

**Bee Vradenburg Foundation
Report to the Community
2012**



DEAR FRIENDS

What a difference a decade makes.

It has been 10 years since Bee Vradenburg Foundation formally launched in the community, and these have been years of growth,

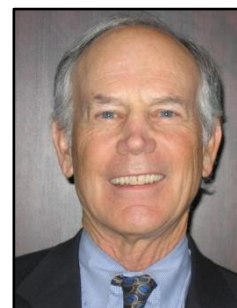
Our mission: Advancing Bee Vradenburg's vision of a thriving and diverse cultural community by investing in the excellence, innovation and sustainability of the arts in the Pikes Peak region.

challenges, opportunities, and – especially – great art, music, theatre, dance and more. Through

the years, the foundation has been a visible and vocal champion for the arts. We have provided nearly \$2 million in funding to arts nonprofits, and we've worked side by side with many of you to help make your organizations stronger.

We've been passionate advocates for the role of the arts in building a community that is welcoming, exciting, compassionate and economically thriving.

As we enter our next decade, we look forward to continuing our partnership with the talented and inspiring artists and arts organizations that make Colorado Springs and the Pikes Peak region such a great place to live. Bee had such a deep affection for this community, and we know that her spirit lives on.



*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 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. Many foundation



board members serve on boards of arts organizations in the region, and Executive Director Susan Edmondson served the arts community in a variety of ways, including:

- Susan wrapped up her six-year term on the board of COPPeR, the Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region, and she remains on its Peak Arts Fund Committee. The Peak Arts Fund is a collaborative campaign building awareness of, and support for, 18 nonprofit arts organizations.
- Susan facilitated a panel presentation at the 2012 Americans for the Arts national conference in San Antonio, titled “Boots to Brushes: The Arts’ Role in Serving Veterans’ Needs.” The panel provided a spotlight for the work of Kim Nguyen, pictured at right with Susan. Kim, creative program manager at AspenPointe Enterprises, works closely with the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center to serve veterans returning from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars; the Colorado Springs Veteran Outreach Office and Cottonwood Center for the Arts to serve the veterans of multiple wars; and Fort Carson Survivor Outreach Services to serve fallen soldiers’ families.
- Susan served on the boards of Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum, Downtown Development Authority and the Colorado Springs World Arena (and Pikes Peak Center for the Performing Arts).



Bee an Arts Champion Award: Steve Wood



The Bee an Arts Champion Award honors the legacy of Bee Vradenburg by recognizing individuals who have demonstrated sustained, passionate and innovative leadership toward advancing the arts in the Pikes Peak region. In 2012, trustees honored Steve Wood, founder of Concrete Couch. Steve's work is prevalent throughout the region, from the Uncle Wilber Fountain to Memorial Park, from North Middle School and Manitou High School to Fort Carson. But Steve will be the first to tell you that much of this work is not his – it's the community's. Steve pulls together people from all walks of life: schoolchildren and military veterans, urban planners and neighborhood associations, to create public art and build community. He founded Concrete Couch seven years ago because he not only believes that art creates community, but that by

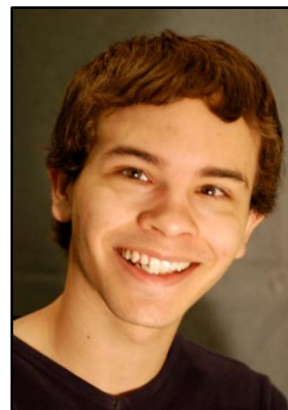
coming together, everyone in the community can create art.

Fellowship Program Opens Doors

Now in its third 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 2012, two interns were selected from a competitive pool of applicants. Franklin Bennett, top right, a graduate of Mesa Ridge High School, is studying theater and integrated marketing communications at Northwestern. He interned at a place that is near and dear to him: Colorado Springs Children's Chorale, where he had spent a decade of his childhood fostering a love of singing and performing. Franklin helped the Children's Chorale with marketing and social media and also taught classes.

Patrick Bohnen discovered his love of the arts in college. A UCCS student majoring in visual arts with a minor in economics, Patrick interned at the Business of Art Center. There he was a jack of all trades, learning everything from inventorying to contract negotiations, and he also curated a show. Patrick's time with the BAC was extended into the fall, and in late 2012 Patrick was hired permanently as curator and gallery manager. BAC Executive Director Natalie Johnson says Patrick has been "a life-changing addition" to the BAC!



