

2010

Annual Report to the Community



**Bee Vradenburg
Foundation**

DEAR FRIENDS

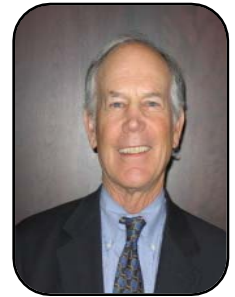
For many, 2010 was a challenging year as the economic recession tightened its grip.

Yet, throughout Colorado Springs and the Pikes Peak region, glorious music filled our parks and concert halls, audiences cheered theatrical and dance productions, major art exhibitions enlightened us and challenged perceptions, and festivals teemed with delighted families. It is no surprise that many local arts groups reported record-breaking ticket sales and attendance last year, because, especially in tough times, we turn even more to the inspiration and social bonding that the arts provide. Participation in the arts was high, but arts organizations nevertheless struggled to attract the contributions necessary to support their missions. At the Bee Vradenburg Foundation, we know that *art creates community* – and a vibrant and diverse arts scene is essential to a strong and economically healthy city. We urge all of you to join us in continuing to support the nonprofit arts organizations that make our region strong.

As always, we extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the artists and arts organizations that enrich our community with their unceasing commitment to inspiring, enlightening, educating and entertaining us with their talents. 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 do. 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 son, George, honors her legacy.

FOUNDATION INITIATIVES

Staff & Board

In addition to its grantmaking, the Bee Vradenburg Foundation is deeply committed to researching and supporting efforts to strengthen the sustainability of the arts community and expand awareness and appreciation of its cultural assets.

Our mission: Advancing Bee Vradenburg's vision of a thriving and diverse cultural community by investing in the excellence, innovation and sustainability of the arts in the Pikes Peak region.

Many foundation board members serve on boards of arts organizations in the region and nationally, and Executive Director Susan Edmondson serves the arts community in a variety of ongoing ways, including service on:

- Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region (COPPeR) board
- Experience Colorado Springs (Convention & Visitors Bureau) board
- Colorado Springs Downtown Development Authority board
- Colorado Springs World Arena (and Pikes Peak Center for the Performing Arts) board
- Pikes Peak Community Foundation Fund for the Arts committee
- Colorado Springs Leadership Institute recruitment committee
- Imagination Celebration Leadership Council (a broad, informal gathering of arts leaders)

Among other work by the foundation last year:

- The foundation launched a new website and also simplified its granting process to use a new application form modeled heavily on the Colorado Common Grant form.
- The foundation launched a fellowship program to support emerging arts leaders. By underwriting the costs of a summer intern at an arts nonprofit, the foundation is able to provide these organizations with a skilled and eager employee, and college students, in turn, gain invaluable experience in arts administration. The program is limited to students who participated in extracurricular arts activities while growing up in the Colorado Springs metro area. The first fellow for the program was David Siegel, pictured at right, a Palmer High School alumni who spent many years with the Colorado Springs Conservatory. David, who is studying violin performance at the Manhattan School of Music, spent his summer working for two arts organizations. At COPPeR, David worked on marketing projects for PeakRadar.com, and at the Colorado Springs Philharmonic, he created and managed the civic partner program.
- Edmondson was one of a handful of stakeholders serving on a special task force to examine the future sustainability of the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum, which



struggled to continue serving the community in the face of severe city budget cuts. Task force members joined museum Executive Director Matt Mayberry in working with national experts on history museums in transition. A detailed report was prepared by midyear and was well received by City Council. Edmondson continues to serve on a new board, working on the multiyear process to transition from a municipal museum with private support to a nonprofit museum working in partnership with the city.

- As board chair of Experience Colorado Springs, the Convention & Visitors Bureau, Edmondson led a team in conducting a national search to replace longtime President & CEO Terry Sullivan, who retired at the end of 2010 after 20 years of service to the organization. In late 2010, the CVB Board hired seasoned destination-marketing executive Doug Price to lead the organization forward.



- The foundation let citizens decide where to put its money by launching Art Creates Community. Working in partnership with the Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado and with media support from KRCC and The Gazette, the foundation sought proposals from artists and arts organizations for a creative, community-building activity. The entire community then was invited to

go online and vote among the five finalists for their favorite. The Chamber Orchestra of the Springs emerged as the winner of the \$10,000 grant prize for their proposal of a special concert in collaboration with the Gospel Music Workshop of America. The concert was a rousing and emotional success, and the two groups are partnering again on a concert for 2011.

