



2022
Annual Report

From the TRUSTEES



DEAR FRIENDS,

2022 ushered in an exciting new chapter in the Foundation's ongoing mission to foster the relevance, resilience and greatness of the arts in the Pikes Peak Region. We welcomed a new executive director, Claire Swinford, who brings to the Foundation more than a decade of experience serving the cultural vitality of the Pikes Peak Region. We are extremely pleased with her efforts and successes over the last year, which included the launch of a groundbreaking program aimed at empowering and diversifying our region's constellation of arts leaders, and the celebration of two important milestones: the 20th anniversary of the Foundation and what would have been Bee Vradenburg's 100th birthday.

Reflecting on 20 years of arts-focused grantmaking, we are heartened to find that our mission continues to resonate, even as the ways in which we pursue it continue to evolve. Since the Foundation awarded its first grants in 2002, we have distributed more than \$3.5 million to over 150 entities and causes. While most of these are the arts organizations that form the backbone of our creative economy, we're proud that we've also supported innovative arts-based initiatives at workforce development centers, land conservation groups, and drop-in centers for at-risk youth, among many others.

Bee liked to say that "arts are the soul of a thriving community." The arts also foster a richer sense of community, embracing the many traditions, identities and perspectives that make our region such a vibrant place. As we invest more deeply in advancing equity and belonging through the arts, the wide range of organizations with which we work, and the diverse populations that they serve, are a wellspring of inspiration. We remain grateful for the trust placed in Bee Vradenburg as a friend, advocate and guiding light, and we are proud that in 2022 Bee's name, and the mission it stands for, resounded in more corners of our region than ever before.

Bee Vradenburg Foundation continues to advance the crucial work of ensuring that our artists and arts organizations have the resources they need to help our community flourish.

Join us in celebrating the milestones of the past year – and in envisioning an ever-stronger future for the arts in the years to come.



PHIL KENDALL
Board President

GEORGE VRADENBURG III
Board Chair

Bee's LEGACY

On October 30, almost 200 friends of the Foundation joined trustees and staff at CommunityWorks in Southeast Colorado Springs to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Foundation and what would have been Bee Vradenburg's 100th birthday. The event featured live music, spoken-word performance and mural painting as well as remarks from Foundation and CommunityWorks leadership.

Said George Vradenburg, "My mother would have been 100 years old this coming week, on November 1st. Our grantmaking in Bee's honor now totals more than \$3.5 million. As the Foundation celebrates its 20th year, we look forward to living out Bee Vradenburg's legacy by nurturing our partnerships with the ever-growing pool of talented and inspiring artists and arts organizations that make Colorado Springs a great place to live."

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 – a cultural anchor built largely through the power of her ability to organize her community around compelling ideas. Bee's private generosity mirrored her public commitment, and she was known for paying for music lessons, underwriting high school projects, and giving money to get members of the arts community through hard times. In everything she did, Bee lived out her commitment to the ideal of a vibrant and collaborative arts community, a legacy that the Foundation has proudly continued since Bee's passing in 2000.



Foundation INITIATIVES

EMERGING ARTS LEADERS INITIATIVE



In 2022 the Foundation launched the Emerging Arts Leaders Initiative (EALI) to support arts leaders from marginalized communities in accomplishing project-based professional development goals. Developed by BVF trustee Kevin Mitchell in partnership with ED Claire Swinford, the program takes its inspiration from Arts Vision 2030, the 10-year regional cultural plan co-created by the Foundation with the Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region. EALI addresses the vital role of creative leadership in driving resiliency and growth for the arts. Rather than providing a set type of assistance, EALI asks emerging leaders to consider: What do YOU need to benefit your community through the arts?

With holistic, tailored support from BVF staff, trustees and partners, EALI provides emerging leaders room to plan, fail constructively, and pursue the full scope of their vision. Long-term, EALI will help to build a more diverse pool of professional creatives ready to serve on boards, drive policy, and lead mainstay arts organizations.

BVF's 2022 Emerging Arts Leaders were DeAndre and Jennifer Smith of OneBodyEnt and Antoine "Big Samir" Zamundu of award-winning hip-hop group The ReMINDers. Through EALI, OneBodyEnt garnered more than \$80,000 in new grant funding and hosted two youth performing arts events in partnership with UCCS at the Ent Center for the Arts. Meanwhile, Antoine built his vision for an independent career as a creative thought leader, sharing his inspirational message through event curation and public speaking for clients such as Pikes Peak Community Foundation and Colorado Creative Industries.

BEE AN ARTS CHAMPION

The Bee an Arts Champion Award, presented by the Bee Vradenburg Foundation, 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.



