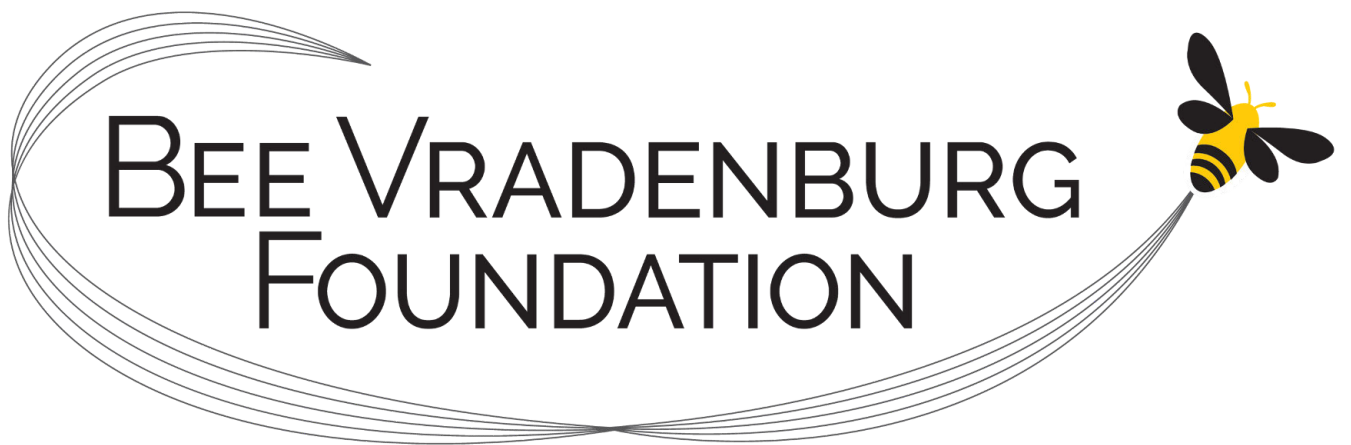




2017

**ANNUAL
REPORT**



DEAR FRIENDS

Bee's friends and family gathered in Shove Chapel eighteen years ago to celebrate her life and appreciate her countless achievements on behalf of the community. These achievements are too numerous to count, but each accomplishment started with an understanding that the arts are the soul of a thriving community. Fifteen years ago, we – along with many others close to Bee – came together to create a charitable foundation in her name. We did so with the belief that strategic philanthropy would galvanize a robust creative community in the Pikes Peak region.

Fifteen years on, we see this belief realized through artistic achievements large and small. In 2017, we applauded these achievements with support for projects as diverse as the inaugural Ent Center Presents season and an artistic collaboration between the Pikes Peak Library District and Inside Out youth services. We worked hand in hand with the Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region to secure unprecedented municipal funding from the City of Colorado Springs for local arts organizations and worked with the UCCS Galleries of Contemporary Art and the Marie Walsh Sharp Foundation to launch the public art program at the Ent Center for the Arts (pictured below).

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.

2017 was a year of profound accomplishment for and by the artists and arts organizations that make the Pikes Peak region a great place visit and an even better place to call home. As we look forward to the sixteenth year for the Bee Vradenburg Foundation, we are immensely grateful for the talent and creativity of the local arts community and look forward to continuing our investment in the local creative community. After all, we – like Bee – know that the arts are the soul of a 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

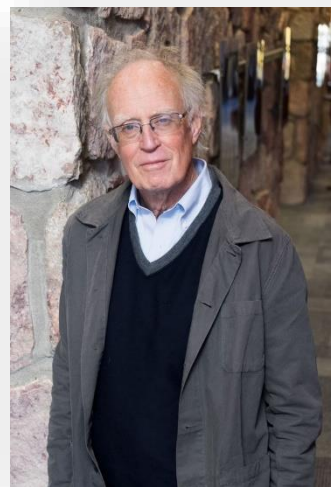
Staff and Board

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 2017 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 Secretary and Chair of the Governance Committee on the Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region (COPPeR) board of directors.
- Began service on the City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board
- Service on the Bemis strategic planning subcommittee, part of the new Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center and Colorado College alliance.
- Service as a trustee of the Pikes Peak Community College Foundation



Bee an Arts Champion Award: Sally Hybl, Pam Shockley-Zalabak and Betty and Murray Ross



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.

Unfortunately recognizing just one individual was simply inadequate this year. The Ent Center for the Arts is without question the most impactful enhancement to our arts community in this decade, and it is the visionary leadership of Sally Hybl, Betty and Murray Ross, and Chancellor Emerita Pamela Shockley-Zalabak that brought the monumental project to fruition.

The award came with a \$1,000 grant to an organization of the recipient's choice. Sally, Pam and Betty all agreed to direct this grant to the Murray Ross Artistic Endowment.

Internship Program Helps Emerging Arts Leaders

Now in its eighth 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 2017, the foundation provided a grant to KCME to hire Audrey Bussanich. Audrey, a student at Pikes Peak Community College is a talented pianist, vocalist, and songwriter. Using her musical skills, Audrey worked closely with KCME leadership to build out the KCME's new jazz service, JAZZ 93.5 FM. This work included everything from building the jazz recording library to hosting on-air segments and conducting remote broadcasts. Audrey was so helpful that KCME hired her to continue her work with the station following her internship. Congratulations Audrey!



Arts Organizations Generate \$153 Million Economic Impact

The Arts and Economic Prosperity Study was released in 2017 and the results are striking. The total economic impact of nonprofit arts organizations in El Paso and Teller Counties is \$153 million, including nearly \$16 million in state and local government revenue. Moreover, the scientific study found that arts nonprofits account for five thousand full-time equivalent jobs, more than double local arts employment just five years ago. The data show a clear trend; the arts sector is thriving, and arts nonprofits play an ever-larger role in our community's growing economy.

GRANTS

Colorado Springs Philharmonic

General operating support, \$29,587

88.7 KCME

Program support and internship grant, \$15,000

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College

General operating support, \$10,000

Galleries of Contemporary Art

General operating support, \$10,000

Ent Center Presents

Program Support, \$7,500

UCCS Theatreworks

General operating support, \$7,500

Chamber Orchestra of the Springs

General operating support, \$5,000

Give! Campaign

Program support, \$5,000

Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum

Project support, \$3,000

Imagination Celebration

General operating support, \$3,000

Manitou Springs Arts Council

**Total grants paid in 2017:
\$130,587**

Project support, \$3,000

Exponent Philanthropy

Sponsorship grant, \$2,500

Manitou Springs Creative District

General operating support, \$2,500

Rocky Mountain Women's Film Institute

Program support, \$2,500

Veronika String Quartet

General operating support, \$2,500

Rocky Mountain Highway

Program support, \$2,000

Colorado College Summer Music Festival

General operating support, \$1,500

Leadership Pikes Peak

Program support, \$1,500

Inside Out

Project support, \$1,000

Pikes Peak Library District

Project support, \$1,000



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, 2017:

Grants awarded: \$130,587

Fair market value of investments:
\$4,603,258 (includes \$545,718 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.

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