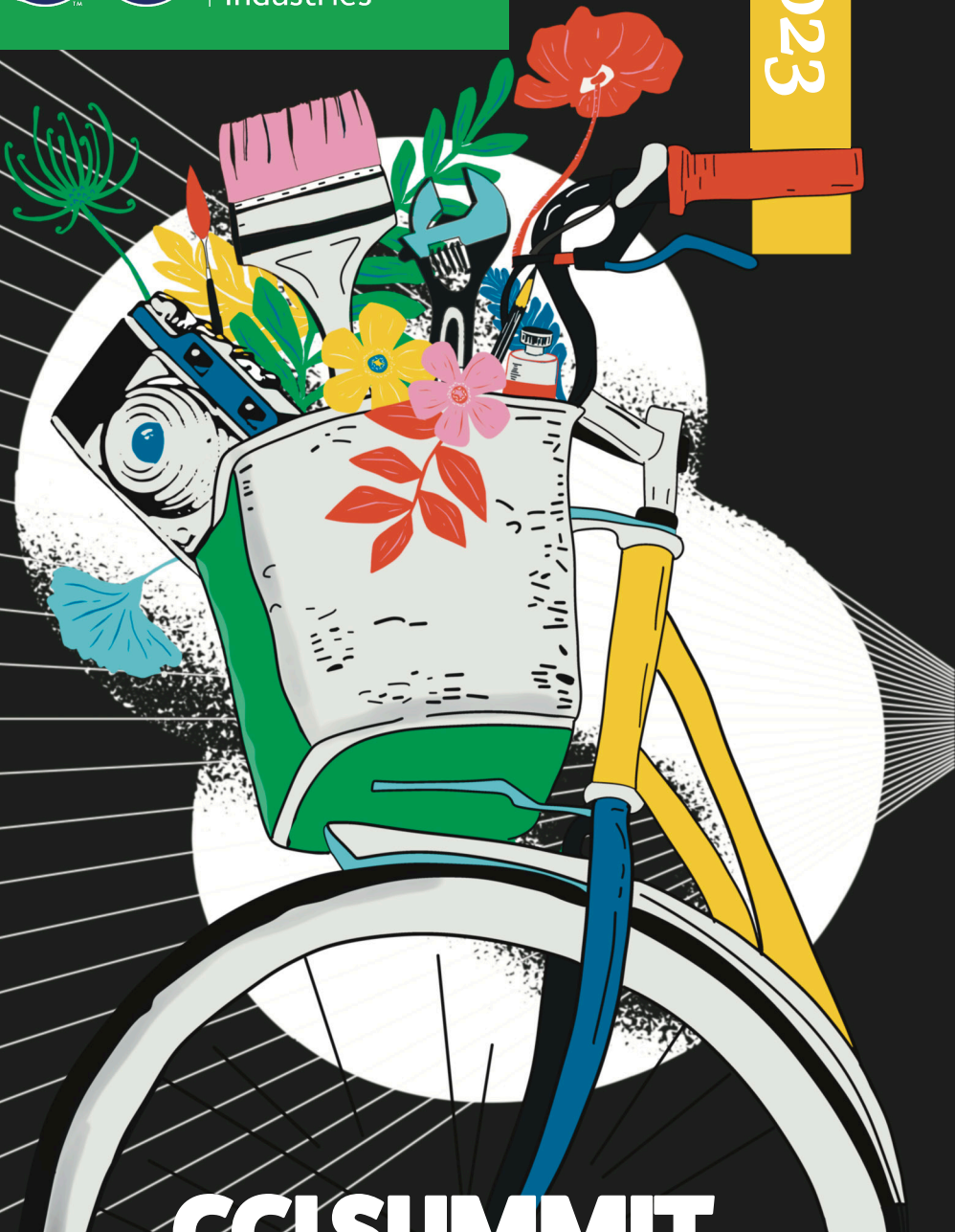




Colorado  
Creative  
Industries

2023



# CCI SUMMIT

A Funky Invitation on the Edge of Nowhere

**CRESTED BUTTE**



# COLORADO

Governor Jared Polis

June 1, 2023

Greetings:

On behalf of the State of Colorado, it is my distinct pleasure to welcome you to the Colorado Creative Industries Summit.



The Colorado Creative Industries Summit was created to foster and support Colorado's creative sector. It provides an important opportunity for CO's creative professionals, arts organizations, educators, community groups and municipal agencies to gather annually to learn, share and imagine together. Colorado's creative sector plays a vital role in supporting the vibrancy, strength, and wellbeing of our Colorado communities; and it empowers all of us to connect, to create, and to be inspired.

At this Summit, you will expand your network with like minded Coloradans and focus on learning together and bolstering our statewide creative community. I encourage you to take this time to learn and listen, to grow in your own profession and find connections with others equally passionate about creative pursuits.

I'm confident that after your time here in Crested Butte and the Gunnison Valley, each of you will continue to innovate and create, strengthening our communities and celebrating culture and creativity.

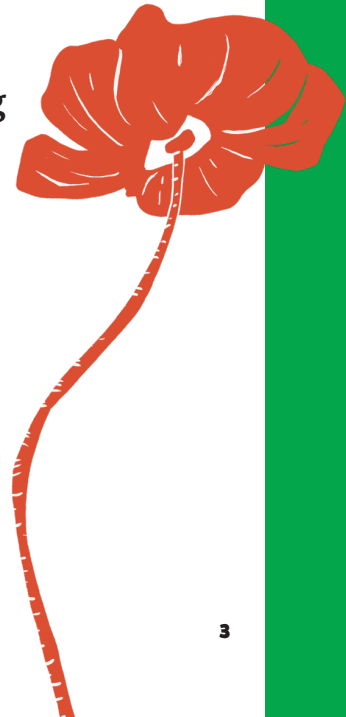
Again, welcome to the Colorado Creative Industries Summit. You have my best wishes for an enjoyable and meaningful experience.

Sincerely,

Jared Polis  
Governor

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# Welcome To Crested Butte & Gunnison



Resting peacefully at the end of the road at 8,885 feet in elevation, Crested Butte has been many things to many people. First, it was the Ute tribes who inhabited this rugged landscape. Crested Butte was incorporated as a town in 1880 upon the discovery of extensive coal deposits. After its early mining days, CB transitioned to outdoor tourism, and has evolved into a refuge for artists and wanderers alike.

People come to Crested Butte and say, “There’s something magical about this place.” They are right. Referred to as “The Gateway of the Elk Mountains” and “The Wildflower Capital of Colorado,” there is no shortage of ways to get lost (or found) here.

Crested Butte was certified as a Creative District in the summer of 2016, with the goal to serve and support creatives so art can enrich our town. Creativity blossoms like the wildflowers here. The town is packed with public art installations, galleries, arts organizations, and artisan makers of metalwork, jewelry, skis and even rum. Self-expression is encouraged here. As you walk the streets of our historic district, you may see painters working en plein air, dancers, filmmakers, photographers, or people dressed in costumes for one of our many public events.

We hope that you explore this incredible place and find magic and inspiration as we do: get lost! (or found), make new friends, forge connections, make something new.

Welcome to Crested Butte!