- Foundation Executive Director Susan Edmondson was presented with the Colorado College Business Community Alliance Award, given each year to a person who is not an alumni of the college but works collaboratively in the college and the greater community. The partner award that year, given to an alumni, was awarded to KRCC General Manager Delaney Utterback. Edmondson also was named a Woman of Distinction by the Colorado Springs Business Journal.

Bee an Arts Champion Award

The Bee an Arts Champion Award, presented by the Bee Vradenburg Foundation, 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. In 2010, the trustees honored the husband-and-wife team of Jim Jackson and Birgitta DePree. Ten years ago, Jim and Birgitta fulfilled their dream to open Manitou Art Theatre, their own family-run theater presenting original works to both children and adults. Since then thousands of people have delighted in Jim and Birgitta's own shows and experienced some of the best fringe festival performers from across the world. While MAT is the foundation of what they do, there is so much more. Jim and Birgitta willingly and enthusiastically say "yes" to

championing the arts in so many ways – by serving as the charming emcees of the Pikes Peak Arts Council Awards and other hosting duties, to bringing improv exercises to Leadership Pikes Peak classes and other corporate environments, to serving on the Manitou Springs Arts Council, to joining in Manitou Springs parades and festivals – whatever it takes to enlighten, delight and even provoke. Jim and Birgitta are pictured at right with foundation Executive Director Susan Edmondson.



SAYING GOODBYE

The foundation lost a dear friend when Charles Ansbacher died of a brain tumor on September 12 at his home in Cambridge, Mass. During his tenure in the 1970s and 1980s as music director and conductor of the Colorado Springs Symphony Orchestra, the predecessor to today's Colorado Springs Philharmonic, the orchestra grew



tremendously in scope, size and community outreach. Together, Ansbacher and Bee Vradenburg, as the Symphony's general manager, conceived the summer orchestral performances in parks throughout the region, including the Fabulous Fourth concerts in Memorial Park and the Symphony Above the Clouds each July 5 in Woodland Park. The free concerts reached tens of thousands of community residents. Bee and Charles also delighted families with the innovative Pops on Ice program as well as numerous other creative endeavors that positioned the symphony orchestra as the leading cultural force in the region. Perhaps the highlight of their long friendship and working partnership was their successful drive to build the Pikes Peak Center for the Performing Arts in the early 1980s.

Charles' life mission of bringing free orchestral music to diverse audiences began in Colorado Springs but continued throughout his life. In 2000, Charles founded the Boston Landmarks Orchestra, which continues to bring symphonic music to Boston neighborhoods. Just two months before he died, Charles joined longtime friend (and another former Colorado Springs Symphony conductor) Christopher Wilkins in bringing the first symphonic music program ever to Fenway Park; the 15,000 free tickets to the event were claimed in four days.

Also in 2010, Charles returned to Colorado Springs where he was honored by the Colorado Springs Youth Symphony upon its 30th anniversary celebration. Charles said at the time: "Colorado Springs is a city I call home." Charles is pictured above at the celebration with Youth Symphony Music Director Gary Nicholson.

GRANTS

Total grants awarded: \$158,261

Celebration Multicultural Ensemble, through Pikes Peak Library District Foundation

General operating support, \$1,000

Chamber Orchestra of the Springs

General operating support, \$5,000
Art Creates Community prize, \$5,000

Club of Arts

General operating support, \$3,000

Colorado College

Summer Festival of the Arts, \$3,500

Colorado Springs Children's Chorale

Bob Crowder Fund, \$1,000

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center

General operating support, \$7,000

Colorado Springs Philharmonic

General operating support, \$26,000

Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum

Reorganization plan, \$5,000

Colorado Springs Youth Symphony

Mozart String Project, Chamber Ensemble,
\$4,000

Concrete Couch

General operating support, \$1,500

Cresson Dance

Woodland Park classes, \$1,000



Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region,

General operating support, \$10,000
Sustainable parks and cultural services
survey, \$1,000
Discretionary grant, \$100

FutureSelf

General operating support, \$5,000

Independent Film Society of Colorado

Indie Spirit Film Festival, \$1,500

KRCC

World Music Series, \$4,000

La Foret

MeadowGrass Music Festival, \$3,000

Leadership Pikes Peak

Arts Day support, \$2,000

Manitou Art Theatre

General operating support, \$5,000
Bee an Arts Champion Award, \$1,000

Opera Theatre of the Rockies

General operating support, \$7,500

Pikes Peak Arts Council

Pikes Peak Arts Festival, \$1,500
Mural sponsored project, \$2,000
Peak at the Arts: Global Arts Exchange,
\$2,000

Pikes Peak Children's Museum

Concert series, \$1,750

Pikes Peak Community Foundation

Indy GIVE Campaign arts support, \$2,500

Rock Ledge Ranch Living History Association

Pikes Peak Eco Fest arts activities, \$1,000

Rocky Mountain Arts Association

Out Loud Men's Chorus general operating support, \$2,000

Springs Ensemble Theatre

General operating support, \$1,500

Tri Lakes Center for the Arts

Capacity building, \$2,000

UCCS Theatreworks

General operating support, \$7,500

Ute Pass Theatre Guild

Symphony Above the Clouds, \$1,000

Woodland Park Office of Economic Development

Midland Pavilion construction, \$5,000

\$25,411 was provided to the Colorado Springs Philharmonic through the Symphonic Music Fund.

