through art can translate into positive attitudes (greater self-confidence, lower stress, better relationships, feeling happier) and develop life-effectiveness skills to prepare incarcerated women for reentry into their communities while improving their day-to-day life. The continuation of the program deepens and sustains ASLD's relationship to the community of incarcerated women who participate.

Sound Affects Artist Residencies

Sound Affects - Northern Colorado

Sound Affects' (SA) One-to-One Artist in Residence program matches participating musicians with a local facility for an 8-week "residency," consisting of weekly, 1 hour visits. Artists in Residence use music to form relationships with particularly isolated individuals in care settings, room-bound residents, or anyone in the building whose access to mental wellness might be improved by regular, personalized interaction with music and a caring musician. SA's residency program serves to diversify the kinds of musical engagement older adults have access to and reach some of LTC's most isolated residents whose needs are not met by existing music programs in facilities.

Mentorship through Music for Foster Youth in Metro Denver

Musical Mentors Collaborative - Metro Denver Seven-County Region

Musical Mentors Collaborative (MMC) will provide individualized, one-on-one music lessons to 35 students who are currently or recently involved in Colorado's judicial system – all at NO COST to students, guardians, or Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) partners. Funding will support partnerships with CASA Denver, CASA of the 7th JD, CASA of the Pikes Peak Region, CASA JeffCo/Gilpin, and CASA of the Continental Divide, providing one year of music instruction to foster youth. Colorado's 1st and 2nd judicial districts, where majority of services will be delivered, rank in the top 5 of 22 in the state for child abuse and neglect.

The Magic City of the Southwest

Magic City Studios - Southwest Colorado

The Magic City of the Southwest explores fresh, untold histories in southwestern Colorado—stories

that offer a rich, nuanced understanding of this region. We are a myth-busting, truth-seeking, creative storytelling project based in Durango, seeking to invigorate the community through audio storytelling, multimedia, and live storytelling events. Our monthly episodes are broadcast on public radio and available via podcast; our live events bring the community together to explore and celebrate an inclusive regional history.

BEAM+STORIES

BEAM+ - Metro Denver Seven-County Region

Through equitable disability representation, BEAM+STORIES amplifies diverse, intersectional narratives from the disabled community in the Denver metro area, challenging societal stigmas and ableism through 10 short documentaries culminating in a community showcase. The project fosters authentic belonging by including the film participants in the creative process and additionally providing mentorship and employment opportunities to adults with developmental disabilities (DD) as integral members of the creative team. Moving beyond a charity perspective, the project also engages the non-disabled community in dialogues about ableism and promotes being an accomplice, rather than just an ally.

Veteran Art Exhibition: Bringing Awareness to Veterans' Behavioral Health

Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center - Pikes Peak Region & Southeast Colorado

Veterans, military members, and their families often struggle silently with trauma, addiction, disability, or other debilitating effects of their service and seeking help may be considered a sign of weakness. Mt. Carmel provides a safety net of resources to support their recovery journey so they can establish healthy, stable, and productive lives following military service. We will provide no/low cost alternative behavioral health services specific to art therapy once a week in both Colorado Springs and Pueblo to at least 15 participants to include anyone military connected.

I am Me: Youth Identity Exploration - Queer VOICES Theater Project

VOICES - Western Slope

"I am Me" is Arts in action with Youth Empowerment. This collaboration between arts organization VOICES and non-profit social service organization Stepping Stone brings focus to youth ages 12 to 18 on the journey of exploring the questions: "Who am I?" and "How do I fit in this world?", especially in the realm of sexual and gender identity. Encompassing story circles, artistic creativity, and devised theater in support of the participant's exploration of their place in the world and the validation of who they are, "I am Me" empowers youth in discovering, rediscovering, and understanding themselves and each other.

Seeing the Latino Community through the Arts

Colorado State University - Northeastern Colorado

The CSU Northeast Regional Engagement Center and Es Tiempo de Crear are partnering with local artists to offer a series of educational classes to teach community members Latino history and culture through the arts. Participants will learn traditional dance, music, visual arts, and culinary arts and will be invited to participate in a number of cultural celebrations taking place in Northeast Colorado in 2024 and 2025. These celebrations will highlight Latino art and culture, foster a sense of pride and belonging in the community, and create a greater understanding of how Latino contributions have shaped our community in Northeast Colorado.

Rest as Resistance

Ashley Cornelius - Pikes Peak Region

In a time when rest feels like a liability and threat to survival, Rest as Resistance invites the community to rest, relax, and replenish, in the arts. Attendees will experience herbal tea, rest, a poetry reading, a sound bath, and a creative writing workshop. This event is offered intentionally

by and for people who experience greater exposure to adverse outcomes from systemic oppression.