# HELPFUL SUMMIT INFO



## Here are a few things to help you during this year's Summit...

- CCI Staff will be based in the Center for the Arts Crested Butte lobby if you have questions during the Summit.
- Get connected! Center for the Arts  
Wifi Network: CFTA Guest Wifi Password: welcometothearts
- We want to see the Summit through your eyes! Make sure to tag CCI and other Summit guests!



**#CCISUMMIT**

Facebook Icon: @ColoradoCreatives



Instagram icon: @co\_creatives



Twitter icon: @CO\_Creatives

- Small Business Development Center Consultants will be based in the Green Room and are available for one-on-one consultations (from the Grace Atrium, follow the signs to the backstage of the theater).
- Breaks in between sessions are short. Plan ahead to know the location of your next session. Agendas and session details can be found in this program.
- If you have multiple people from your group, think about splitting up and attending different sessions to get the most out of the event.  
Feel free to take notes! Everyone received a Summit notebook at registration.
- Table centerpieces are available for purchase. Payment for centerpieces can be made in the Center's Kinder Padon Gallery on the 2nd floor of the Center.
- Lost & Found: front main check in table for the summit
- Email feedback to [oedit\\_creativeindustries@state.co.us](mailto:oedit_creativeindustries@state.co.us) or complete the email survey following the event.

Enjoy the 2023 CCI Summit!

# Getting Around Crested Butte

The town of Crested Butte has excellent and FREE public transportation.

The Crested Butte Mountain Express Shuttle loops through Crested Butte and Mount Crested Butte with stops at Old Town Hall, 6th and Belleview, the 4-Way Stop and Teocalli; then proceeds to Mount Crested Butte, where it stops at Wood Creek/Mountain Edge, The Plaza and Mountaineer Square. On its scheduled departure for Crested Butte, it has stops at Three Seasons/Outrun, Mountain Sunrise, Chateaux and Pitchfork. Bike racks are available on the shuttle.

The Gunnison Valley RTA Free Bus runs a loop between Mount Crested Butte, Crested Butte, and the City of Gunnison via Hwy 135.

Visit the Gunnison Valley RTA website or the Crested Butte Mountain Express Shuttle website for more information.

## Driving and parking your vehicle

- Please walk, bike or ride the free bus when possible, as parking in Crested Butte is limited.
- Refrain from parking on Seventh Street and the adjacent neighborhood. Please be courteous to our neighbors by parking near the 4-Way Stop at 6th Street and Elk Avenue, a leisurely four-minute walk away from the Center.
- Additional parking is available at the Crested Butte Community School, located at 818 Red Lady Avenue.
- Please do not park in the driveway parallel to Sixth Street on the west side of the Center; this is a fire lane and is for pick-up/drop-off and loading only.

# CENTER FOR THE ARTS EVENT PARKING



## Handicapped Parking

- Enter the Center’s small parking lot via Sixth Street. The turn-in is immediately south of the concrete retaining wall and marquee sign.
  
- Please reserve the Center’s parking lot spaces for those with handicapped parking placards and those who may need to enter our building from a closer access point, as the lot has a very limited number of spaces.

RTA Bus  
Gunnison to CB to Mt CB



RTA bus schedule can be found here



Mountain Express bus schedule can be found here



Mountain EX  
CB to Mt CB



Key-

- Parks
- Public Parking
- Art Galleries

- 1 Center for the Arts
- 2 Redline Gallery
- 3 Shaun Horne Gallery
- 4 Zacchariah Zypp + Co
- 5 RAModern
- 6 Crested Butte Fine Art Gallery
- 7 Oh Be Joyful Gallery
- 8 Paragon Gallery
- 9 Studio One Eleven
- 10 Rijks Family Gallery

- Mountain Express Bus Stops
- - - Mountain Express Bus Route
- ★ RTA Bus Stops



creative district

- CRESTED BUTTE -



press Bus

To Mt CB +  
Elevation Hotel

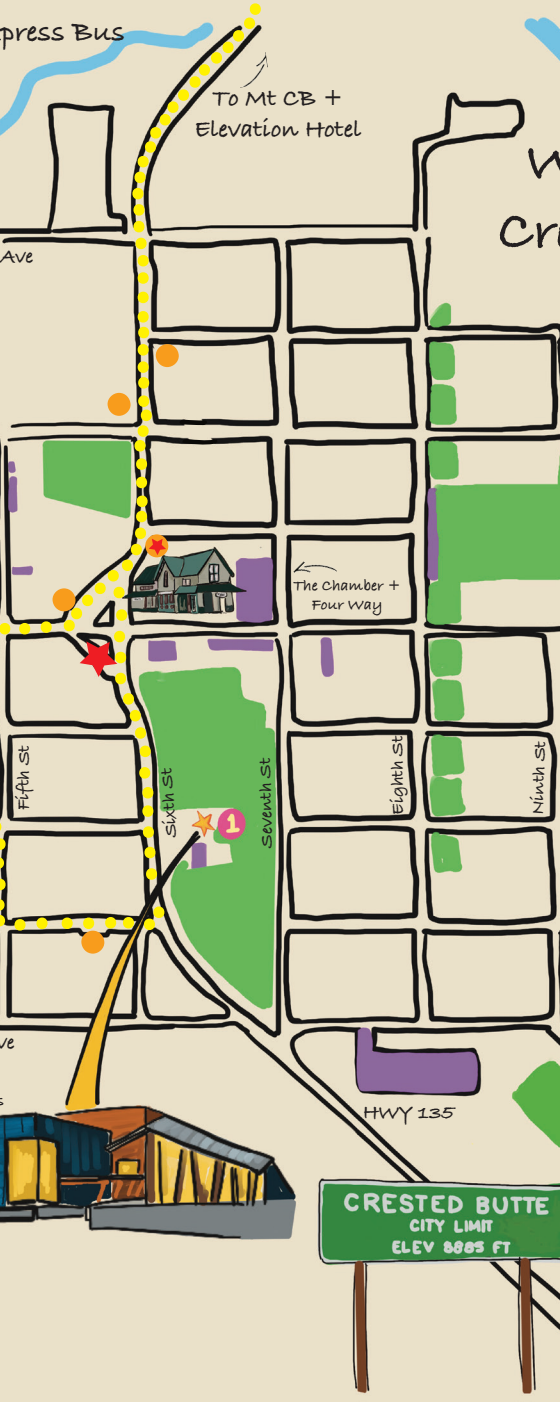
# Welcome to Crested Butte!



Please walk,  
bike or ride the  
bus when  
possible!



Take a public  
art stroll here



created by-  
Sisu Studios LLC

# Explore Crested Butte & Gunnison

## Explore Crested Butte and Extend Your Stay in the Gunnison Valley

- Enjoy the 750+ miles of singletrack on foot or bike. Head over to [Big Al's Bicycle Heaven](#) to rent a bike or purchase merchandise for your adventures. As a CCI participant, you will receive 10% off bike rentals.
- Wander in the historic downtown area. Visit the Crested [Butte Museum](#) and sign up for a historic tour.
- Enjoy a movie in the recently reopened [Majestic Theater](#), the only theater within an 81 mile radius of the Gunnison Valley.
- Take yourself on a [public art stroll](#).
- Schedule a tasting tour and enjoy high mountain rum at [Montanya Distillers](#).
- Catch the FREE [RTA bus](#) from Crested Butte to Gunnison and participate in their First Friday ArtWalk and Music from 5:00 - 8:00 PM. The event highlights the arts and creative flair in Gunnison with a walkable event at a collection of galleries, restaurants, and shops. Come out and join the community for free live music, art appreciation, shopping, and dining.
- Head over to the [I Bar Ranch](#) Friday night for a live concert featuring the Soul and Roots band Southern Avenue. Gates will open at 7:00 PM with a local opener at 7:30 PM and the headliner at 8:30 PM. Please visit their website for more info and tickets. CCI Summit attendees will receive a ticket discount. Overnight camping is available at the I Bar Ranch if you wish to stay the night.