A cultural practitioner and teacher for over three decades, Leonor Gonzales has touched generations of Colorado Springs residents with her generosity and love for traditional Mexican dance. She founded Ballet Folklorico de Barajas out of her own desire to reconnect to her family's artistic traditions and pass them on to her children. The sense of home that Ballet Folklorico creates allows Leonor's dancers to speak authentically in the heart language of dance, expressing fears, hopes, and dreams. Leonor Gonzales exemplifies what arts leadership looks like when mindful intentions are set to be inclusive, equitable, and loving. Bee Vradenburg Foundation commends Leonor and Ballet Folklorico de Barajas for their commitment to making this art form, and the cultures it represents, a visible and accessible part of life in Colorado Springs.

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 2022 the Foundation provided grants to Elevated Arts Academy and CReative AlliaNcE Manitou Springs (CRANE) to hire UCCS students Dee Androsiglio and Kali Ryan. Dee conducted studio visits, workshops and career training opportunities for artists on the autism spectrum, while Kali helped CRANE document the City of Manitou Springs' public art collection for its sesquicentennial.

Said CRANE executive director Becca Sickbert, "Kali's Bee Vradenburg Foundation-supported work had significant impact in supporting the core operations of Creative Alliance's mission of lifting artistic and economic vitality. The Manitou Springs community now has a vastly clearer understanding of what works and what artists are represented on our streets and in our parks. The impact of her work will continue to ripple across Manitou Springs every day as visitors, residents, workers and business owners experience public art signage and interpretation during guided tours or daily commutes. Kali, we can't thank you enough and are delighted with what you've been able to achieve!"

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 executive director Claire Swinford served the arts community in a variety of ways:

- ▶ Co-chair of the Philanthropy Colorado Arts and Culture Funder peer group
- ▶ Arts & Culture Pathway lead for the Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC's Connect COS program
- ▶ Member of the UCCS Galleries of Contemporary Art advisory board
- ▶ Member of the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum programs committee
- ▶ Served on Bonfils-Stanton Arts in Society grants adjudication panel
- ▶ Served on PPCF Arts Vision grants adjudication panel





Equity IN THE ARTS

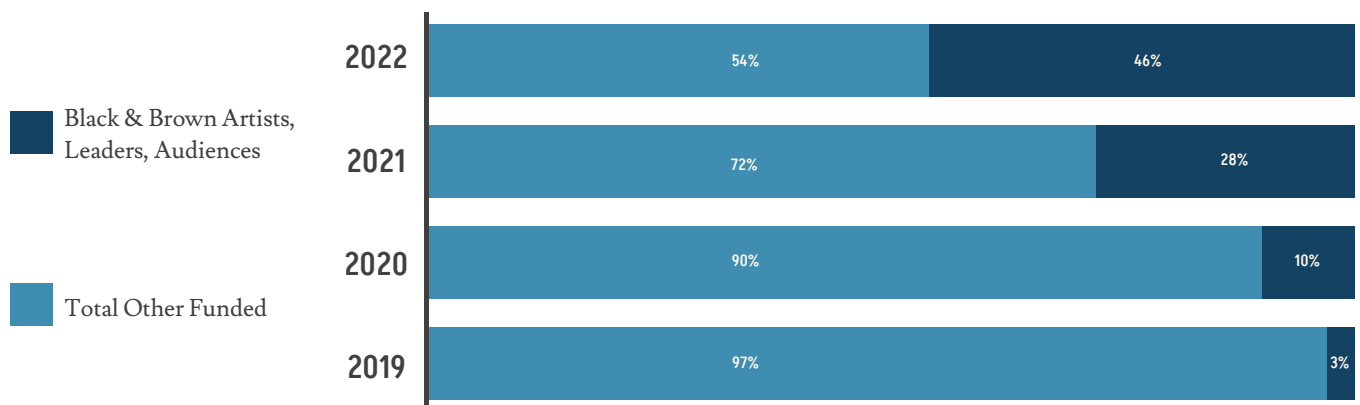
Bee Vradenburg Foundation is committed to furthering the long-overdue evolution of the artistic and philanthropic landscape in the Pikes Peak Region. We recognize that the Foundation's philanthropic and administrative actions and policies have not done enough to address racial inequity in our local arts 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 since then the Foundation continues to engage deeply in internal and external equity work. The progress charted

here represents steps on a long and transformative road. By eliminating internal policies that perpetuate racial exclusion, 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.

