



2019

# ANNUAL REPORT

BEE VRADENBURG  
FOUNDATION



## DEAR FRIENDS

As we write to you today, we see a community and a nation where so much has changed. We long both for a return to normalcy and fervently hope that the status quo will never again be acceptable. We look forward to the safe reopening of theatres, galleries, and live music venues – the creative soul of our community – and we commit to never again allow systemic racism, injustice, and inequity to corrupt this creative soul. But today we look back. We look back to acknowledge our failure to proactively confront racism in our own work. We look back to harvest the creative seeds of the past that will blossom into a more just tomorrow. And we look back to celebrate the artists and arts organizations that will ultimately heal our community.

As we look back, there is a lot to celebrate from 2019. Manitou Springs voters approved the Manitou Arts, Culture and Heritage tax (MACH) to provide much needed public support for the arts. This first-in-the-region tax proves that art does matter to local voters and should be used to inspire similar action across the region. Mesa Ridge High School junior, Shaienne Knox’s film, “Out of Our Heads” was broadcast on PBS stations across the country. The film, created as part of the Youth Documentary Academy, explores the commodification of black hair and the pressure black women face to conform to white standards of beauty. Now more than ever, these and so many other success stories fortify our conviction that art is essential.

Bee knew the power of the arts. She believed that art has the power to create a more just and vibrant community, making the arts a transformational force to deliver on the promise of America for all. We know that Bee’s spirit of discovery lives on in the Pikes Peak region thanks to the artists and arts organizations that inspire us to think differently. Now, looking forward, we must act on this inspiration to create an even more vibrant creative sector, and in



doing so, a more vibrant and just creative sector...a more vibrant and just community.

*George 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 and friends, 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 2019 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 as president of Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region (COPPeR) board of directors.
- Service as vice-chair on the City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board.
- Close work with COPPeR and the Pikes Peak Community Foundation to create the Peak Arts Prize, and service as an expert grant reviewer for the program.
- Service on the Lodging and Automobile Rental Tax (LART) committee.



## **Bee an Arts Champion Award: Brett Andrus and Lauren Ciborowski**

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.

When Brett and Lauren opened The Modbo and soon thereafter purchased S.P.Q.R Gallery, they set in motion a renaissance for the arts in Colorado Springs. Now, a decade later, the profound impact of both spaces on the arts community cannot be overstated. Modbo and S.P.Q.R transformed the arts community with a commitment to showcasing excellent contemporary art and challenging our perception of what's hip, what audiences want (and just as importantly, what they'll buy), and the very notion of what is possible.



The award includes a \$1,000 grant to an organization of each recipient's choice. Lauren directed the funding to the Colorado College Music Festival and Downtown Partnership Art on the Streets Program. Brett directed his award to Inside Out Youth Services.

## **Internship Program Helps Emerging Arts Leaders**

Now in its tenth year, the foundation's internship program provides college students 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 position, and local arts nonprofits gain valued assistance from the most talented emerging arts leaders.



In 2019, the foundation provided a grant to Theatreworks to hire Lily DiSilverio. Lily is a graduate of the University of Alabama and currently pursuing a master's degree in finance with an eye toward nonprofit work. Lily is a gifted actor and performed regularly at the Fine Arts Center as part of the Youth Repertory Program.

Lily worked primarily on marketing and development at Theatreworks, but her abilities proved valuable and she was able to take on project for other UCCS arts entities like the Galleries of Contemporary Art and the UCCS Artists Series as well.

## GRANTS

**Colorado Springs Philharmonic**  
General operating support, \$29,539

**Pikes Peak Community College Foundation**  
Capital support, \$20,000

**Chamber Orchestra of the Springs**  
General operating support, \$13,000

**Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region (COPPeR)**  
General operating support, \$10,000

**Ormao**  
General operating support, \$7,500

**UCCS Theatreworks**  
General operating support, \$7,500

**Youth Documentary Academy**  
General operating support, \$7,500

**Colorado Springs Youth Symphony**  
General operating support, \$5,000

**Manitou Art Center**  
General operating support, \$5,000

**Peak Startup**  
Program support, \$5,000

**Rocky Mountain Public Media**  
Program support, \$5,000

**UCCS Artists Series**  
Challenge grant, \$5,000

**Converge**  
General operating support, \$4,000

**Colorado Springs Children's Chorale**  
General operating support, \$3,000

**Pioneers Museum** (pictured below)  
Program support, \$4,000



*Credit: Regan Foster (Southeast Express)*

**Total grants awarded in 2019:  
\$161,039**

**Textiles West**  
General operating support, \$3,000

**Colorado Vocal Arts Ensemble**  
General operating support, \$2,500

**Colorado Springs Dance Theatre**  
General operating support, \$2,500

**Colorado Springs Youth Symphony- Manitou  
Chamber Music Festival**  
General operating support, \$2,500

**Poetry Heals**  
General operating support, \$2,500

**Rocky Mountain Women's Film**  
General operating support, \$2,500

**UCCS Visual and Performing Arts Department**  
Program support, \$2,500

**Colorado Springs Chorale**  
Program support, \$2,000

**Rocky Mountain Highway**  
Program support, \$2,000

**Leadership Pikes Peak**  
Program support, \$1,500

**America the Beautiful Chorus**  
General operating support, \$1,000

**Benet Hill**  
Program Support, \$1,000

**Flying Pig Farm**  
Program support, \$1,000

**Inside Out Youth Services**  
Bee an Arts Champion award, \$1,000

**Woodland Park Wind Symphony**  
General operating support, \$1,000

**Art on the Streets**  
Bee an Arts Champion award, \$500

**Colorado College Summer Music**  
Bee an Arts Champion Award, \$500

## **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 501(c)(3) nonprofits or under the fiscal sponsorship of a nonprofit.
- Performances or arts events designed primarily as fundraisers 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**

Standard 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 more than \$50,000 are eligible to request up to \$15,000.
- Organizations applying for capital support should contact the foundation before submitting a request.

COVID-19 Recovery Grants are available in 2020. Funding priorities are:

- Relevance grants- The creation and presentation of new work that is particularly relevant to the moment and/or responds to the crisis.
- Resilience grants- Short-term emergency or "hibernation" support to help organizations cover basic expenses like website hosting and insurance during a pause in operations.

Preference will be given to requests that demonstrate a clear plan to achieve resilience during and following the crisis.

- Capacity building grants- technical assistance and investments in the areas of financial and scenario planning, partnerships and mergers, and technology.

As the nation continues to grapple with our long history of systemic racism, the Bee Vradenburg Foundation is eager to support artistic endeavors that respond to, or are inspired by, the racial reckoning. Please contact the Foundation to learn more about funding opportunities.

### **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. COVID-19 Recovery grants are accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis.

## **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, Trustee Emeritus  
Tyler Vradenburg, Trustee Emeritus

### **Staff**

David Siegel, Chief Executive Officer

### **Financial Information For year ended December 31, 2019:**

**Total expenses and disbursements:**  
\$289,669

**Fair market value of investments:**  
\$4,627,374 (includes \$633,989 in the permanently restricted Symphonic Music Fund)

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

### **CONTACT**

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