# Special Thanks

- Crested Butte Creative District and its commissioners
- The Town of Crested Butte
- Center for the Arts Crested Butte staff and volunteers
- Local scholarship underwriters: Crested Butte Creative District, Crested Butte Arts Festival, Artists of Crested Butte, and Gunnison Art Center
- Gunnison Creative District
- I Bar Ranch
- The Creative Industries Summit Planning Committee members: Rebecca Gagne, Maryo Gard Ewell, Carlie Kenton, Bobby LeFebre, Heather Leonard, Brooke MacMillen, Melissa Mason, Damon McLeese, Linsey Olesiak, Kennedy Pugh, Bernadette Salem, Mary Schmidt, Jeff Scott, Eve Smith, Mary Tuck



**Platinum Level**



**Gold Level**



**Silver Level**



**Bronze Level**



**Community Partners Level**



**Exhibitors**





# Interactive Booths

## There May Be Swearing

**Facilitator: Sheila Sears**

**Location: Grace Atrium**

An elder in the arts in Colorado, Sheila will possibly wax poetic when giving solicited and unsolicited advice. From grant seeking/writing to working in rural Colorado, from people to know and people to laugh with, anecdotes and stories will give a broad perspective of challenges and rewards of our field. Special guests will join for diverse perspectives in stimulating and often irreverent feedback to anything you ask. Doesn't even have to be about arts issues: want to know favorite recipes, how to knit, how many shoes I have, or opinions on best cat videos? This is the place! Warning: only ask about starting a new nonprofit if you can take the feedback!!

## Mosaics-From Classic Art to Contemporary—Imagination in 3D

**Facilitator: Renee Walkup**

**Location: Grace Atrium**

Let's celebrate Colorado's beautiful summer plants, flowers, and pollinators, by participating in a collaborative art mosaic event.

Northern Colorado resident and Mosaic Artist, Renee Walkup, will be designing and facilitating all attendees to contribute creatively during the conference by bringing in something special from home and stopping by the booth for ART!

Bring stained glass, a piece of Grandma's china, broken jewelry, a child's discarded (small) toy, or a portion of that cracked vase, to incorporate into the design. We can't wait to see what you have to share a piece of your life in our final design.

## US Art & Design Market Interactive Website

**Facilitators: Bernadette Salem and James Grau**

**Location: Grace Atrium**

The US Art & Design Market Report presents the latest rankings of Art & Design Market vibrancy among all the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Visit the booth to learn about the report and explore its new interactive website.

## **Come Create! - Letterpress Printmaking Activity**

**Facilitator: Denise Newberry**

**Location: Grace Atrium**

Stop by and have a blast printing the "old fashion" way (as in, before computers!!). Get your hands dirty using a "mini" vintage letterpress to complete a print. Can you think of a better souvenir to remember the Colorado Creative Industries Summit and your time in Crested Butte?! You don't need any experience to participate!

## **SBDC Consultants**

**Location: Green Room (from the Grace Atrium, follow the signs to the backstage of the theater)**

The Colorado Small Business Development Center Network (SBDC) consists of fifteen community-based full-time centers and more than 70 part-time centers that provide free one-on-one consulting services, training and programs. SBDC consultants will be on site at the CCI Summit offering free one-on-one consulting services and resources. [coloradosbdc.org](http://coloradosbdc.org)

## **The Crested Butte Jewelry School & Meaghan Young Consulting**

**Facilitator: Meaghan Young**

**Location: Grace Atrium**

Jeweler and owner of The Crested Butte Jewelry School exhibits jewelry pieces that are created in her online and in person metalsmithing, embossing and precious metal clay courses. Meaghan is also a business consultant, strategist and neurocoach offering free consultations during the summit to creatives and professionals seeking to start or scale their businesses. She offers week-long creative enterprise and wealth building retreats in Crested Butte as well as online business programs for artisans.

# SBDC Consultants

Thursday and Friday

**Green Room (from the Grace Atrium, follow the signs to the backstage of the theater)**

The Colorado Small Business Development Center Network (SBDC) consists of fifteen community-based full-time centers and more than 70 part-time centers that provide free one-on-one consulting services, training and programs. SBDC consultants from West Central SBDC will be on site at the CCI Summit offering free one-on-one consulting services and resources.

## About the West Central SBDC

Based in Region 10's Small Business Resource Center in Montrose, CO, the West Central SBDC provides consulting and training services that support the development of ideas into viable, profitable businesses throughout our region. Our network of highly skilled business consultants and many partners help us achieve this goal by providing expert advice at our satellite offices and locations. We also connect small businesses to access to capital through Region 10's business loan fund and to tax credits through Colorado's Enterprise Zone program. We believe strong businesses create vibrant communities, and we are proud to serve Colorado's entrepreneurs and small businesses at all stages of business.







### **Nancy Murphy**

Nancy has a passion for all things business, and it's contagious! She is a forward-thinking business executive with a proven track record of creating industry trends and strategies that have impacted the expansion and profitability of global brands including BMW, Benetton, and the Olympics. She has also held arts management positions with performing arts companies including Santa Fe Opera, Silicon Valley Ballet, and the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. Since 2003, she has worked with hundreds of entrepreneurs and small businesses around the world to successfully launch products and services, expand markets, and increase profitability. She holds an M.B.A. from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

### **Callie Koch**

Callie moved to the Gunnison Valley in 2016 from her hometown of Fort Collins, where she owned and operated an artisan bakery for seven years, waking up way too early and selling sourdough breads and a variety of other products through retail, wholesale, and farmers markets. Once in the Gunnison Valley, she continued to manage small businesses in the food industry before changing careers and joining Region 10 and the West Central SBDC to put her 10+ years of small business ownership and management experience to use helping other small businesses. Callie holds a degree in International Studies from Colorado State University. She's an avid world traveler and outdoors woman.



### **Beth Buehler**

Colorado native Beth Buehler graduated from Iowa State University with bachelor's and master's degrees in journalism and mass communication. After working for a large bank holding company in the management training program and credit card processing division, serving as executive director of a downtown revitalization organization, and launching a magazine publishing career, she established Buehler Communications Inc. in 1995. The firm is a public relations, marketing, editing, writing and consulting business that has been based in Crested Butte, Colorado since 2004.

## Thursday, June 1, 2023

**8:30 - 9:45 AM** Registration with coffee and light pastries

Location: Grace Atrium

**10:00 - 11:30 AM** Concurrent Sessions

Location: Check the program for details

**12:00 - 2:00 PM** Welcome and Governor's Creative Leadership Awards Luncheon

Location: Steddy Theater

**2:00 - 2:30 PM** Break

**2:30 - 4:00 PM** Concurrent Sessions and Tour

Location: Check the program for details

**4:45 - 6:00 PM** Networking Reception

Location: Grace Atrium

**6:00 - 8:00 PM** Art Walk

Location: Downtown Crested Butte

# Friday, June 2, 2023

**7:30 - 8:30 AM** Grab and Go Breakfast

Location: Grace Atrium

**8:30 - 10:00 AM** Concurrent Sessions

Location: Check the program for details.