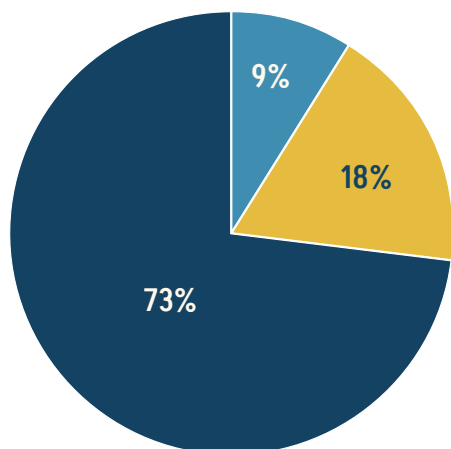
This is a deepening of the Foundation's work over the last 20 years. Indeed, this commitment to equity is firmly in service of Bee's belief and the Foundation vision statement that "arts are the soul of a thriving community." Art has tremendous power to bring disparate communities together, and the BVF 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 EQUITY



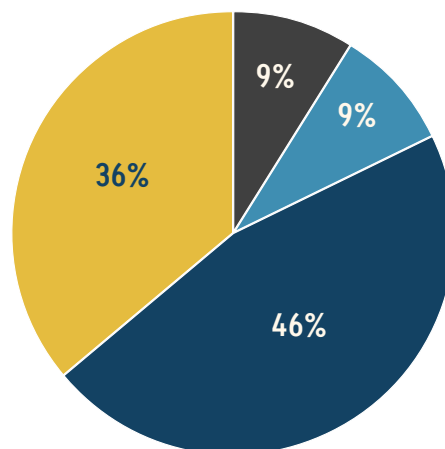
Board COMPOSITION

RACE



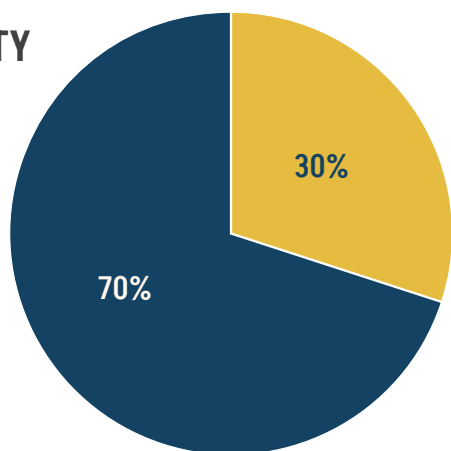
- White • 73%
- Black / African American • 18%
- Latinx / Hispanic • 9%

GENDER



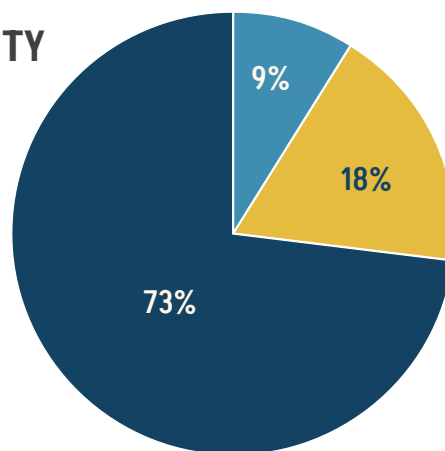
- Female • 46%
- Male • 36%
- Nonbinary • 9%
- Transgender/Nonbinary • 9%

ABILITY



- Without a Disability • 70%
- With a Disability • 30%

SEXUALITY



- Straight • 73%
- Bisexual • 18%
- Queer • 9%

**self-reported*

These graphics show the Foundation's progress on internal goals: to diversify its leadership in a meaningful way and to increase grant funding for Black and Brown artists, arts leaders, and audiences by 10 percentage points annually until such grants make up at least one-third of the Foundation's annual giving. For both commitments, the Foundation holds itself accountable by publishing progress reports regularly.

GRANTMAKING

TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED IN 2022:

