



YEAR IN REVIEW

2018-2019



“ We know the arts strengthen a city. We know the arts enhance our community. We know the arts invigorate our lives. Denver is committed to ensuring the arts continue to grow and thrive. We’re just one year away from 2020, and we’re also committed to keeping the momentum as strong as it is today. Together, we can elevate and create positive change within our communities through a promise of arts and culture for everyone. ”

Mayor Michael B. Hancock

ARTS & VENUES IS COMMITTED

to deepening our community impact, guided by an equity lens that informs our investments and decision-making:

2019 IMAGINE 2020 FUND GRANTEES:

(communities impacted/project focus)

- African American
- Asian American & Pacific Islander
- First Nations People
- Immigrants & Refugees
- Incarcerated or formerly incarcerated
- Latino
- LGBTQ
- Mental Health
- Older adults
- People experiencing homelessness
- People with disabilities
- Veterans
- Victims of domestic violence

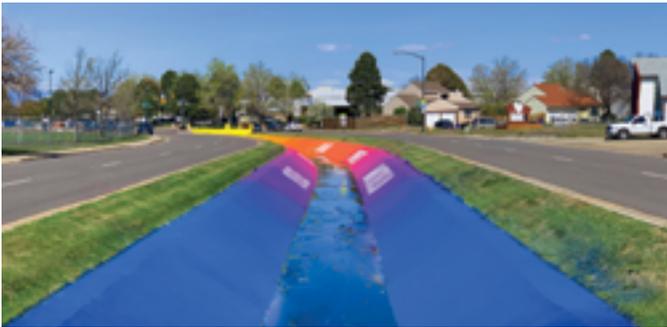
192%

increase in community investment since 2015 through the Cultural Affairs Division's programs, projects and initiatives.



1 INTEGRATION

Increasing Art, Culture & Creativity in Daily Life



HOME SWEET MONTBELLO

Local artist Thomas Evans designed a public art mural to beautify a major drainage canal in Montbello. The project aimed to encourage residents, especially youth, to imagine and create ways to make their neighborhoods healthier and stronger. The brightly-colored mural welcomes passersby with the phrase “Home Sweet Montbello” as they enter the neighborhood and encourages them to “Seize the Day” as they travel in the opposite direction.



VIBRANT DENVER: INSIDE AND OUT

“It was amazing watching students see their work come to life. They worked together to problem solve and combine a variety of different ideas into one cohesive concept for the original public art installation. I am so excited to see students walk to school and see something they have created at such a large scale in their day-to-day lives.”

Chelsea Romaniello, an artist mentor on the 40ft. art installation she created with Arts Street youth students

2 AMPLIFICATION

Amplifying Arts, Culture & Creativity to Residents & the World



EL TEATRO VOLARTE

El Teatro VolARTE, part of Su Teatro’s Cultural Arts Education Institute, performed on the global stage at the American High School Theater Festival, in conjunction with the world-renowned Edinburgh Festival Fringe. The group presented Tony Garcia’s “El Corrido del Barrio,” a full-length play about the people of the Auraria neighborhood and their displacement during the pre-gentrification era of Urban Renewal. Representing Chicanos, the Westside and all of Denver, this theatre experience was life-changing for the youth participants.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN PUBLIC MEDIA ARTS BUREAU

“Participating in the culture hub research project as an interviewer has me thinking about how we could better use our content to fill a need. The interviews have given me a useful tool for community listening that I’ll likely draw on in the future to make sure we’re reaching audiences in diverse communities statewide.”

Brooke Collins, Rocky Mountain Public Media, on establishing the Arts Bureau



3 ACCESSIBILITY

Achieving Access & Inclusivity to Arts, Culture & Creativity



RE/VISIONED

Together with artist Emily vonSwearingen, 56 blind students created art that would be experienced by sighted and non-sighted people. They explored a variety of art mediums and techniques such as drilling and cutting wood, threading and attaching wire, painting, and more. Students were able to express themselves through this process-based art-making, while learning new skills, focusing on self-empowerment and bonding with peers.



RAINBOW MILITIA'S TRAVELING CIRCUS WAGON

“We firmly believe that art is for everybody, and this summer we were able to put that belief into action. Unbuilt Library helped create our circus wagon allowing us to perform all across Denver. Our Community Outreach Manager worked to make all attendees feel welcome through community partnerships and bilingual programming. We are hopeful that we brought neighborhoods together in a celebration of art.”

Amber Blais, Rainbow Militia, on their Traveling Circus Wagon

4 LIFELONG LEARNING

Filling Our Lifetimes with Learning



OUR IMMIGRANT STORIES

Denver Housing Authority and Denver Office of Immigrant & Refugee Affairs co-sponsored “Our Immigrant Stories” at the McNichols Civic Center Building to honor the diversity, strength and determination of Denver residents. The exhibit highlighted immigration stories from residents in the Sun Valley, Mariposa and La Alma neighborhoods and from Arts Street youth students. Through a variety of art forms, the project aimed to strengthen positive perceptions about immigration and increase awareness and appreciation for different cultures.