**10:30 AM - 12:00 PM** Concurrent Sessions and Tour

Location: Check the Program for details.

**12:30 - 2:00 PM** Plenary and Lunch

Location: Steddy Theater

**2:00 - 2:30 PM** Vinotok's Burning of the Grumps

Location: Courtyard

**2:30 - 4:00 PM** Concurrent Sessions and Tour

Location: Check the program for details.

**5:00 - 8:00 PM** Gunnison First Friday ArtWalk & Music

Location: Downtown Gunnison

Extend your stay and purchase tickets for the Friday night concert at I Bar Ranch!

**7:30 PM** Southern Avenue Concert

Location: I Bar Ranch, Gunnison



# **Summit Registration and Creative Disruptions**

**Thursday, June 1, 2023**

**8:30 - 9:45 AM**

**Location: Grace Atrium**

# Featuring



## ... Wild Hare Dance

Wild Hare Dance offers inclusive dance education, innovative artistry and meaningful experiences on the ground and in the air. Dance programming includes aerial arts, contemporary dance, street dance, art of improvisation, student choreography, opportunities with visiting teaching artists and more!

## ... Vinotok

Please join us! Be part of a transformative CCI Community Experience using the cultural animation process that the Crested Butte community has employed to co-create Vinotok, Crested Butte's 39-year fall celebration of who we are and what we hold sacred. Be more wild than good!

If you'd like to learn more about Vinotok, join the Transforming Community: Celebrating Our Stories and Spirit of Place (Vinotok) workshop on Friday at 10:30 am.



# Thursday, June 1

## 10:00 - 11:30 AM

**Capital Campaigns: Choose Your Own Adventure**  
**Presenters: Maura Adamson, Jenny Birnie, Mark Heller, Carlie Kenton, Jillian Liebl, Hassan Najjar**  
**Supported by CECFA**

**Location: Jones Performance Hall**

Hear from a panel of executives and fundraising experts who have recently completed successful capital campaigns. Learn about the diverse ways they each structured planning, funding, business plans, donor campaigns, and more. Get a chance to ask the questions that will help the success of your next campaign.

**Immersive Art and Design: Practices and Potentials**  
**Presenters: Brian Corrigan, Patrick Mueller, Courtney Ozaki, Christine Woods**

**Location: Schaul Children's Music Room**

Colorado is emerging as a national center for immersive arts – a transdisciplinary field that spans live performance, built environments, puzzle rooms, digital media, and more. This panel brings together several prime movers in the local immersive community to discuss the craft and industry of immersive arts: how these works meet and immerse their audiences, how projects come together, and what exciting economic and social justice potentials local artists and producers are pursuing through this work. This session will begin with a panel discussion, then open up into a community dialogue.







## **Crossing the Divide: Mobilizing Resources to Build a Network of Networks**

**Presenters: Dave Goe, Sarah Harrison, Emily King**

**Location: Hawk Art Studio**

The thing you need to solve your community's biggest challenge could be one town over! In this interactive workshop, participants will sow the seeds of cross-community collaboration and start taking steps toward building meaningful relationships with other art-rich areas and Creative Districts in Colorado.

Learn how three CCI Change Leaders met and partnered up to solve real issues in their communities by developing an advocacy webinar series and a tiny gallery art exchange program. Participants will foster new opportunities for their communities, develop new relationships, and leave with concrete examples of actions and ideas that can jumpstart their Creative Districts.

## **Beyond Barriers - A Fresh Look At Accessibility**

**Presenter: Damon McLeese**

**Location: King Community Room**

Nearly 20% of the population of the USA is a person with a disability. This number represents the largest minority group in the country and it is the only group one can join at any time. In this session we will explore a variety of accessibility concerns for the built environment. The ADA is more than 30 years old and still there are ways to improve our physical environment for people with disabilities. We will take a hands-on approach to learning how to spot potential problems and will work through creative solutions. In the world of accessibility, one size does not fit all. We will work through opportunities to make old spaces more accessible and spend time dreaming of what a fully accessible space may look like. Ample time will be available at the end of the session for questions and consultation if needed.



# **Governor's Creative Leadership Awards Luncheon**

Thursday, June 1, 2023

12:00 - 2:00 PM

With support from  
**Bonfils-Stanton Foundation**  
**Location: Steddy Theater**

Colorado Creative Industries is proud to play a role in celebrating excellence in creative industries across the state. Each year, during the Creative Industries Summit, Creative Leadership Awards are presented to community members that have demonstrated a significant commitment to Colorado's creative landscape through civic leadership and volunteerism including advocacy, vision, collaboration, or innovation.



# Featuring

## Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk (Ute Mountain Ute), Daniel Cesspooch (Ute Indian Tribe of Utah) and James Foguth (Dine')

Braiding three voices in song, spoken word, and music for “Rematriation-Our Homecoming,” this piece recognizes the desires of Indigenous people to have the ability to return to ancestral lands and is intended to offer a healing presence, not only to those who are with us today, but also extending to the ancestors.

## Maryo Gard Ewell, Tony Garcia, Deborah Thornton, Anthony Garcia Sr., and Louise Martorano

Often, when long-time leaders retire, we give them a big party but fail to ask them what they have learned over their career – not to be nostalgic but to grasp big-picture ideas, trends and patterns that may be valuable to younger leaders. And, often, leaders in mid-career are so busy “doing” that they aren’t afforded time to reflect on their work and the legacy they hope to build through their career. In this session, two senior leaders and two leaders in mid-career will engage in conversation about patterns they see and what they have learned – or are learning – that may be valuable to arts leaders at any point in their career.

## Gunnison Valley Theater Festival

During the pandemic, Heather and Steve Hughes dreamed up what would become The Gunnison Valley Theatre Festival--a 501c3, professional outdoor festival that would allow people to come together and watch plays, all while maintaining the space they needed to feel safe. Now in its 3rd year, and with the addition of a youth theatre camp, as well as a whole lot of other theatrical offerings, the GVTF continues its mission of bringing meaningful, professional theatre to the Gunnison Valley- thankfully, with a little less panic than in its first year. The GVFT is proud to partner year-round with The Crested Butte Center for the Arts to present staged readings of beloved plays, both classic and contemporary.

## Arial Ambiance by Wild Hare Dance

Wild Hare Dance offers inclusive dance education, innovative artistry and meaningful experiences on the ground and in the air. Dance programming includes aerial arts, contemporary dance, street dance, art of improvisation, student choreography, opportunities with visiting teaching artists and more!



