



**Bee Vradenburg Foundation  
Report to the Community  
2016**



## DEAR FRIENDS

As 2016 came to a close, a few local arts organizations received surprise, unsolicited grants from the Bee Vradenburg Foundation. These grants were not large - \$5,000 in total – but we hope the gesture represents a token of our appreciation for the artists and arts organizations that make the Pikes Peak region a great place to visit and an even better place to live. After all, it is the small, incremental progress that over time adds up to create a truly thriving arts community.

We often choose to celebrate the big, visible ‘wins’, and there are no doubt plenty of these success stories with which to regale you, but it is the incremental improvements we observed in 2016 that really give us hope for the future of the arts in the Pikes Peak Region. We cheered as new murals were installed at the Energy Resource Center, Manitou Arts Center and Penrose Library, the Arts Month Artini saw record attendance, and construction began on a new studio and classroom space for art students at Pikes Peak Community College.

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 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.

2016 reminds us yet again to be grateful for the many artists and arts organizations that continue providing provocative, joyous, and life-affirming performances, exhibits and festivals. In return, we continue the work of our namesake, Bee Vradenburg, to ensure that art is the soul of our thriving community.



*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 2016 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.
- Chair of Partners in Philanthropy, an annual luncheon highlighting the importance of philanthropy in the region.
- Service on the Bemis strategic planning subcommittee, part of the new Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center and Colorado College alliance.
- David completed 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.
- Service 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.





## Bee an Arts Champion Award: Gary Nicholson



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 takes more than waving a baton to bring together musicians, artists, and students but Gary Nicholson makes it look easy. Gary co-founded the Colorado Springs Youth Symphony Association in 1980 and has served the organization as music director since its inception. In the past thirty six years, Gary has mentored and motivated thousands upon thousands of young musicians in the Pikes Peak region, many of whom have gone on to study at the nation's most prestigious conservatories and perform in the world's best orchestras. Youth Symphony alumni have also gone on to become entrepreneurs, scientists, lawyers and doctors.

This is what set's Gary apart. At his core, Gary understand that art and art education is about more than simply mastering an instrument; it is about becoming a better, more curious, more creative, and more productive member of society. This is why the trustees of the Bee Vradenburg Foundation were thrilled to honor Gary with the 2016 Bee an Arts Champion Award. The award came with a \$1,000 grant to an organization of the recipient's choice and Gary asked to direct this grant to the Youth Symphony Scholarship Fund. Congratulations Gary!

## Internship Program Helps Emerging Arts Leaders

Now in its seventh year, the foundation's internship 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 the most talented emerging arts leaders.

In 2016, the foundation provided a grant to the UCCS Galleries of Contemporary Art (GOCA) to hire Suzie McMurtry. Suzie, a studio art major at Colorado College, is particularly interested in architecture and built design.

At GOCA, Suzie was tasked with researching internationally acclaimed public art installations to help curate the new Ent Center sculpture garden. Suzie also flexed her architectural muscles by working with GOCA staff to make design improvements to the Marie Walsh Sharpe Gallery at the Ent Center. Although Suzie's internship technically ended in September, she has continued to work with her new colleagues at UCCS to strengthen ties between the Colorado College and UCCS art departments. We can't wait to see what Suzie will accomplish next!



## Arts Organizations Collaborate to Attract New Patrons

Local arts organizations already have a reputation for strong teamwork and this reputation took another step forward in 2016. In partnership with the Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region, the Bee Vradenburg Foundation led an effort to stand up a shared database with information on local arts patrons.

Data Center, a program of the data-driven arts marketing and consulting firm TRG Arts, allows arts organizations to seamlessly trade and research mailing lists, while keeping patron data secure and confidential. With the help of a subsidy from the Bee Vradenburg Foundation, 13 local organizations have enrolled in the program and nearly 40,000 local households are represented.

This means the Imagination Celebration can invite families that attended a children's show at the Fine Arts Center to participate in a multicultural arts day at the Imagination Space inside the Citadel Mall. Data Center is a powerful tool and just another way the Foundation continues to make art even more accessible to residents and visitors in the Pikes Peak region.



## GRANTS

### **Benet Hill Monastery**

Program support, \$1,000

### **Chamber Orchestra of the Springs**

Capacity building, \$8,000

### **Colorado Springs Children's Chorale**

Program support, \$1,000

### **Colorado Springs Chorale**

General operating support \$2,000

### **Colorado Springs Creative Collective**

Project support, \$6,000

### **Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center**

General operating support, \$7,500

### **Colorado Springs Philharmonic**

General operating support, \$49,000

### **Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum**

Project support, \$5,000

### **Broadmoor World Arena and Pikes Peak Center**

Capital grant, \$10,000

### **Colorado Vocal Arts Ensemble**

General operating support, \$1,500

### **Concrete Couch**

General operating support, \$1,000

### **Cottonwood Center for the Arts**

General operating support, \$4,000

### **Critical Karaoke**

General operating support, \$2,500

### **Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region**

General operating support, \$11,500

### **Downtown Ventures**

Program support, \$2,000

### **Energy Resource Center**

Project support, \$3,000

**Total grants paid in 2016:**

**\$179,471**

### **Galleries of Contemporary Art, UCCS**

Internship grant, \$2,000

### **Hear Here**

General operating support, \$1,000

### **Imagination Celebration**

General operating support, \$3,700

### **Leadership Pikes Peak**

Scholarship grant, \$2,000

### **Manitou Chamber Music Festival**

General operating support, \$1,500

### **Opera Theatre of the Rockies**

General operating support, \$5,000

### **Ormao**

General operating support, \$6,000

### **Pikes Peak Jazz and Swing Society**

Program support, \$1,500

### **Poetry Heals**

General operating support, \$1,500

### **Rocky Mountain Highway**

Program support, \$2,500

### **Rocky Mountain PBS**

Program support, \$5,000

### **Springs Ensemble Theatre**

General operating support, \$3,500

### **Theatre d' Art**

General operating support, \$1,000

### **University of Colorado, Colorado Springs**

Capital grant, \$16,666

### **Youth Documentary Film Academy**

General operating support, \$5,000

## 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, 2016:**

**Grants paid:** \$179,471.17

**Fair market value of investments:**

\$4,220,430 (includes \$578,240 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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