



**Bee Vradenburg Foundation
Report to the Community
2015**



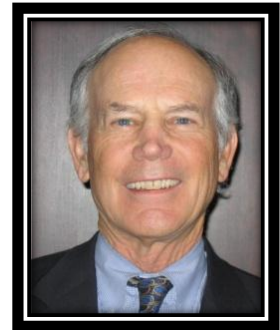
DEAR FRIENDS

2015 brought exciting vibrancy and new opportunities to our arts community. A community gathering in Studio Bee, attended by more than 300 people, to discuss ways to infuse the City for Champions projects with arts and culture showed once again that art is present in all aspects of our community. Similarly, groundbreaking ceremonies for the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs Ent Center for the Arts and the opening of Mountain Fold Books indicate that art is more accessible and more important than ever.



Bee knew the power of the arts. She embraced new projects and new challenges, new ways of ensuring that the arts are accessible to all. We know that Bee's spirit of discovery lives on in the Pikes Peak region, thanks to the artists and arts organizations that continually challenge us to think differently, while embracing the inherent beauty of the world in which we live. Bee believed passionately that the arts belong to everyone, and that despite these and other successes of the past, the work of engaging the community with art is never done.

We are so very grateful to the many artists and arts organizations that continue providing provocative, joyous, and life-affirming performances, exhibits and festivals. You inspire us daily.



*George A. Vradenburg III, Board Chair
Phillip A. Kendall, Board President*

BEE'S LEGACY



Bee Vradenburg was larger than life, endlessly optimistic and profoundly successful at anything she set her mind to. And she set her mind to realizing the vision of a vibrant and collaborative arts community.

Bee was an incredible life force, a woman who began a 37-year commitment as the manager of the Colorado Springs Symphony in her living room. Retirement from the Colorado Springs Symphony simply gave her the time and excitement to nurture emerging artistic endeavors. Bee's private generosity mirrored her public commitment. Members of the community retell personal stories of Bee helping them in ways both large and small: paying for music lessons or a musical instrument; underwriting high school projects; or giving money to get through a hospital stay. But she also took on herculean projects such as raising the capital needed to build the Pikes Peak Center, or making sure community members had a chance to experience "Pops on Ice" at The Broadmoor every Christmas. Bee died in 2000, and our foundation, formed by her family, honors her legacy.

FOUNDATION INITIATIVES

Staff and Board

In addition to its grantmaking, the Bee Vradenburg Foundation Trustees are deeply committed to researching and supporting efforts to strengthen the sustainability of the arts community and expand awareness and appreciation of its cultural assets. In 2015 many foundation board members served on boards of arts organizations in the region and Executive Director David Siegel served the arts community in a variety of ways, including:

- Service on the Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region (COPPeR) board of directors. In this capacity, David worked closely with COPPeR to launch the COPPeR Guild, a major giving circle for the most committed arts advocates in our community. COPPeR also celebrated the second annual Arts Month. The initiative generated nearly 95,000 peakradar.com page views, a fifteen percent increase from the previous year.
- David began a two-year term as co-chair of the Pikes Peak Funders Forum, a monthly gathering of foundation and business leaders that share a commitment to affecting community change through philanthropy.
- David continues to serve as a trustee of the Pikes Peak Community College Foundation, where he helped to lead exciting new developments for the arts programs and gallery at the Downtown Studio Campus.
- Colorado Creative Industries once again asked David to represent El Paso County on the Colorado Creates Grant review panel, where he reviewed grant requests from more than fifty organizations in Southeastern Colorado.
- Colorado Springs welcomed two important community leaders to new positions in 2015: John Suthers was elected Mayor and Dirk Draper joined the Regional Business Alliance as President and CEO. The foundation hosted intimate gatherings for arts leaders to connect and share a vision for how we can collectively make the Pikes Peak region an even better place to call home.



Bee an Arts Champion Award: Jan Martin



The Bee an Arts Champion Award honors the legacy of Bee Vradenburg by recognizing an individual who has demonstrated sustained, passionate and innovative leadership toward advancing the arts in the Pikes Peak region.

