



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

PRESENTED BY



315 E. Pikes Peak Ave. #120
719-477-0185
BeeVradenburgFoundation.org



Dear Friends,

2021 was a period of transition in our country, in our region, and in our work on behalf of the arts. Bee Vradenburg's life was a testament to the power of the arts, and in this time of change, we are inspired afresh at how the arts exert their power to help our community come together and envision a bold new future.

The arts are vital to our region as it grows. We rejoice to see this conviction gain a robust and inspiring framework with the release of Arts Vision 2030, the new 10-year cultural plan for the Pikes Peak Region. Bee Vradenburg Foundation CEO David Siegel co-chaired the planning process with Andy Vick, executive director of the Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region, and the final product pairs audacity with authenticity, energy with intention, and meaningful engagement with methodical planning. On every page the plan asserts the arts are not a nice-to-have, but a *have-to-have*, deserving of substantive support in the form of diversified funding, high-quality education, and due consideration by and support from local decisionmakers. We applaud their efforts and look forward to championing the plan in the work of the Foundation over the next decade. The completion of the plan is a fitting capstone to David's 8 ½ years of dedicated and forward-looking service with the Foundation, and as he steps into a new and challenging role, we ask you to join us in expressing heartfelt gratitude and firm support for him as an arts leader. Bee herself would have been so proud!

Of the cultural plan's declarations, the first – and foundational – asserts that the advancement of historically underrepresented artists, creatives, and audiences will empower a more just, inclusive, and equitable culture in the Pikes Peak Region. The arts have an essential role in advancing equity in our community, and the Foundation continues to address the ways in which it can proactively serve and lead to counter historic racial and cultural exclusion. In 2021 we built on relationships in minoritized neighborhoods and increased our use of innovative practices to support marginalized organizations, including proactive grantmaking and multi-year capacity-building commitments. We prioritized funding for artistic projects that highlight the Black and Brown lived experience, and as you will see on page 07, we have increased the percentage of grant dollars going to Black and Brown artists and leaders nearly tenfold since 2019.

We are, of course, not done yet: this work will continue for many years to come. We are so pleased that the next chapter for the Bee Vradenburg Foundation will be written with the help of incoming executive director Claire Swinford, an arts advocate with deep roots in the community and a proven track record of advancing our community through equity, access, and visibility for underserved artists and arts patrons. The Foundation itself will gain wider exposure with its move to the Philanthropy Collective, a campus for forward-looking funders addressing key issues in our region.

As we look ahead to what would have been Bee's 100th birthday this November, we remain certain arts are the soul of our thriving community. We see it in the joyful resurgence of live performance, the blossoming of innovative endeavors that celebrate our artistic community's diversity, and in legacy institutions' growing attentiveness to the ways they can extend a proactive and inclusive hand to make the arts ever more accessible to all who call this region home.

We celebrate these signs of resilience, as we know Bee would have. We know there is much work yet to be done, and we look forward to it with Bee's indomitable spirit. Above all, we remain committed to ensuring that equity goes hand-in-hand with excellence in artistic endeavors large and small, and we remain grateful for your active participation in honoring Bee's legacy in building a thriving community through a greater spirit of inclusion.

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 to which she set her mind. Committed to the ideal of a vibrant and collaborative arts community, Bee gave this grand vision the full focus of her personality, tenacity, and intellect throughout her life.

Bee was an incredible force, a woman who began her tenure as manager of the Colorado Springs Symphony in her living room and ended it 37 years later in a world-class concert hall – an edifice built largely through the power of her ability to organize her community around compelling ideas.

Bee's private generosity mirrored her public commitment. Community members recall Bee helping them in ways large and small: paying for music lessons or a musical instrument; underwriting high school projects; or giving money to get a member of the arts community through a hospital stay. Even as she took on herculean tasks such as raising the capital to build the Pikes Peak Center, she maintained focus on the human impact of the arts, beloved for gestures such as ensuring community members had a chance to experience “Pops on Ice” at the Broadmoor every Christmas.

Bee died in 2000 and the Foundation, formed by her family and friends, honors her legacy.

A smiling woman with glasses and a large floral headpiece. The word "INITIATIVES" is overlaid in large white letters.