**Thursday, June 1**

**2:30 - 4:00 PM**

**Concurrent Sessions**



## **Colorado's Evolving Arts & Culture Philanthropy; A Continuing Conversation to Share Progress, Ongoing Community Needs and Opportunities**

**Presenters: Chris Bui, Gina Ferrari, Bryce Merrill, Claire Swinford, Maria Torres**

**Location: Jones Performance Hall**

During the 2021 CCI Summit, arts and culture creators, administrators and funders engaged in an open conversation about the impact of COVID-19 on the creative sector, the role of arts in recovery and how arts philanthropy must change to support the sector. Since then, feedback has been top of mind for the Arts & Culture Funders Group, and positive shifts in practices have occurred. This session will briefly report on how arts philanthropy has progressed with actions taken and changes yet to come. Time for ongoing candid conversation will inform the continued evolution of philanthropy in service to the community.

## **Durango Creative District's Implementation of Lodgers' Tax Arts and Culture Fund**

**Presenters: Tommy Crosby, Kathryn Waggener**

**Location: Schaul Children's Music Room**

In April 2021, Durango voters approved increasing Lodgers' Tax, a tax on commercial lodging facilities such as hotels when a room is rented, from 2% to 5.25%. Voters then approved 14% of the revenue from this tax to go towards Arts and Culture, creating the Lodgers' Tax Arts and Culture Fund, which provides \$500,000 to go towards Durango's creative economy annually. The Durango Creative District, a non-profit organization and city contractor, collaborated with the Creative Economy Commission, a branch of City Government, to create and distribute an application for projects. This presentation details the types of projects funded, troubleshooting along the way, and how we have collaboratively built professional development programs in conjunction with the fund to ensure long term economic vitality for the creative sector in Durango.

## **The Mechanics of Sustaining a Creative Life**

**Presenter: Sharon Loudon**

**Supported by BreckCreate**

**Location: Hawk Art Studio**

This workshop for artists will dive into the details of real-life strategies that every artist can focus on to help them sustain their creative practices into the future. Topics will include: Goal Setting • Identifying and researching your audience • Building an amazing database • How to approach members of your community with whom you wish to dialogue • Creating your own opportunities • Community Building • Understanding the gallery/artist relationship • Intelligent correspondence habits • Reaching life goals ....and more.

## **What Greet's You at the Airport: Creative Industries, Tourism and Authenticity**

**Presenter: Paul Edwards**

**Location: King Community Room**

This workshop examines efforts to establish positive links between creative industry and tourism. There are numerous examples of such successful partnerships in Colorado, and many more examples of ones that did not go so well. After a brief discussion, the workshop will provide a "hands-on" opportunity to try out some new ideas pertaining to the relationship between creative industry and tourism. At the heart of the workshop will be a particular focus on how a sense of authenticity affects the relationship.

## **Tour**

**Crested Butte Museum**

**Presenter: Glo Cunningham**

**Location: Crested Butte Museum, 331 Elk Avenue**

Crested Butte became a registered National Historic District in 1974 to preserve our distinctive buildings from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Join us on an Elk Avenue Walking Tour to learn about the history of the buildings, mining history, and stories from the community from long time local Gloria Cunningham. The tour begins at the Crested Butte Museum and will last 1.5 hours.

## **Documentary Film Screening**

**Ute Bear Dance Then And Now**

**Presenters: Daniel Cesspooch, Jim Ciletti, James Foguth, Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk, Bernadette Salem**

**Location: The Majestic Theater, 507 Red Lady Avenue**

This double-feature will offer two mini-documentaries capturing the spirit of the Ute Bear Dance in 1988 and again in 2022 (with many of the same musicians and dancers featured in both versions!). In 1988, poet and filmmaker Jim Ciletti documented the Ute Bear Dance at White Mesa Utah, and in 2022, documentary filmmakers James Foguth and Bernadette Salem brought together indigenous musicians and singers to collaborate and document the Bear Dance once again at the same location. The Bear Dance signifies the change of seasons and the awakening of land and animals from cold winter months. The 2022 Bear Dance signifies the re-emergence of the ceremony, which had not been held for over two years during the pandemic. The documentary hears from the panelists including Ute Mountain Ute Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk, who is featured first in the documentaries as a young teen and then again as a grandmother speaking on topics including the importance of passing on Ute traditions to her grandchildren.



# ART CARS

## Art Cartopia

Trinidad, Colorado is home to a “Neo-Roadside Attraction” that features 35+ art cars in their magnificently wacky collection. This explosion of creative energy is one of only 3 art car museums in America; it is the largest and most visited. Open year round, Art Cartopia serves not only as a tourist attraction, but is the driving force behind the annual ArtoCade Art Car Festival and parade. Both the festival and the museum are nationally known and their popularity is exploding. The museum and festival have art cars created by kids, quilters, Christians, cops and convicts.

Art Cartopia is home to an art gallery, two maker-spaces, ongoing arts education programs as well as a wondrous array of special events and activities. There is the annual ArtoCade Bowl (fundraiser/party), Trash-N-Fashion (recycled materials runway fashion show), and Art Carnage (remote control mini-art car demolition derby). The museum space also serves as a venue for music performances. It is used by other organizations for seminars, meetings, presentations and various other group activities.

[www.artocade.com](http://www.artocade.com)

[www.artcartopia.com](http://www.artcartopia.com)



## Art Cars featured in this year's CCI Summit: "Karmadillo"

Created in 2019 under the tutelage of Rebecca Bass from Houston, Texas. Ms. Bass is the most prolific art car artist in the world and internationally revered teacher for her work with urban, under-served, low-income high school students. Rebecca came to Trinidad to facilitate the creation of Karmadillo, which was created with the assistance of our local people. Karmadillo was made by 7 kids, 7 adults in just 7 days. That is astounding, even by our wacky standards!

## "Spellbound"

This is the newest art car in the Art Cartopia collection, created during the very challenging year of 2020. Along a very non-linear series of happenstance, we hatched the idea of covering it with Scrabble tiles. Under normal non-COVID circumstances, we would have hosted poetry slams, scrabble competitions, and other group activities to create content for the project. Since that was not an option, we went digital. We had people of all ages write haikus and poems along with lists of favorite (and least favorite) words, car puns and related quotable quotes. This process attracted over 200 helpers from near and far - schools and senior centers in 5 states and globally via Facebook. After choosing from the amazing flood of contributions, we had "quaranteams" (groups of family, friends, and COVID bubbles) use those words to cover the vehicle with over 13,000 scrabble tiles.





**Friday, June 2**

**8:30-10:00 AM**

**Concurrent Sessions**

## **Arts & Healing**

**Presenters: Joni Beckner, Michael Henry, Marc Moss, Matte Refic, Hillary Sinn, Gary Steuer**

**Location: Jones Performance Hall**

This session presents three case studies from across Colorado that demonstrate the therapeutic impacts of the arts. Licensed Professional Counselor and Registered Board Certified Art Therapist, Joni Beckner has worked for over 20 years in the Grand Junction community using art therapy with children, adolescents and adults. She will share the impact of the arts as a therapeutic tool in her work in multiple settings, including hospice and palliative care, psychosocial rehabilitation for chronically mentally ill adults, and in private practice. Pueblo artist, Matte Refic, will share lessons learned facilitating public art projects and teaching in high security prisons, including the “Super Max” Federal Corrections Complex in Florence. Finally, partners in the Colorado Resiliency Arts Lab (CORAL) will discuss the outcomes and methodologies of this collaboration, which is committed to enhancing healthcare professionals’ well-being and alleviating psychological stress. This NEA-supported research project has been studying the impact of arts interventions in addressing this problem.