It's hard to think of anyone who loves our community more than Jan Martin. She helped to lead the cultural planning effort that eventually led to the creation of COPPeR, the Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region. Jan understands the importance of arts and arts education; for the past several years she has made the donor ask at the Celebrate Youth in the Arts Breakfast, which raises funds to support some of our region's most important arts education organizations. Examples

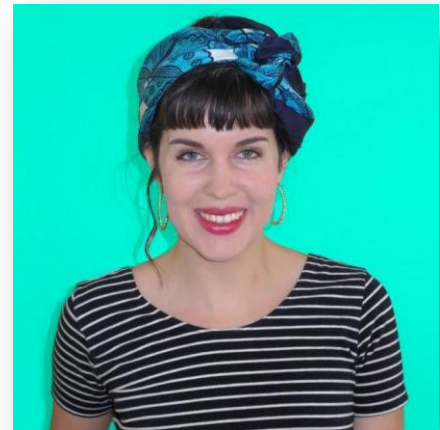
like this make it clear that championing the arts has never been just lip service with Jan. She shows up, she speaks up, and she supports financially. As the first elected official to receive the honor, it's hard to think of a more deserving winner. Congratulations, Jan, and thank you for all you continue to do for the arts!

Fellowship Program Opens Doors

Now in its sixth year, the foundation's fellowship program provides college students with local ties the opportunity to gain skills for future professions in the arts. The program is a true win-win: Students learn about arts administration through a paid summertime position, and local arts nonprofits gain valued assistance from exceptional young adults.

In 2015, the foundation provided a grant to Mountainfold Books to hire Han Sayles as the organization's first paid employee. Han is a 2015 graduate of Colorado College where she was selected by her peers to speak on behalf of the student body at graduation. During her time at CC, Han served as editor-in-chief of the *Cipher*, the campus-wide alternative newspaper and also managed the student run radio station.

At Mountain Fold Books, Han immediately went to work organizing events to activate the space, from everyone-welcome art creation nights to poetry readings and a gathering of artists eager to respond to the Planned Parenthood shooting. The internship was such a success that Mountainfold asked Han to stay on full-time with the organization following her Bee Vradenburg Foundation internship.

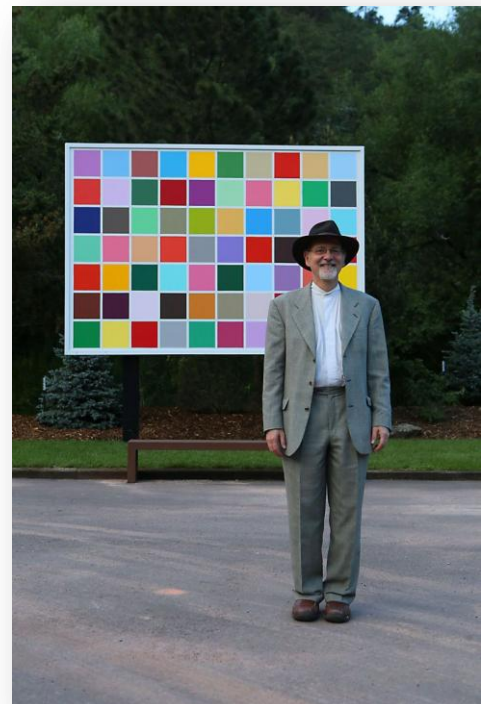


Green Box Arts Festival



Attending the Green Box Arts Festival is a truly magical experience. Tucked away in Green Mountain Falls, the festival brings modern dance, music, contemporary visual art, culinary education and youth activities to the community for one week each summer. New in 2015, the Bee Vradenburg Foundation partnered with the Kirkpatrick Family Foundation and the Green Box Arts Festival to enhance the musical offerings. Executive Director David Siegel curated a performance featuring three world premiers, each composition inspired by a new public art installation being dedicated to the town of Green Mountain Falls as part of the festival. Audience members traveled to each visual art installation to hear the compositions performed in front of the work of art that inspired each composer.

The commissioned composers, Mark Arnest, Ofer Ben Amots, and Daniel Gilbert, are some of the most talented composers in the region and all told, the performance brought more than \$18,000 to local artists and composers, a true win-win.



