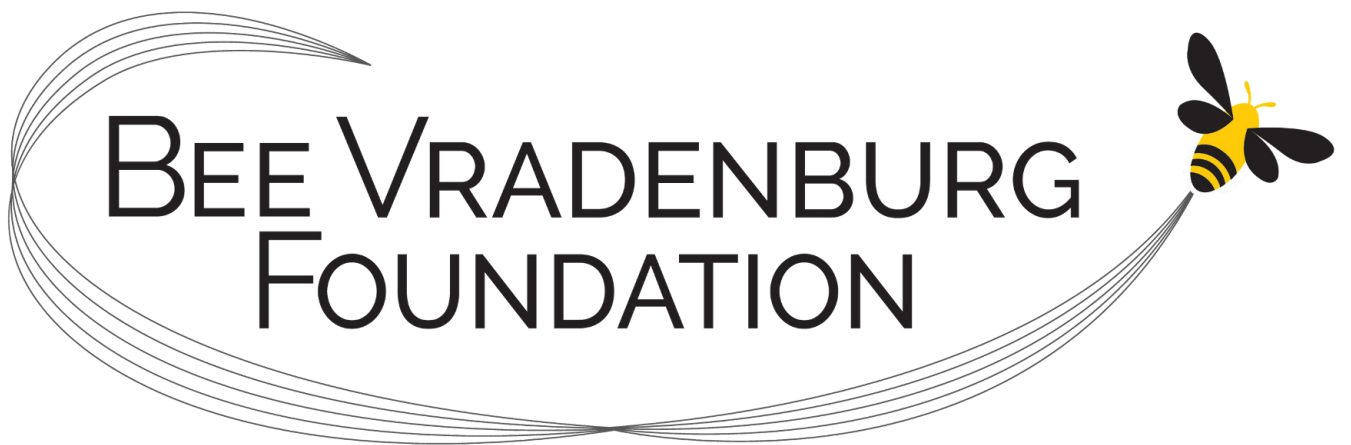




2018

ANNUAL REPORT



DEAR FRIENDS

Look how far we've come! Bee moved to Colorado Springs in 1946 and got right to work in support of a thriving arts community. More than seventy years later, we think Bee would be proud of the prosperous creative community she seeded so many years ago.

There are now more than 400 nonprofit arts organizations in the Pikes Peak region and a burgeoning community of creative businesses. In 2018 our military community gained unprecedented access to creative experiences thanks to the Military Arts Connection (MAC), a partnership between the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region (COPPeR), Colorado Creative Industries, Fort Carson, and many other arts organizations and individual artists. Concrete Couch embarked on an exciting endeavor using community-built art to restore and enhance a blighted property southeast of Downtown. And the Pikes Peak Community Foundation partnered with COPPeR to create the Peak Arts Prize, a first of its kind funding opportunity for individual artists, creative businesses and nonprofit organizations. These are just a few of the many success stories that earned Colorado Springs recognition from US News and World Reports, which named our community the 2nd Best Place to Live in 2018.

As we begin the seventeenth year for the Bee Vradenburg Foundation, we are immensely grateful for the talent and creativity of local artists, nonprofits and creative businesses. We can't wait to continue our support for the arts in our community.

Bee, the longtime general manager of the Colorado Springs Symphony once quipped in an interview, "people have always accused me of loving the Symphony more than anything in my life; that's not true, it's the community I love best." This quote inspires the vision we at the Bee Vradenburg Foundation strive to achieve, a future where arts are the soul of a thriving community. The examples above and other artistic achievements too numerous to count give us certainty that indeed, Bee would be proud.



*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 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 2018 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.
- Service on the City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board and Colorado Springs Public Art Commission
- 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 as a trustee of the Pikes Peak Community College Foundation



Bee an Arts Champion Award: Sharon Friedman



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.

Quietly, Sharon Friedman has done more to advance the arts community in Colorado Springs than just about anyone. Today, we laud Sharon as the founding producer of the Story Project, but her community legacy is far more robust. She served on the boards of Theatreworks, the Business of Art Center and was on the original community funding panel for the Gay and Lesbian Fund. In the words of Bee Vradenburg Foundation Trustee, Noel Black, “Sharon is a consummate ‘shower-upper’ at art openings and performances throughout the community. She’s a true supporter and patron of the arts.”

The award came with a \$1,000 grant to an organization of the recipient’s choice. Sharon generously directed the funding to Opera Theatre of the Rockies and the Millibo Art Theatre.

Internship Program Helps Emerging Arts Leaders

Now in its ninth 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 position, and local arts nonprofits gain valued assistance from the most talented emerging arts leaders.

In 2018, the foundation provided a grant to Concrete Couch to hire Clayton Bussanich. Clay is a true renaissance man. He is a championship Judo athlete, competitive rock climber, and a seriously talented metal artist. Clay learned to weld at Concrete Couch and quickly put those skills to work, creating this 22-foot tall, 750-pound recycled metal hammer which now stands at the entrance to Concrete Couch’s new property on Royer Street.



Lodging and Automobile Rental Tax

The Lodging and Automobile Rental Tax (LART) provides critical public sector support for the arts in Colorado Springs and the foundation is working closely with a broad group of community stakeholders to increase LART revenue and support for the arts. Nation data show that cultural tourists spend more and stay longer than other visitors, so it makes sense to use LART to support the very arts offerings that attract cultural tourists. In 2018, the Foundation worked closely with the Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region to finalize a first of its kind contract to support Peak Radar, and overall City support for the arts nearly doubled in 2018. Foundation Trustee, Kathleen Fox Collins serves on the LART committee; Kathleen and the entire Bee Vradenburg Foundation team will continue to work closely with the City to leverage additional LART support for the arts.

GRANTS

Colorado Springs Philharmonic

General operating support, \$74,534

Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region

General operating support, \$23,000

Concrete Couch

Capital support, \$17,000

Colorado Springs Conservatory

General operating support, \$10,000

Opera Theatre of the Rockies

General operating support and sponsorship, \$8,000

Ormao

General operating support, \$7,500

Center for Regional Advancement

Project support, \$5,000

Colorado Springs Children's Chorale

General operating support, \$5,000

Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

Project support, \$5,000

Colorado Springs Youth Symphony

General operating support, \$5,000

Converge Lecture Series

Program support, \$5,000



Total grants awarded in 2018:

\$204,534

Imagination Celebration

General operating support, \$5,000

Manitou Art Center

General operating support, \$5,000

Veronika String Quartet

General operating support, \$4,500

Colorado College Summer Music Festival

General operating support, \$4,000

Colorado Springs Dance Theatre

Program support, \$2,500

New Horizon Band

General operating support, \$2,500

Rocky Mountain Highway

Program support, \$2,500

Poetry Heals

General operating support, \$2,000

Colorado Springs Chorale

General operating support, \$1,500

Colorado Vocal Arts Ensemble

General operating support, \$1,500

Salida Circus Outreach

Project support, \$1,500

Greenberg Center

Project support, \$1,000

Manitou Chamber Music Festival

General operating support, \$1,000

Palmer Land Trust

Program support, \$1,000

Pikes Peak Community College Foundation

Sponsorship grant, \$1,000

Millibo Art Theatre

Bee an Arts Champion Grant, \$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 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

Financial Information For year ended December 31, 2018:

David Siegel, Executive Director

Total expenses and disbursements:

\$309,916

Fair market value of investments:

\$4,225,395 (includes \$545,718 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

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