INITIATIVES

COMMUNITY ADVOCACY

In addition to grantmaking, the Bee Vradenburg Foundation trustees are deeply committed to supporting efforts to strengthen the sustainability of the arts and culture sector and expand awareness of its assets.

Foundation trustees serve on boards of arts organizations and CEO David Siegel served the arts community in a variety of ways:

- Chair, Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board
- Vice-chair, Lodging and Automobile Rental Tax (LART) Committee
- Representative, Colorado Springs Public Art Commission
- Co-chair, Philanthropy Colorado Arts and Culture Funder peer group
- Member, Colorado Springs Philharmonic board of directors
- Arts advocate, Pikes Peak Community Foundation Resiliency Through Innovation (RTI) steering committee
- Co-chair, ArtsVision 2030 cultural planning process

BEE AN ARTS CHAMPION

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. The award includes an honorary grant to an organization of the recipient's choice.

Ashley Cornelius (pictured, page 04) has already left an indelible mark on our community and she's just getting started. Ashley is the Co-Director of Poetry 719, winner of the Colorado Springs Independent's "Best Colorado Springs Artist" award, and was recently named Pikes Peak Poet Laureate among many other accomplishments. She has an innate ability to use art to confront important and challenging conversations like LGBTQ+ rights, racial equity, and body positivity by speaking truth to power through the arts and inviting others in to join the conversation. Ashley proves the adage that art creates community, but she takes it a step further, showing us all how art can change the world.

ARTS INTERNSHIPS

Paid internship placements through the Foundation provide students the opportunity to gain skills for arts careers, diversifying the field of young professionals ready to take on leadership roles in the community.

In 2021 the Foundation provided a grant to the Arc Pikes Peak Region to hire UCCS senior Jorden Smith, well known as the founder of A Positive Note, which provides opportunities for youth with disabilities to make music. At the Arc Jorden expanded his repertoire, planning curriculum and working with Arc clients virtually and in-person.

"The students truly had so much fun learning about the fundamentals of music, playing instruments, and writing their own class song," said Arc training specialist Emily Price. "Thank you so much to the Bee Vradenburg Foundation for giving the Arc this opportunity!"