\$138,950

■ Program
 ■ Challenge
 ■ General Operating
 ■ Capital
 ■ Outreach

\$2,000

A.M. Lewis Films

\$15,000

Colorado Springs Philharmonic

\$1,500

Alpenglow Music Program

\$5,000

Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum

\$2,000

Flying Pig Farm

\$2,000

Pikes Peak Pride

\$1,000

Awaken Creative Institute

\$1,500

Colorado Vocal Arts Ensemble

\$4,000

Food to Power

\$2,500

Poetry Heals

\$4,000

Ballet Folklorico de Barajas

\$2,500

CommunityWorks

\$1,000

Inside Out Youth Services

\$1,500

Rocky Mountain Highway

\$1,000

Butterfly Effect Theatre of Colorado

\$3,000

Converge Lecture Series

\$1,000

LaTegro

\$5,000

Rocky Mountain Women's Film

\$7,500

Chamber Orchestra of the Springs

\$5,000

Cottonwood Center for the Arts

\$5,000

Manitou Art Center

\$7,500

Trust for Public Land

\$4,000

Colorado College Summer Music Festival

\$2,500²

Creative Alliance Manitou Springs

\$2,000

Old Colorado City Partnership

\$5,000

UCCS GOCA

\$500

Colorado Springs Chinese Cultural Institute

\$1,000

CSPO Players Assembly

\$5,000

OneBodyEnt

\$1,000

UCCS Heller Center

\$2,500

Colorado Springs Chorale

\$5,000

Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region

\$1,500

Opera Theatre of the Rockies

\$5,000

UCCS Theatreworks

\$5,000

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College

\$3,450

Educational Partnerships Immersive Concerts (EPIC)

\$5,000

Ormao Dance Company

\$10,000

Youth Documentary Academy

BEE VRADENBURG FOUNDATION GOALS

Funding PROCESS

- 1 Advocate for arts and arts education as a vital part of the region's economy and quality of life.
- 2 Support emerging and diverse artists, art forms, audiences, and artistic endeavors.
- 3 Foster growth and resilience for arts organizations that are part of the cultural fabric of the region.
- 4 Build organizational capacity of arts groups.
- 5 Cultivate partnerships with businesses and funders to leverage new financial resources for the arts.

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 sponsorship 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
PER YEAR

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 about funding opportunities.

TO APPLY FOR A GRANT

Grant application forms are 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 attachment.

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/they)

Susan Pattee (she/her)

David Siegel (he/him)

Lynn Vidler (they/them)

Trustee Emerita Alissa Vradenburg (she/her)

Trustee Emeritus Tyler Vradenburg (he/him)

STAFF

Executive Director • Claire Swinford (she/her)

A TRIBUTE TO KATHLEEN FOX COLLINS (1942-2023)

It is with profound sadness that the Foundation board and staff mourned the January 9, 2023 loss of our dear friend, fellow trustee and champion of the arts, Kathleen Fox Collins. We have known and admired Kathleen since she first moved to Colorado Springs in 1975 where she soon began working alongside Bee Vradenburg, the general manager of the Colorado Springs Symphony Orchestra. Kathleen served the symphony in various roles over 25 years under the direction and inspiration of Bee. Working alongside Bee and Charles Ansbacher, that "troika" (as Kathleen was fond to say) launched Summer Symphony in the parks and Pops on Ice and most significantly worked to bring the dream of a performing arts center to the reality of the Pikes Peak Center for the Performing Arts.

Kathleen told us that Bee's guidance and inspiration allowed her to bloom. And bloom she did. She brought gusto, wisdom and a steely resolve to all of her arts projects. For almost five decades she devoted her limitless energy and talents to the symphony, opera, theatre, and cowboy music and poetry.

In 2002 Kathleen became a founding member of the Bee Vradenburg Foundation and for two decades worked tirelessly as an advocate to advance the relevance, resilience and greatness of arts in the Pikes Peak Region to further the extraordinary legacy of Bee.



FINANCIALS

FYE Dec. 31, 2022

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

\$4,125,086

FAIR MARKET VALUE OF INVESTMENTS

\$392,475

EXPENSES & DISBURSEMENTS

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.

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

CONTACT

The Bee Vradenburg Foundation is a proud member of the Philanthropy Collective, located at 315 E. Pikes Peak #120 in Downtown Colorado Springs.

Get in touch by calling 719-477-0185 or emailing claire@beevradenburgfoundation.org.

IMAGE CREDITS

BVF thanks the following entities for the use of their images:

TITLE PAGE

- **Muralist Mauricio Ramirez**
image courtesy of Downtown Partnership
- **Chinese Cultural Institute**
image by Dan Selman
- **Cellist Gerald Miller**
image courtesy of Chamber Orchestra of the Springs

PAGE 2

- **George Vradenburg III and Phil Kendall**
images by Stellar Propeller

PAGE 3

- **Tyler, Alissa, and George Vradenburg III**
image by Max Ferguson

PAGE 4

- **Antoine "Big Samir" Zamundu**
image courtesy of Antoine "Big Samir" Zamundu
- **Claire Swinford and Leonor Gonzales**
image by Max Ferguson

PAGE 5

- *Images courtesy of UCCS GOCA*

PAGE 6

- **Muralist Jeresneyka Rose**
image by Max Ferguson