GRANTS

Manitou Art Center

Program support, \$4,000

Chamber Music in the Pines

Challenge grant, \$1,000

Chamber Orchestra of the Springs

Capacity building, \$8,000

Colorado College Summer Music Festival

General operating support, \$1,000

Colorado Springs Children's Chorale

General operating, \$2,000

Choralaborative, \$1,000

Colorado Springs Chinese Cultural Institute

Program support, \$1,000

Colorado Springs Conservatory

Capital grant, \$16,666

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center

General operating support, \$5,000

Colorado Springs Philharmonic

General operating support, \$15,000

Symphonic Music Fund, \$29,251

Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum

General operating support, \$1,000 (selected by Bee an Arts Champion, Jan Martin)

Colorado Springs Youth Symphony

General operating support, \$5,000

Colorado Vocal Arts Ensemble

General operating support, \$1,500

Concrete Couch

General operating support, \$5,000

Total grants paid in 2015:

\$187,583

Critical Karaoke

General operating support, \$4,000

Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region

General operating support, \$9,000

UCCS Gallery of Contemporary Art

General operating support, \$7,500

88.7-FM KCME

Challenge grant, \$2,500

Millibo Art Theatre

Capital grant, \$20,000

Mountain Fold Books

Internship, \$4,000

Opera Theatre of the Rockies

General operating support, \$5,000

Ormao

General support/challenge, \$8,000

Pikes Peak Library District

Capital grant, \$5,000

Rocky Mountain Highway

Program support, \$2,000

Rocky Mountain Women's Film Institute

General operating support, \$1,000

Theatre d' Art

General operating support, \$1,000

UCCS Theatreworks

General operating support, \$10,000

University of Colorado, Colorado Springs

Capital grant, \$16,666

GRANTMAKING

Our Goals

- Advocate for arts and arts education as a vital part of the region's economy and quality of life.
- Support emerging and diverse artists, art forms, audiences, and artistic endeavors.
- Foster growth and resilience for arts organizations that are part of the cultural fabric of the region.
- Build organizational capacity of arts groups.
- Cultivate partnerships with businesses and funders to leverage new financial resources for the arts.

Ineligible for Funding

The following activities or organizations are ineligible for funding from the foundation:

- Individual artists or art students.
- Organizations that are not legal nonprofits or under the fiscal sponsorship of a nonprofit.
- Performances or arts events designed primarily as fund-raisers for non-arts organizations.

Eligibility

Organizations may apply for funding once per year. All organizations applying to the foundation must:

- Be a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization; or be an arts-oriented project or organization under the fiscal agency of a 501(c)3 organization.
- Be based in and serve the Pikes Peak region, defined as El Paso County and the Ute Pass corridor of Teller County to include Woodland Park.
- Have an active employment nondiscrimination policy signed by the board chair that is inclusive of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, physical or mental handicap, veteran status and marital status.

Grant Sizes/Structures

Grants are structured based on the size of organizations. Specifically:

- Organizations with prior-year or current-year revenues of \$50,000 or less are eligible to request up to \$2,500 per year.
- Organizations with prior-year or current-year revenues of \$50,000 or more are eligible to request up to \$15,000.
- Organizations applying for capital support should contact the foundation before submitting a request.

Types of Support

The foundation awards grants in the following forms:

- General operating support.
- Season or programmatic support.
- Capacity-building support.
- Challenge grants.
- Capital projects.
- Outreach programs to increase exposure to the arts.

To Apply for a Grant

Grant application forms are available for download from the website. Applicants may submit applications by mail, in person, or via email. For email applications, please combine the entire application in a single PDF attachment.

Deadlines

Applications are accepted year-round but must be received January 1, April 1, July 1 or October 1 to be considered during the quarterly trustee meetings. When those dates fall on a holiday or weekend, the first weekday thereafter applies.

BOARD, STAFF & FINANCIALS

Board of Trustees

George A. Vradenburg III, Chair
Phillip A. Kendall, President
Libby Rittenberg, Treasurer
Kathleen Fox Collins, Secretary
Noel Black
Susan Edmondson
Susan Pattee
Alissa Vradenburg
Tyler Vradenburg

Staff

David Siegel, Executive Director

Financial Information

For year ended December 31, 2015:

Grants paid: \$187,583

Fair market value of investments:

\$4,265,990 (includes \$587,094 in the Symphonic Music Fund)

Pursuant to IRS disclosure requirements, copies of the Form 990pf for Bee Vradenburg Foundation are available by contacting the office.

CONTACT

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