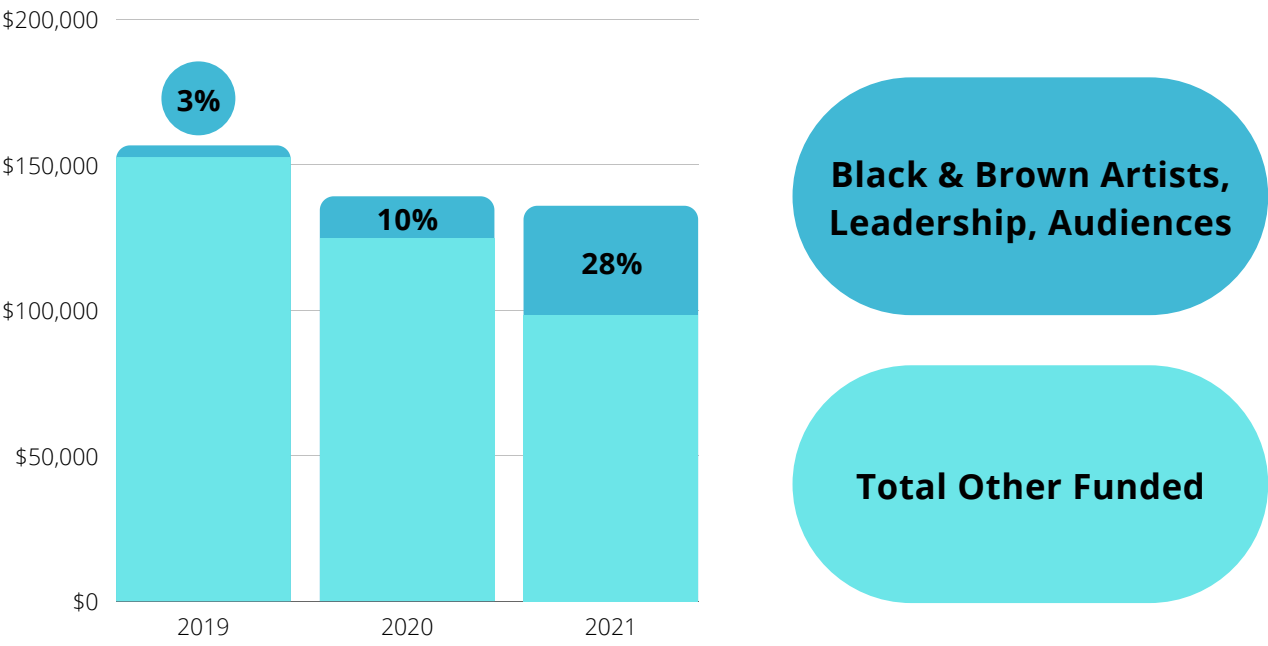


Bee Vradenburg Foundation is committed to furthering the long-overdue evolution of the artistic and philanthropic landscape in the Pikes Peak Region. We recognize that the Foundation's philanthropic and administrative actions and policies have not done enough to address racial inequity in our local arts community.

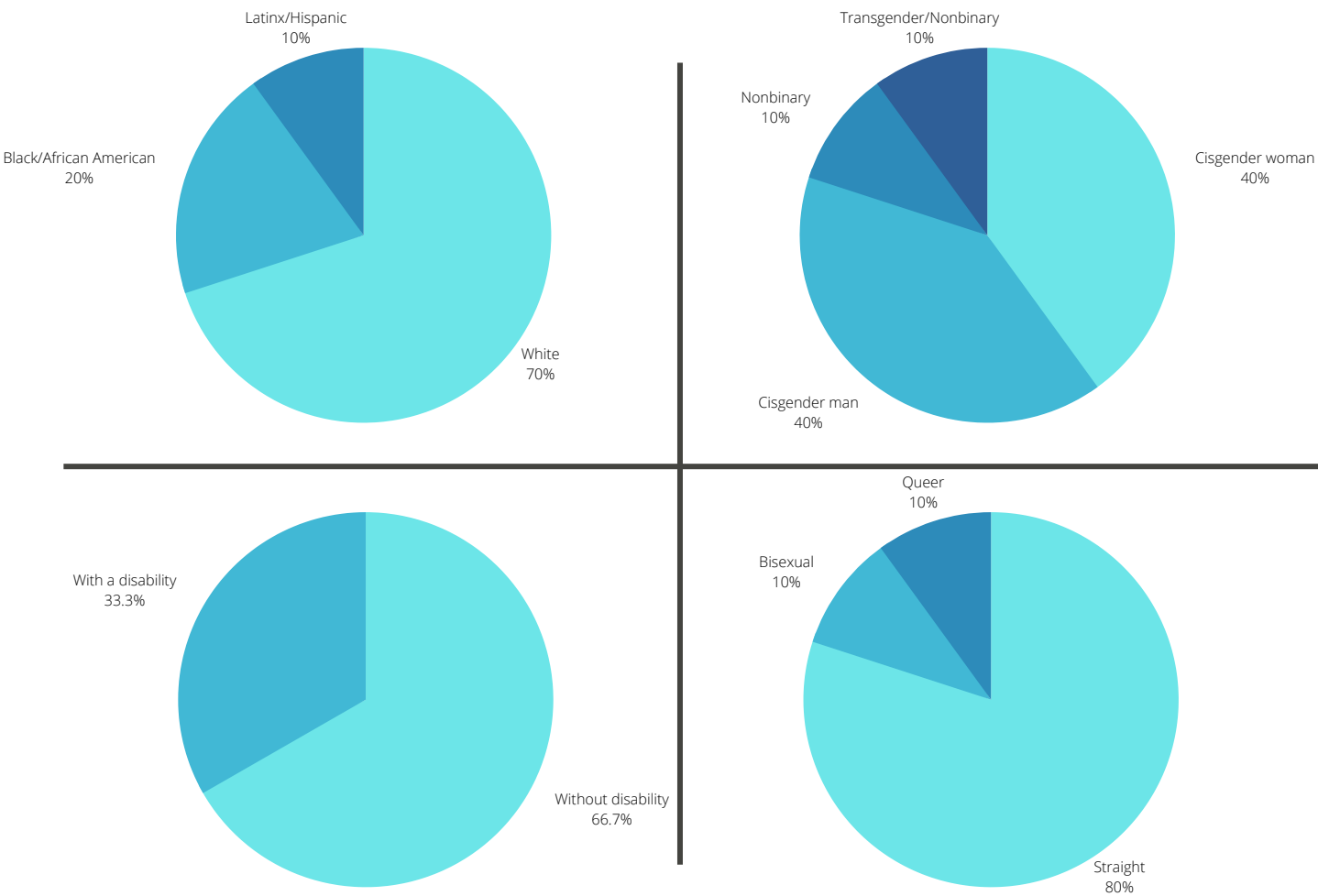
This history cannot be erased overnight, and our equity work is not simply a box to be checked. In 2020 the Foundation made a long-term commitment to address exclusion of underrepresented communities in our own philanthropic work, and in 2021 the Foundation continued to engage deeply in internal and external equity work. The progress charted here represents the first small steps on a long and transformative road. By eliminating internal policies that perpetuate inequity, financially supporting Black and Brown artists and arts organizations, and prioritizing equity in community involvement, the Foundation hopes to create a fundamentally healthier, more expressive, and more meaningful community for all residents of and visitors to the Pikes Peak Region.