Future Town Tour in Center

Center High School and Warm Cookies of the Revolution - San Luis Valley

Future Town Tour boldly reimagines the future of the American West through inspired rural and urban partnerships, using art to resurrect the spirit of civics. Center Consolidated Schools will partner with Warm Cookies of the Revolution to host four Future Town mini civic pride festivals in Center during the project period: Spring 2024, Fall 2024, Spring 2025, Fall 2025. In-between festivals, we will work together on strategies to strengthen social cohesion in terms of race, culture, language and geographic diversity.

Tri-Town Arts: Uniting Rural Youth and Building Community Through Art in Lincoln County

Friends of the Genoa Tower, Inc. - Central Plains Region

Since 2022, Tri-Town has offered arts workshops for children in three Eastern Colorado towns - Hugo (pop. 787), Limon (pop. 2,041), and Genoa (pop. 153) – located in Lincoln County, forming a rough triangle approximately 10 miles apart, and located along or near I-70. Lincoln County has a total population of 5,675 (White [Non-Hispanic] 69%, White [Hispanic] 22%, Black or African American [Non-Hispanic] 9%) spread over 2,600 square miles, which means we serve over half the population of the County. One of Tri-Town Arts main goals is to strengthen the relationships between these three communities through the arts.

Vecinos (Neighbors - working title)

EcoArts Connections - Metro Denver Seven-County Region & Northern Colorado

Vecinos brings together artists, scientists, environmental activists, policy makers, city and county officials, MHC residents, and kids, youth, adults, in a series of activities designed to increase experiences and understanding about the lack of good air and water quality unfairly experienced by underserved immigrant (mostly Latinx) people living at or below poverty line in two cities: Boulder and Fort Collins. Activities will include classes, talks, exhibitions, water walks, making art out of smog, learning how to speak up and effect policy, and move people—emotionally and physically—from awareness to action for personal and social change.

[margins.] Book Festival + Literary Conference

The Word, A Storytelling Sanctuary, Inc. - Metro Denver Seven-County Region

The [margins.] Book Festival and Literary Conference is a three-day event in September 2024 at multiple venues within the Santa Fe arts district in Denver. It invites cross-sections of the community to celebrate the joy of storytelling through family events, arts performances, film screenings, a book fair and more. At its center is the opportunity to open new possibilities for literary creatives from BIPOC, LGBTQ+, neurodiverse, and disabled backgrounds to heal, ground, strengthen, and strive beyond what currently limits.

Fiestas Patrias Colorado

Viva Marketing and Consulting LLC - Pikes Peak Region

Fiestas Patrias facilitates representation and understanding of Hispanic cultures through two days of arts and kids programming. It offers attendees a special chance to experience the full spectrum of traditional and contemporary Hispanic art forms with live music and dancing, Mexican wrestling, vendor booths, and plenty of food in addition to hands-on, culturally relevant activities led by local artists. In addition to cultural visibility, the event creates positive social impact by helping to generate revenue for artisans and entrepreneurs from rural and other lower economic opportunity areas throughout Southern Colorado.

Colorado Dragon Boat Festival - Art Focus

Colorado Dragon Boat - Metro Denver Seven-County Region

Colorado Dragon Boat Festival, and Film Festival, are the locations where people under the large AANHPI umbrella and our allies can come together to celebrate our art and culture with each other and the world. At our events, we showcase the amazing contributions and accomplishments coming out of the AANHPI communities through cinema, live art demonstrations, poster designs contests, spoken word, and on stage performances that range from traditional dance to fusion bands and break dance flash mobs. Come be a part of art and culture at the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival and Colorado Dragon Boat Film Festival.

Black Immigrant Art Archive

Toluwanimi Obiwole & Morgynne Tora - Metro Denver Seven-County Region

This interdisciplinary project will create a web-based archival database of collaborative Dream Maps, textile patterning, and digitally captured conversations and interviews. The facilitating artists will hold conversation and artistic dream mapping sessions with Black Immigrants and Afro-Indigenous peoples based mainly in Colorado, who are grounded in service and care-related industries, to design textile patterns and engage in art-making that tells their stories of joy and desire beyond narratives of suffering and survival. This database will take form as a website and all textile designs will be printed and displayed in an art show and preserved for future printing.

Move Mountains Youth Leaders & 2MX2 Amplify Our Voices

2MX2 & Move Mountains Youth Leaders - San Luis Valley

The Denver-based 2MX2 band and a producer will collaborate with the move mountains youth leaders, guiding them in creating, arranging, and recording an original song that focuses on positive community aspects that they would like to sing about or a social issue identified by the youth that they wish to address. Following the song's creation, a Colorado-based professional video production company will assist these young creators in directing their own high-quality music video. This initiative culminates at the Santa Ana Festival, marking the end of the summer programming and showcasing their work.