## **Fund Your Passion, Fuel Your Dreams: Getting Creative with Funding**

**Presenters: Madison Goering, Priscilla Orozco-Garcia, Meghan Rauker**

**Location: Schaul Children’s Music Room**

In this interactive workshop, Madison Goering from KIVA Colorado, Meghan Rauker from DreamSpring, and Priscilla Orozco-Garcia from Colorado Enterprise Fund will share their funding expertise focusing on crowdfunding, grants, and loans for creative entrepreneurs. With mini-breakout sessions on each topic, you’ll work with content experts and your peers to develop ideas and get hands-on feedback for funding.

## **Pecha Kucha**

### **Location: Hawk Art Studio**

A Pecha Kucha is a story-telling style presentation with 20 images and 20 slides, each shown for 20 seconds. These quick and interesting presentations will keep you engaged as members of the Crested Butte community share their Creative Placemaking efforts. Creative Placemaking uses arts and culture to strategically shape a place's physical and social character to spur economic development, promote social change and improve the physical environment. Come ready to experience the creative funk of CB and leave feeling inspired to creatively impact your community.

### **Building a Table: Centering Storytelling & Literary Arts to Build Strong Communities**

**Presenters: Bobby LeFebre, Viniyanka Prasad, Arvin Ramgoolam, Suzi Q. Smith**

#### **Location: King Community Room**

“When it is genuine, when it is born of the need to speak, no one can stop the human voice. When denied a mouth, it speaks with the hands or the eyes, or the pores, or anything at all.” – Eduardo Galeano.

How can arts organizations and institutions use writing and storytelling to build authentic relationships within communities? How can we become radical in our listening practices and allow community voice to drive our work? Panelists are writers and cultural workers who have created community centered around literary arts, storytelling, and poetry.



**Friday, June 2**  
10:30 AM-12:00 PM  
Concurrent Sessions





## **Transforming Community: Celebrating Our Stories and Spirit of Place (Vinotok)**

**Presenters: Mark Schwiesow, Marcie Telander**

**Location: Jones Performance Hall**

Transforming Community: Celebrating Our Stories and Spirit of Place will focus on Crested Butte's 38-year Fall Harvest Celebration, Vinotok, as the central example of using Cultural Animation to help communities revisit, re-examine and reclaim the stories of their past and place in order to celebrate and re-envision their future in an inclusive manner. We will watch Marcie Telander's 18-minute TEDX Talk of the same name and discuss similar projects Mark & Marcie have designed in places ranging from ethnically-mixed inner cities, to culturally and environmentally challenged communities facing economic turmoil, to First Nation Tribes. The remainder of the session will be opened to questions in order to help participants identify how best to apply this process to their specific interests and needs.

## **Creating a Shared Arts Advocacy Platform for Colorado**

**Presenters: Meredith Badler, Christin Crampton Day**

**Location: Schaul Children's Music Room**

Through a coordinated statewide advocacy effort, CBCA is working to ensure that arts, culture and the creative industries are valued and supported by policymakers and voters, resulting in economically vibrant, healthy, and equitable communities throughout our state. This initiative will be strengthened by the development of a shared arts advocacy platform and set of priorities. CBCA is beginning the process to get inclusive input into this platform from communities across the state. This community forum at the CCI Summit will be an initial step in that process and an opportunity to share more about CBCA's advocacy work to-date.

## **Mobilizing Resources for Artists, Organizations and Communities**

**Presenters: Sandy Dolak, Louise Martorano, Tanya Mote, Carrie Wallace**

**Location: Hawk Art Studio**

Everyone is looking for funding, talent, and opportunity, but the truth is, we are the ones we have been waiting for. Come to this panel and Q and A to dream with us about the movement we could build together. Panel presentations will highlight how cultural strategists and artists in Colorado are organizing in their communities, building collaborations, and creating opportunities with and without the support of funders. What can we learn from these examples about the participatory role we can play as artists and organizers in building the vitality of our organizations, communities and the field?



## Keeping It Green

Presented by Boulder County Arts Alliance & Boulder County Arts Leadership Forum

Presenters: Lauren Click, Cassandra Gearhart, Emily Greenwood, Betsy Tobin

Supported by Denver Botanic Gardens

Location: King Community Room

In this panel about sustainability and the arts, presenters will share their perspectives on how artists and community members can use the arts to effect change. The panel will open with a live performance of an excerpt of *Tales from the Tipping Point*, a show about climate change created by Betsy Tobin. She will share experiences in using recycled and up-cycled materials in teaching and performances. Other panelists, Cassandra Gearhart, Artist & Shop Manager at Art Parts Creative Reuse Center, and Emily Greenwood, CU Assistant Professor in the Program of Environmental Design, will explain how the climate crisis has inspired them to act. Emily is working on a design project to facilitate healing after traumatic climate-related events like the Marshall Fire. In the final discussion, attendees will be invited to share interesting initiatives that address climate change in their communities.

## Tour

**Expeditionary Art-Making: Creating Experiences In And About Nature**

Presenters: Patrick Mueller, Kristine Whittle

Meeting Location: Registration Table in the Grace Atrium

This workshop takes participants on a hike to explore how art-making happens in natural settings – how to create containers of experience in the sensory richness of a wilderness area, how we create co-imagined spaces that integrate site and artistic contents, and how being in nature transforms dialogs about climate, environmental justice, human relationships, spiritual practice, and other ways we meet the world around us.





# Friday Plenary and Lunch

Friday, June 2, 2023

12:30-2:00 PM

Location: Steddy Theater





## From Access to Aging

Presented by Damon McLeese

With support from Gunnison Valley Health Foundation

What will the cultural landscape look like in the next 20 years? For decades we have devoted our energies and resources to creative programming and access to our youth. What happens when there are more 60 year olds than 6 year olds in this country? Combining lessons learned from 40 years of working in and around the disability community and accessibility modifications, I have learned a bit about the difference between creativity and artistry; and as I reached the milestone of being “old” myself, I realized that with an aging population there are also huge opportunities. We should be providing as many creative opportunities for 80 year olds as we do for 8 year olds. Study after study has shown people engaged in creative outlets live longer, take fewer medicines and are less likely to fall than their peers who do not. Also, as people continue to live longer, there is opportunity to expand our educational programs to think past traditional passive approaches for our elders and really embrace the creative spark that reemerges as we age. This is truly a talk about opportunity, rather than limitations, for individuals, organizations and society.



# Also Featuring

## ...Crested Butte School of Dance

Crested Butte School of Dance is a registered 501c3 nonprofit arts education organization providing opportunities for access to dance classes and performances. We create a nurturing environment for our youngest exploring artists and intensive instruction for serious students, both on the ground with traditional dance training and in the air with aerial fabric training. Our students take their dance education with them as they move into their maturing roles in life with character, self-esteem, and a level of discipline and focus that empowers them in their 21st century pursuits.

## ...The Crested Butte Song

Local music teacher, Amanda Cook, felt Crested Butte needed a song to celebrate the town's uniqueness; so in the spring of 2022, Ms. Cook collaborated with the 4th grade (class of 2030) to create The Crested Butte Song. Students listed all the qualities and quirks that make the town special and worked with Ms. Cook to create meaningful lyrics and a simple melody that can be easily learned by anyone and everyone. The students first performed the song in the school's May concert of 2022. They are so happy to continue sharing this piece of music with you.