This is a deepening of the Foundation's work over the last twenty years. Indeed, this commitment to equity is firmly in service of Bee's belief and the Foundation vision statement that "arts are the soul of a thriving community." Art has tremendous power to bring disparate communities together, and the BVF board and staff will continue to invest in, encourage, and champion artists, arts organizations, and creative businesses in all threads of the tapestry of our community.

GRANTS: TOWARD RACIAL EQUITY



BOARD & STAFF COMPOSITION





GRANTMAKING

The Arc Pikes Peak Region**
\$3,500 general operating

Ballet Folklorico de Barajas
\$3,000 general operating

Chamber Orchestra of the Springs
\$7,500 program

Chinese Cultural Institute
\$1,000 program

Colorado Business Committee for the Arts
\$5,000 capacity-building

Colorado Public Media
\$5,000 capital

Colorado Springs Chorale
\$2,500 general operating

Colorado Springs Conservatory
\$5,000 general operating

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College
\$4,000 program

Colorado Springs Philharmonic
\$15,000 general operating

Concrete Couch
\$1,000 program

\$135,570

**GRANTS AWARDED
IN 2021**

Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region
\$18,750 general operating & program

Dance Alliance of the Pikes Peak Region
\$7,000 general operating & capacity-building

Educational Partnerships Immersive Concerts (EPIC)
\$5,000 general operating

Knob Hill Urban Arts District
\$1,000 program

Manitou Art Center*
\$1,000 general operating

Millibo Art Theatre
\$3,000 general operating

Old Colorado City Partnership
\$4,000 program

OneBodyEnt
\$5,000 general operating & program

Ormao Dance Company
\$3,000 general operating

Pikes Peak Community Foundation for the Community Cultural Collective**
\$2,500 general operating

Pikes Peak Library District Foundation Shivers Fund*
\$1,000 program

Rocky Mountain Women's Film
\$5,000 program

Smokebrush Foundation
\$2,500 program

Thrive Colorado
\$4,000 program

Trust for Public Land
\$7,500 program

UCCS Galleries of Contemporary Art (GOCA)
\$8,000 general operating & program

UCCS Theatreworks
\$5,000 general operating

* Grant awarded by Bee an Arts Champion honoree

** BVF Internship Host Organization

A woman and a young girl are looking at a large display case in a museum. The woman is wearing a black face mask and a dark jacket. The girl is wearing a white face mask and a white shirt with red text. They are both looking at a large display case that contains various items, including a book and some papers. The background shows a museum gallery with other display cases and a door.

FUNDING PROCESS

FOUNDATION 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.

ELIGIBILITY

Organizations may apply for funding once per year. All applicants must:

- Be a nonprofit 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.

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.

GRANT SIZES

Grants are based on the size of an organization's budget:

- Organizations with prior-year or current-year revenues of \$50,000 or less may request up to \$2,500 per year.
- Organizations with prior-year or current-year revenues of more than \$50,000 may request up to \$15,000.
- Organizations applying for capital support should contact the Foundation before submitting a request.