Pictured on preceding page, from top: MeadowGrass Music Festival at La Foret; Concrete Couch; Springs Ensemble Theatre

GRANTMAKING

Our Goals

Through its granting and other activities, Bee Vradenburg Foundation is keenly interested in the health of the arts community of the Pikes Peak region, especially the performing arts. Our grants touch many parts of the cultural sector, with particular interest in:

- Growing and sustaining cornerstone arts organizations that are part of the cultural fabric of the region.
- Supporting smaller, new and emerging arts organizations and artistic endeavors.

We measure the effectiveness of our grants by their ability to achieve one or many of five primary goals:

- Building the capacity and effectiveness of arts organizations.

- Broadening, deepening and diversifying arts audiences.
- Encouraging employment in the arts sector and recognizing and advancing the talents and skills of individual artists.
- Supporting arts education and youth participation in the arts.
- Fostering diversity in artistic employment, art forms and arts audiences.

Guidelines & Eligibility

Please note that we highly encourage first-time applicants to call or email the foundation in advance of applying.

Organizations may apply for funding once per calendar year, regardless of whether a request is approved within that 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 but not beyond.
- Have an active employment nondiscrimination policy approved by the board that is inclusive of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, age, physical or mental handicap, veteran status and marital status.

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 agency of a nonprofit. Please note that merely “incorporating” as a nonprofit is not the same as securing 501(c)3 status from the IRS; organizations must demonstrate IRS nonprofit status.
- Performances or arts events designed primarily as fund-raisers for non-arts organizations or to advance causes unrelated to the arts.
- In general, the foundation does not provide funding directly to public or private schools. Our focus is instead of supporting arts nonprofits that work directly in schools to enhance the school arts experience.

Grant Sizes and Structures

Grants are structured based on the size of organizations.

- **Bee Grants** - Organizations with prior-year or current-year revenues of \$50,000 or less are eligible for a maximum grant of up to \$2,500 per year.
- **Standard Grants** - Most Standard Grants range in size from \$2,500 to \$10,000. Organizations with prior-year or current-year revenues of \$50,001 or more are eligible for Standard Grants.

Types of Support

Foundation grants can come in various forms:

- General operating support.
- Season or programmatic support.

- Scholarships for students and teachers distributed through qualified organizations.
- Capacity-building support to strengthen organizations through the use of consultants, software, strategic planning initiatives, increased administrative assistance and more.
- Challenge grants designed to help nonprofits increase their individual-donor ability.
- Capital projects.
- Outreach programs to increase exposure to the arts.

How to Apply

Grant applications are downloadable from the foundation’s website. One copy of the application should be mailed or delivered, along with proof of 501(c)3 status and nondiscrimination policy. The foundation happily encourages phone calls and emails with any questions prior to submittal. Please ensure that all pages in the application are copied on one side only (no double-sided pages) and do not use any staples, folders or other bindings. If you wish to submit special collateral such as programs or season brochures, please provide eight copies. To submit color photographs, please provide on a disc or email the digital files.

Deadlines

Applications are accepted year-round but must be received by 5 p. m. January 1, April 1, July 1 or October 1 to be considered for review during the quarterly trustee meetings. When those dates fall on a holiday or weekend, the first weekday thereafter applies. The foundation will notify organizations within 45 days of the outcome of their submission.

BOARD, STAFF & FINANCIALS

Board of Trustees

George A. Vradenburg III, Chair
 Phillip A. Kendall, President
 Libby Rittenberg, Treasurer
 Kathleen Fox Collins, Secretary
 Alissa Vradenburg
 John Vradenburg
 Tyler Vradenburg

Staff

Susan Edmondson, Executive Director

Financial Information

For year ended December 31, 2010:

Grants paid: \$158,261

Fair market value of investments:

\$4,341,447 (includes \$570,109 in the Symphonic Music Fund)

Pursuant to IRS disclosure requirements, copies of the Form 990pf for the Bee Vradenburg Foundation are available by contacting the office, 719.477.0185.

Contact

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