MOCCASINS EN POINTE

“As an artist, I think you are supposed to inspire other people. As a native woman, it’s my job to bring up issues that aren’t being addressed, and this is a way to do it. If I can change the dancers’ perspectives on who we are as people, then, I feel like I’ve done my job.”

Keya Trujillo-Clairmont, Lakota dancer on the experience of co-creating “Moccasins En Pointe” with Colorado Ballet

5 LOCAL TALENT

Building Careers & Businesses
by Nurturing Local Talent



FEMPOWERED

FEMpowered is a music club for young women ages 14-20 who have an interest in learning about and making music. Housed at Youth on Record in La Alma/Lincoln Park, participants meet twice a month to shape, create and embolden their artistic talents. Together with peers and professional artists, the young women work on their individual abilities, develop group collaborative pieces and learn new skills relevant to advancing the roles of women in the music and entertainment industry.



THE BEST OF DENVER FASHION WEEK

“We’re most proud of our relationships with local designers and talent. From getting to know and collaborate with them, while offering creative support, advice and a public platform, to stepping back and watching them thrive, has been a powerful experience.”

Charlie Price, Creative Director of Denver Fashion Week, on the McNichols Civic Center Building exhibit highlighting the very best of Denver Fashion Week’s 10-year history

6 ECONOMIC VITALITY

Fueling Our Economic Engine

DENVER MUSIC STRATEGY

DENVER MUSIC STRATEGY

Denver is rich with musical talent and assets, from artists and venues to festivals and promoters. Arts & Venues launched the Denver Music Strategy in 2018 to support future growth of its music ecosystem and further amplify Denver as a global music city. The Denver Music Strategy is offered at a time when a demographic shift is favoring a generation spending more on events and travel than physical items, embracing concerts and festivals, and fueling a *new experience economy*.



JMF PARTNERSHIP AT FIVE POINTS JAZZ FESTIVAL

“The beverage sales partnership between JMF Corporation and Arts & Venues this year was a great success for the festival and the neighborhood. Through a collaborative process, JMF created a revenue share between neighboring bars, restaurants and community resource organizations that put \$50,000 back into the Historic Five Points Cultural District. It also helped expand our Juneteenth celebration to a two-day event for the first time.”

Norman Harris, JMF Corporation, on the economic impact of Five Points Jazz Festival

7 COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP

Leading Cultural Development to 2020 and Beyond



DENVER MUSIC ADVANCEMENT FUND

The Denver Music Advancement Fund was created through a public/private partnership between Arts & Venues, Illegal Pete's and LivWell to acknowledge the vital role music plays as an agent for economic vibrancy, education, community innovations and positive social change. Since 2018, this collaboration has awarded \$200,000 in funding to support initiatives that advance the Denver Music Strategy and IMAGINE 2020, the city's cultural plan. The hope is that supporting these programs will spur growth in the local music ecosystem and attract new audiences, particularly youth audiences.



TOUR DE FORCE

“The idea for this groundbreaking collaboration came to Colorado Ballet Artistic Director Gil Boggs three years ago, and required a juggling of the rehearsal and performance schedules of all three companies. The result sets an example for the elevation of unity, inclusion, and diversity between dance companies across the nation.”

Coloradodrama.com review of “Tour de Force,” the collaborative performance by Colorado Ballet, Cleo Parker Robinson Dance and Wonderbound

IMAGINE 2020 DISTRICT CHALLENGE WINNER



COUNCILWOMAN KNEIECH'S “HEALING THROUGH ART” MURAL

Councilwoman Robin Kniech collaborated with the Denver Arts & Skills Center and The Gathering Place to create a mural painted near the underpass at I-25 and Broadway honoring the lives of three community members who tragically passed away at this location.

“This is a remembrance and a testimony to the healing power of art. This mural represents that when we connect with each other, we can grow our capacity to heal.”

Councilwoman Robin Kniech, Denver City Council | At Large

HAVE AN IDEA? WE CAN HELP!

There are so many ways we can help bring your ideas to life with our annual funding opportunities. Here are just a few. Visit artsandvenues.com for updates.