A Corner of Mexico in Gunnison

Gunnison Creative District - San Juan Region

In the warmth of Gunnison's 2024 summer, muralist Luke Schroeder will collaborate with Community Liaison Ricardo Esqueda, local immigrant artist Yamel Aguirre, and our immigrant community to create a stunning mural that showcases their stories of Mexico. The project will complement the vision of Silvia Veronica Hernandez to create a space where her community can see themselves represented, where the culture comes alive. Silvia wants to use her literal new home as a canvas to create a vision of the culture she, and many others, left behind and bring it to the place they now call home in Gunnison, Colorado.

Heard to be Seen, Seen to be Heard (HSSH)

Emma Balder - Metro Denver Seven-County Region

Heard to Be Seen, Seen to Be Heard (HSSH) is a collaborative art project with the residents of Saint Francis Apartments (SFA) that addresses emotional, physical and financial barriers people face transitioning out of homelessness. Through community-building and self-expression, the project seeks to re-establish participants' inherent self-worth and recognize their value within society. Multiple sessions featuring dialogue and art-making are held at SFA in summer 2024, and the artwork is publicly presented in spring 2025, where 3-4 residents will speak about their experience.

The Church Project

Madeleine Ahlborn - San Luis Valley

Located in the 113 year-old First Baptist Church, new owner, Madeleine Ahlborn, is renovating and transforming this historical cornerstone site into a community art center for residents of Monte Vista and the greater San Luis Valley to provide a third space for creative exploration. With ample support from The City of Monte Vista, Rural Journalism Institute of the SLV, LOR Foundation, Upper Rio Grande Economic Development Center, The Wright, SLV Development Resource Group, Adams State University, and numerous volunteers, The Church Project is rapidly catching the attention of the SLV communities with art workshops beginning in January 2024.

America's Hidden Gem: Northwest Aurora

Aurora Economic Opportunity Coalition (AEOC) - Metro Denver Seven-County Region

Through a 24-month community-led storytelling process, this documentary will unveil the vibrancy of Northwest Aurora's diversity - from the struggle of a community overcoming hardship and marginalization from the rest of the city to the pride of their NW Aurora identity and traditions resisting erasure. The Aurora Economic Opportunity Coalition facilitates production guided by marginalized voices, aiming to empower the NW Aurora community to shape an equitable future. Ultimately celebrating the shared culture of this diverse community, the project aims to rebrand from a "marginalized and dangerous one", into a powerfully positive one.

Filipino Modern

Tina Gramann - Arkansas Valley

Filipino Modern will bring an excellent cultural festival to the rural community of Salida. Community members will have an opportunity to engage deeply alongside renowned Filipino artists in music, dance, visual art, fashion, and culinary arts in workshops and performances. Local artists will also work alongside visiting artists, and the community will celebrate as a whole in a culminating Filipino Modern festival with art, music, performances, and food.

Waiting for Dignity: A Series of Multilingual Transit Stories

The Denver Streets Partnership - Metro Denver Seven-County Region

We will work with community members and organizations in historically disinvested neighborhoods to install attention-grabbing art installations at bus stops that lack amenities like shelter, trash receptacles, lighting, or seating. Through a variety of collection methods, people waiting at these stops will be able to share their stories through interacting with the art. At the end of the four-month installation, we will use selected stories, photos, and other media to demonstrate the indignity of the conditions transit users often face, and educate and inspire Denver residents to support systemic changes to bus stop amenity management.

Supporting our Nurses and Educators as They Invest in Our Kids

Presenting Denver in partnership with Tara Rynders and Invest in Kids - Metro Denver Seven-County Region

Tara Rynder's Clinic (The Clinic) uses the Courageous Care Framework embedded in the arts, movement, and play, to create spaces of healing to inspire providers to connect to their joy and inspire them to courageously care for themselves as they care for others. Up to 40 nurses, teachers, social workers and family support staff who work with Invest in Kids and at partner organizations like Arapahoe County Public Health, Aurora Mental Health, Tennyson Center for Children and Adams County Health Department will participate in 2-hour workshops incorporating movement, play, visual art, poetry, and music over the course of the grant.

Firefly Music

Lauri Lynnx Murphy - Pikes Peak Region

Colorado's fireflies have a rare hopeful story to tell about the environment - and helping scientists learn how to protect it. Firefly music uses code to create music out of the fireflies' flashes, in collaboration with live musicians, to expose Coloradans to their magic and raise awareness of their existence - while still protecting their fragile habitats by presenting these performances as a live webcast. Currently, a small but mighty group of scientists throughout the southwest are attempting to map their habitats, collect their DNA, and even breeding them in captivity, but they need the public's help to find them.