## ...Vinotok's Burning of the Grumps

This will take place after lunch in the courtyard. The Burning of the Grumps is a banishing/beckoning ritual used to set intentions for the coming year. Write down what you would like to release from your life and/or call into your life from this point on. These can be dedications to self, community, the environment or friends and relatives. They will be burned in a ceremonial fire and the smoke will carry on the wind to take your voices into the world!



**Friday, June 2**

2:30 - 4:00 PM

Concurrent Sessions



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**Friday, June 2**

2:30 - 4:00 PM

Concurrent Sessions





## **Good Contracts Make Good Partnerships: Legal Issues for Arts Administrators and Creatives**

**Presenters: Meredith Badler, Dave Ratner**

**Location: Jones Performance Hall**

So, you're producing a music festival? Commissioning a mural? Hiring a teaching artist? Join us for this Colorado Attorneys for the Arts (CAFTA) session to learn about legal issues to navigate and avoid in order to protect your organization and the various artists you work with. This presentation will cover important legal topics, such as indemnification, copyright ownership and licensing, and work for hire agreements when working with artists of all disciplines. This session is focused on arts administrators and creative producers, but is open and relevant to anyone working in the arts.

## **The Art of Mass Gathering**

**Presenters: Matthew Ché Kowal, Jessica Wallach**

**Location: Schaul Children's Music Room**

- 1) An overview of a Colorado-born and nationally touring experiential symposium that uses festivals as classrooms to build community resilience and climate change preparedness. Hundreds of people in nine cities across the country have already participated in this innovative program, developed by Majestic Collaborations and featured by FEMA in its Arts & Experiential Learning Inspiration Book. We will also touch on other examples of creative sector resilience initiatives with "Build Back Better" funds
- 2) A quick walking tour of Crested Butte Performing Arts Center and the Majestic Theater (across the street) looking at the "roses and thorns" of venues in both "sunny day" operations AND as "stormy day" resilience hubs.
- 3) Collaborative exercise: Arts and Cultural Resilience Asset Mapping (ACRAM) Safety - Sustainability - Accessibility - Community Engagement

## **The Best (and Worst) in Diverse and Inclusive Marketing**

**Presenters: Margaret Dunn, Jennifer Bliss Coulter Stapleton**

**Location: Hawk Art Studio**

Fire & Bliss Consulting helps artists, arts organizations, and small businesses develop marketing plans to draw others to their work. We help them secure patrons, funding, and to tell their stories in the world. We work especially with Black, Indigenous and People of Color and/or LGBTQ+ artists or organizations with a commitment to racial justice and LGBTQ+ liberation. Whether you are an arts organization or an individual creative, it is important that your marketing represents your authentic commitment to diversity, equity & inclusion. In this interactive session, we'll guide you through best (and worst) practices and wrestle together with tricky issues in marketing with a DEI lens.

## **Rural Arts Connect: Harnessing the Power of a Network**

**Presenter: Teresa Booth Brown**

**Location: King Community Room**

In this summit session, we'll share the outcomes from Rural Arts Connect, a three-year research project by the Aspen Art Museum and the Center of Science and Industry's Center for Research and Evaluation, funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The project aimed to study what happens when rural arts organizations come together, share ideas, and develop collaborative programming. To achieve this, we formed a network of leaders from organizations across western Colorado with the shared goal of learning together and expanding capacity.

We'll discuss the challenges and successes of the project, consider possibilities for expanding this model, and explore how the future of networks like these could look. We'll also share our recommendations for other organizations interested in adopting and building upon the model or supporting a network.

## **Gunnison Tour**

**Guides: Celeste Helminski, Anton Sinkewich**

**Location: This tour will start at 3pm, in order to allow for travel to Gunnison. It will start at the Gunnison Rec Center bus stop, the first stop from Crested Butte.**

From galleries to makers to creative spaces, come down valley and check out the eclectic collections of creatives, businesses, and nonprofits that make up the newly formed Gunnison Creative District (GCD). This guided tour will shuttle you, or you can follow in your own vehicle, around the boundaries of the GCD and highlight some of the hidden creative gems of Gunnison. The tour ends on Main Street where the evening will feature First Friday ArtWalk and Music from 5 - 8 pm, as well as an after-party benefit concert for the GCD at the IBar Ranch.

## **Local Filmmakers Showcase**

**Presenters: Michael Brody, Bernadette Salem**

**Supported by the Colorado Office of Film, Television, and Media**

**Location: The Majestic Theater, 507 Red Lady Avenue**

This 90-minute mini-film festival will feature a local filmmaker showcase at the Majestic Theatre encompassing the work of local, notable filmmakers (and student filmmakers) from in and around the valley. This will also promote the Crested Butte film festival and benefit local filmmakers.

# Presenters

**Maura Adamson, Director of Learning and Engagement, Foothills Art Center, she/her**



Maura leads and curates educational experiences for Foothills Art Center. She is responsible for administering adult classes, in-gallery educational experiences, outreach, and working with emerging artists in youth programs. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Western University of Colorado and a Master of Arts from F.I.T., a State University of New York. She is a non-profit leader with nearly 15 years of experience and serves as the Lone Tree Public Art Commission Chair.

**Meredith Badler, Deputy Director, Colorado Business Committee for the Arts, she/her**



Meredith Badler is the Deputy Director at Colorado Business Committee for the Arts (CBCA), advancing Colorado's creative economy by connecting arts & business. Meredith oversees all of CBCA's programs, major events, research and trainings. Meredith also stewards CBCA's grassroots and direct advocacy for Colorado's arts and creative industries. Prior to CBCA, Meredith worked as a strategy consultant for the nonprofit and public sector at Corona Insights and in patron services for Curious Theatre Company. Meredith serves on the Board for Art Students League of Denver and Advisory Board for the Golda Meir House Museum. She has a background in theater and still performs improv comedy.

**Joni Beckner, Professional Counselor and Art Therapist, she/her**



Joni Beckner MA, LPC, ATR-BC holds a BA in Social Work and received her MA in Art Therapy and Counseling in 2008. She is the Director of The Center for Hope & Healing and is a Licensed Professional Counselor and a Registered, Board Certified Art Therapist. Employed by HopeWest for 20 years, her work has included counseling and supporting terminally ill patients and their families. Her interest and passion for using art therapy with children, adolescents, and adults has evolved out of her experiences in hospice and palliative care, in psychosocial rehabilitation for chronically mentally ill adults, private practice for seven years, and psychiatric & behavioral hospital care in both acute and residential treatment.

Joni's associations include the American Art Therapy association, the Art Therapy Association of Colorado and the National Association of Social Workers. Her presentations at the local, regional, and national levels have pertained to her work with incarcerated grieving teens, bereaved children and teens, anticipatory grief and art therapy. She is an advisory board member for Sozo Youth Sanctuary Foundation. Ms. Beckner established ArtLight Therapy & Studios to incorporate her creative therapy practice with her own artistic endeavors. She has participated in juried shows at the regional and national level. Her contributions of original art to non-profit groups have included the National Hospice Foundation.