- 1% Public Art Commissions
- Arts Education Fund Partnerships
- Create Denver Partnerships
- Cultural Field Trip Fund
- EDI Grants & Partnerships
- IMAGINE 2020 Fund
- Leading Edge Scholarships
- Mayor's Awards for Excellence in Arts & Culture
- Cultural Partner Program
- Music Advancement Fund
- Next Stage Now
- P.S. You Are Here
- Safe Creative Space Fund
- Urban Arts Fund
- Urban Arts Fund: Engage
- Teacher Creative Development Fund



TOGETHER WITH THE DENVER COMMISSION ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS, DENVER ARTS & VENUES CONTINUES TO STEWARD IMAGINE 2020 THROUGH ONGOING IMPLEMENTATION, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, OUTREACH AND REPORTING. **HERE'S A SNAPSHOT OF WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO THIS YEAR.**

ARTS & VENUES



NEXT STAGE NOW



FIVE POINTS JAZZ FESTIVAL



URBAN ARTS FUND: ENGAGE



DENVER PUBLIC ART WEBSITE



YOUTH ONE BOOK, ONE DENVER



RED ROCKS LOCAL SET SERIES

SPEAKER SERIES

- Now in its 6th year, this original series was created to inspire implementation of all aspects of the cultural plan and offer a forum for conversation, collaboration, education and collective leadership
- 34 Speaker Series and Interactive Workshops to date
- More than 5,500 registered attendees plus drop-ins



EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION INITIATIVE

- ART DROP DAY**
- CHANCE TO DANCE**
- CITY COUNCIL ARTS TIME**
- CULTURAL PARTNER PROGRAM**
- DENVER MUSIC STRATEGY**
- EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROJECT**
- MCNICHOLS PROJECT**
- MAYOR'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN ARTS & CULTURE**

2018-2019 EVENTS

August 2018: Getting to Know Our City Better

Denver Public Library and Denver Office of Children's Affairs

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May 2019: Market Smarter

Capacity Interactive

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7

September 2019: Creative Aging — How to Build and Best Engage Your Older Adult Audience

Damon McLeese of Access Gallery, Amy DelPo of Denver Public Library, Johnathan Sims of Domus Vitae Architecture, Danielle Shulz of Denver Art Museum and more

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October 2019: EDI 101 — Implementing an EDI Strategy in your Organization

Tariana Navas-Nieves of Arts & Venues, Suzi Q. Smith of Lighthouse Writers Workshop, Eleanor Savage of Jerome Foundation, Nita Mosby Tyler of The Equity Project and SCFD

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NEW PUBLIC ART WORKSHOP SERIES

Providing more accessibility to the public art process, especially for artists who have not yet been awarded a public art commission. More than 300 people attended the series.

September 2018: Public Art 101 — How to Apply

Denver Public Art Program team and regional teams, fabricators, commissioners, artists and representatives from callforentry.org

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February 2019: Public Art 201 — Creating a Winning Proposal

Michael Mowry of Mowry Studio, members of the DCCA and local artist Michael Clapper

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August 2019: Public Art 301 — You Got the Commission, Now What?

Denver Public Art Program team and local artist Jeanne Quinn

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Vision Element supported

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DENVER COMMISSION ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS



“The dedication of commission members and staff at Arts & Venues is awe-inspiring. So much happened this year. We introduced the Denver Music Advancement Fund, partnered with City Council to bring exciting new arts projects to council districts all over Denver and created a workshop series for artists to learn how to navigate public art commissions. We strengthened our commitment to Denver’s values of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion by deepening relationships with our community partners and launching an EDI ambassador program for commissioners to engage directly in furthering our goals. It is an honor to be a part of the collective efforts we all bring to the table in making IMAGINE 2020 our lived reality.”

—Suzi Q. Smith, Denver Commission on Cultural Affairs

MEMBERS 2018-2019

Evi Bachrach Makovsky
NAI Shames Makovsky Realty

Rachel Basye
Art Students League of Denver

Stephen Brackett
Flobots, Youth On Record

Kyle Chism
Turner Construction Company

Josh Comfort
Real Estate Development Services

FloraJane DiRienzo
Biennial of the Americas

Jami Duffy
Youth on Record

Kate Greeley
MGT Consulting/Education

Carolynne Harris
Carolynne Harris Consulting

Sarah Kurz
Rose Community Foundation

Bobby LeFebre
*Poet, Performer, Cultural Worker,
Colorado Poet Laureate*

Leesly Leon
*North Denver Cornerstone
Collaborative*

Mike McClung
Michael Warren Contemporary

Michael Mowry
Mowry Studio

Heather Nielsen
Denver Art Museum

Toluwanimi Obiwole
Artist, Educator, Organizer

Sean O’Connell
Live Nation Worldwide, Inc.

Abram Palmer
Parallel Artistic

Van Schoales
A+ Colorado at edXchange

Suzi Q. Smith
Lighthouse Writers Workshop

Maren Stewart
Taloma Partners

Alvina Vasquez
Strategies 360

2020 AND BEYOND

We’re already envisioning what comes next. Through survey results, partner and grantee feedback, community input and a strong foundation to start from, we’ll build a new roadmap for the future. Stay tuned and keep the momentum going!



So that all may thrive, Arts & Venues enriches and advances Denver’s quality of life and economic vitality through premier public venues, arts, cultural and entertainment opportunities.

IMAGINEDENVER2020.ORG
#IMAGINE2020