Free for All Summer Symphony: A Celebration of Charles Ansbacher and Bee Vradenburg



The Free for All Summer Symphony: A Celebration of Charles Ansbacher and Bee Vradenburg entered its second year, honoring the legacy of two dear friends and colleagues who shared a love of Colorado Springs and a desire to make orchestral music accessible to all. This special program is made possible by a gift from the Charles Ansbacher Foundation to the Bee Vradenburg Foundation, which is providing matching funds to support a free orchestral concert in the community. This year, while clouds threatened briefly, the crowds were not deterred. Hundreds spread out on the Armstrong Quad at Colorado College to hear classical and pops favorites from the Colorado Springs Philharmonic, under the baton of Josep Caballe-Domenech. Charles' widow, Swanee Hunt, joined in the evening and shared memories of Charles and his many exciting years with our city's orchestra.



Foundation's 10th Anniversary Celebration brings community together

In November 2012, hundreds of artists, arts administrators and civic leaders gathered at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center to join in as the foundation celebrated its 10th anniversary. Foundation Chair George Vradenburg shared warm memories of his mother, Bee, and Foundation President Phil Kendall told the crowd that, since inception, the foundation has provided nearly \$2 million in support to

local arts nonprofits. Phil also presented a surprise 10th anniversary grant: A check for \$10,000 was provided to COPPeR's Peak Arts Fund, which helps support 18 arts nonprofits in the region. A highlight of the evening was a passionate talk by Ben Cameron, program director for the arts at

Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. His remarks were both provocative and inspiring, and continue to resonate in the community. To read a

transcript of Cameron's remarks, or to see a video of his speech recorded by Pikes Peak Library District, go to our website.



GRANTS

AspenPointe Enterprises

Discretionary grant, \$300

Business of Art Center

Fellowship program, \$2,000

Fellowship extension, \$1,000

Vandalism recovery, \$2,500

Colorado College

Summer Music Festival free outdoor concert, \$2,000

Colorado Springs Children's Chorale

Fellowship program, \$2,000

General operating support, \$7,500

Colorado Springs Chorale

General operating support, \$4,000

Colorado Springs Dance Theatre

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet performance, \$1,000

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center

General operating support, \$10,000

Colorado Springs Philharmonic

Free for All Concert, \$30,000

General operating support, \$28,000

Colorado Springs Youth Symphony

Mozart String Program, scholarships, \$5,000

Colorado Vocal Arts Ensemble

General operating support, \$1,000

Concrete Couch

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

Cottonwood Center for the Arts

Discretionary grant, \$200

Total grants awarded in 2012:

\$192,741

Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region

General operating support, \$10,000

Business & Arts Lunch sponsorship, \$1,500

Discretionary grant, \$100

El Cinco de Mayo

Festival performances, \$1,500

Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum

Discretionary grant, \$200

Imagination Celebration

Christopher Weed public art, \$2,000

KRCC

World Music Series, \$2,500

La Foret

MeadowGrass Music Festival, \$3,000

Millibo Art Theatre

General operating support, \$5,000

Ormao

General operating support, \$4,000

Pikes Peak Community Foundation

Indy GIVE Campaign, \$2,000

United arts fund program, \$10,000

Discretionary grant, \$100

Sheer Audacity "Bending Towards the Light" concerts, \$1,000

Pikes Peak Jazz & Swing Society

Education programs, \$1,500

Theatre d'Art

General operating support, \$1,500

Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts
General operating support, \$2,000

Veronika String Quartet
General operating support, \$500

UCCS Theatreworks
General operating support, \$5,000

A special 10th Anniversary grant of \$10,000 was awarded to the Peak Arts Fund of COPPeR, supporting 18 arts nonprofits in the region.

Grants of \$500 each were awarded to Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum, UCCS Theatreworks and Colorado Springs Philharmonic for training with the Grantsmanship Center.

A grant of \$26,841 was provided to the Colorado Springs Philharmonic through the Symphonic Music Fund.

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 on 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.

To Apply for a Grant

Applications can be downloaded on the foundation website. One copy of the application plus attachments should be mailed, emailed or delivered in person by the deadlines stated below. The foundation happily encourages phone calls and emails with any questions prior to submittal. 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
Noel Black
Susan Pattee
Alissa Vradenburg
Tyler Vradenburg

Staff

Susan Edmondson, Executive Director

Financial Information

For year ended December 31, 2012:

Grants paid: \$192,741

Fair market value of investments:

\$4,220,664 (includes \$580,727 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, 719.477.0185.

CONTACT

730 North Nevada Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
Phone 719.477.0185
Fax 719.389.1252

susan@beevradenburgfoundation.org

www.BeeVradenburgFoundation.org
Facebook.com/BeeVradenburgFoundation

Photo credits

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- 10th Anniversary Celebration photos courtesy Allison Daniel, Stellar Propeller.