GRANTS FOR EQUITY IN THE ARTS

As the national conversation on racism and social justice continues to develop, the Bee Vradenburg Foundation is eager to support artistic endeavors that respond to, or are inspired by, the lived experience of marginalized communities. Please contact the Foundation to learn more.

TO APPLY FOR A GRANT

Grant application form is available at BeeVradenburgFoundation.org. Applicants may submit applications by mail, in person, or via email. For email applications, please combine the entire application in a single PDF.

DEADLINES

Applications are accepted year-round but must be received Jan. 1, Apr. 1, Jul. 1 or Oct. 1 to be considered during quarterly trustee meetings. When those dates fall on a holiday or weekend, the first weekday thereafter applies.



BOARD & STAFF

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair George A. Vradenburg III (he/him)

President Phillip A. Kendall (he/him)

Treasurer Libby Rittenberg (she/her)

Secretary Kathleen Fox Collins (she/her)

Susan Edmondson (she/her)

Victoria Lipscomb (they/them)

Kevin Mitchell (he/him)

Susan Pattee (she/her)

Lynn Vidler (they/them)

Trustee Emerita Alissa Vradenburg (she/her)

Trustee Emeritus Tyler Vradenburg (he/him)

STAFF

CEO David Siegel (he/him)

FINANCIALS (FYE DEC. 31, 2021)

\$313,138 | Expenses & disbursements

\$5,160,437 | Fair market value of investments

Includes \$699,109 in the restricted Symphonic Music Fund

Copies of the Foundation's Form 990-PF are available by request.



A TRIBUTE TO DAVID

David Siegel's final day as CEO of Bee Vradenburg Foundation was Dec. 31, 2021, concluding 8 ½ years of service as executive director and later as CEO. David helped establish more reliable public sector support for the arts, implemented a comprehensive strategy to advance racial equity at the Foundation, and guided more than \$1.2 million in grant funding to support local arts organizations. His tenure ended with a bang, culminating in the delivery of Arts Vision 2030, a bold cultural plan for the Pikes Peak Region, a project David co-chaired with the Cultural Office. The Foundation thanks David for his leadership and celebrates the next phase of his career as he takes the mantle of executive director of the Ent Center for the Arts at UCCS. David retains his role as a trustee of the Foundation, providing invaluable support for the next generation of BVF leadership.

A WELCOME TO CLAIRE

A lifelong Colorado resident, Claire Swinford comes to the Foundation after more than five years at Downtown Partnership of Colorado Springs, where she served as executive director of Downtown Ventures, the Partnership's charitable nonprofit arm. During her time with the Partnership, she managed the award-winning Art on the Streets program, was a founding member of the Avenue Creative Circuit and the Art of Accessibility Initiative, and actively participated in the State-Certified Creative Districts program of Colorado Creative Industries. Swinford previously held positions with the Colorado Springs Philharmonic and the Give! Campaign. She also is a painter who has exhibited in several local galleries.



RECOGNITIONS

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Authored by Debbie Howell (Pawnee/Dakota), used with permission from the Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region

The Pikes Peak Region is situated on the ancestral homeland of the Ute Peoples, who are the Southern Ute, Ute Mountain Ute, and Northern Ute. Other tribes who lived and hunted on this land include the Cheyenne, Arapaho, Comanche, and Apache. Even through forced relocation and land dispossession, the land still holds Ute traditions, language, stories, and history. Today, Indigenous people from many Native nations reside here and continue to make significant contributions to our community.

Bee Vradenburg Foundation ties acknowledgement to action by working toward consistent funding for, and respectful relationships with, Indigenous artists and arts patrons.

IMAGE CREDITS

The Foundation is committed to fair compensation for artists. In keeping with this ethos, BVF thanks the following entities for the use of their images: Title page, Wes Magyar; page 01, Stellar Propeller & CS Chorale; page 04, Jenna Kempton; page 06, Chamber Orchestra of the Springs; page 08, OneBodyEnt; page 10, Stellar Propeller; page 12, UCCS GOCA; page 13, Stellar Propeller & Chauncey Bush for the Gazette; page 14, Tom Kimmell.