**Jenny Birnie, Executive Director, Gunnison Valley Health, she/her**

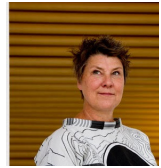
Jenny Birnie is currently the Executive Director of the Foundation, Behavioral Health and Service Line Development for Gunnison Valley Health. Jenny previously served as the Executive Director of the Crested Butte Center for the Arts for 13 years, which included the successful completion of a \$21M Capital Campaign for a new building. Jenny has a Masters Degree in Social Work from the University of Denver and a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and Communication from the University of Colorado at Boulder. Jenny has a long history as a dedicated and passionate leader who is committed to building community support, igniting collaboration and consensus among organizations, and utilizing performance measures to improve overall outcomes for organizations.



Jenny appreciates the diversity of her position at GVH that focuses on running a 501C3 nonprofit organization to provide financial support to Gunnison Valley Health's programs and services while working with health and human services organizations to improve behavioral health outcomes for our community members. Under Jenny's leadership, Gunnison Valley Health launched a Department of Behavioral Health in 2021 and completed a comprehensive Behavioral Health Needs Assessment for Gunnison County. Currently, the Foundation is completing a \$12M capital campaign for a new EMS/Paramedics station with groundbreaking taking place in the Fall 2023.

**Teresa Booth Brown, Program Director and Artist, Aspen Art Museum, she/her**

Teresa Booth Brown is the Director of Education and Community Programs at the Aspen Art Museum. She has been awarded artist residencies at Skowhegan, the Anderson Ranch, the Ucross Foundation, the American Academy in Rome, the Campo Artist Colony in Uruguay, and La Napoule Art Foundation. She is the 2019–20 recipient of the Marion International Fellowship Grant and the Achievement in the Arts Award from the Art Base in Basalt, Colorado, in 2022.



**Michael Brody, Co-Founder and Programming Director, Crested Butte Film Festival, he/him**

Michael Brody is a co-founder of the Crested Butte Film festival which kicked off in 2011. In addition to running the festival, Brody writes screenplays. In the last few years, he's helped adapt a few novels into screenplays, including Created Equal, about a Catholic nun's desire to become a priest and why the church believes she can't. That film, starring Lou Diamond Phillips, was released earlier this year.

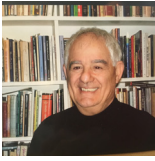


**Daniel Cesspooch, Musician, he/him**

Daniel Cesspooch is a Ute Mountain Ute musician, singer, and artist. Daniel currently resides in Salt Lake City, Utah and has participated in the Ute Bear Dance for several decades.



**James Ciletti, Filmmaker and Bookstore Owner, he/him**



James Ciletti, with his wife Mary, operates Hooked on Books bookstore in Colorado Springs. Jim's Bear Dance film, with producer Jan Pettit, won the Caroline Bancroft prize, the Colorado State Historical Society's highest award. As a co-founder of the Pikes Peak Poet Laureate program, Jim is well known for his support of poets, writers, filmmakers, and the creative arts. "Our bookstore is our venue for supporting the first amendment, writing workshops and providing author events for all writers." His award winning poems are collected in his book, Sunfire.

Jim loves gardening, cooking all things Italian, makes homemade wine, and paints landscapes. With five children and eight grandchildren, Jim and Mary enjoy many family gatherings.

**Lauren M. Click, Grant Manager, City of Boulder, she/her**



Lauren M. Click manages the grants program for the City of Boulder Office of Arts and Culture. Previously, Click was the Director of Community and Public Programs at The Bronx Museum of the Arts and a Peace Corps volunteer in the Dominican Republic. Click has undergraduate degrees in Anthropology and Spanish from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and a master's degree in Applied Anthropology from Teachers College, Columbia University. She currently serves as Chair of the Lyons Arts and Humanities Commission.

**Brian Corrigan, Founder, Farm to Spaceship, he/him**



Brian Corrigan is a creative placemaking artist-designer-entrepreneur working at the intersection of the experience economy, technology, and community development. His socially engaged practice spans rural/urban/suburban communities and focuses on sparking and supporting the development of healthy, inclusive, and vibrant neighborhoods for all people. NPR, PBS, Cool Hunting, Springwise, Denver Post, Streetwise, Business Journal, and Dwell Magazine have featured his work. He is an ArtPlace America Grantee, NewCities Global Urban Innovator Finalist, Knight Public Spaces Fellowship Finalist, and an International Award for Public Art Finalist. His projects have been published in Streets Reconsidered: Inclusive Design for the Public Realm and The Digital City: Media and the Social Production of Place. Corrigan is a cofounder of Farm-to-Spaceship, a workforce development initiative working across the state to position Colorado as the best place for artists to thrive

**Tommy Crosby, Economic Opportunity Coordinator, City of Durango, he/him**



Tommy Crosby currently oversees the Economic Opportunity program at the City of Durango. Graduating from the University of Denver in 2014, Tommy's background includes environmental sustainability consulting, podcasting a year-long bike trip, and community food access all leading to his role at the City of Durango. His current position focuses on encouraging small business development and success, fostering a thriving creative economy, and creating policies, programs and practices that drive inclusive, entrepreneurship-led economic growth in the Durango community. Using tools like Durango's Urban Renewal Partnership, the new Lodgers' Tax: Arts and Culture funding, and strong partnerships with other economic development and community support organizations, Tommy is excited about the direction the City of Durango is heading and always looking for new, creative ways to create economic opportunity for all communities within Durango.

**Glo Cunningham, Outreach Coordinator, Crested Butte Museum, she/her**

Glo has been involved with the museum for well over a decade. From Executive Director to Outreach Coordinator, Glo has been instrumental to the success of the Crested Butte Museum. She is an active community member with many local nonprofits, including the Crested Butte Wildflower Festival and Red Lady Coalition boards.



**Christin Crampton Day, Executive Director, Colorado Business Committee for the Arts, she/her**

Christin joined Colorado Business Committee for the Arts (CBCA) as its Executive Director in February 2017. She led the organization to achieve 25% revenue growth during her first three years, and from 2020-2022 led CBCA through a major sea change due to the pandemic to better serve the changing needs of the arts and business sectors. Christin has over 30 years' experience in non-profit leadership and in the private sector as a small business owner. Prior to CBCA, she led a performing arts nonprofit, as well as co-owned a public relations agency in Denver for over 10 years. Christin has served on the Board of Directors for The Dance Archive at University of Denver since 2016, is an Emeritus Board Member of Colorado Ballet, serves on the Theater and Dance Advisory Board of Red Rocks Community College, and in 2018 was elected to the Private Sector Council of Americans for the Arts. In 2020, she was named a finalist in the Mile High Leader category for the Denver Business Journal's Outstanding Women in Business. Nicknamed the "black-belt ballerina" by the Denver Business Journal in a 2020 Executive profile, Christin is a lifelong dancer and 2nd Dan black belt in Korean martial arts of Taekwondo, Tang Soo Do and Hapkido. She received her B.A. degree from Michigan State University.



**Sandy Dolak, Chief Visionary, Huajatolla Heritage Foundation, she/her**

Sandy Dolak bills herself as the Chief Visionary for Huajatolla Heritage Foundation in La Veta Colorado. During 40 years of a professional career as a Nurse Practitioner in Women's Health care, and while being on the cutting edge of championing for reproductive rights, her sanity was always maintained through her association with the arts and creatives! Moving back to her tap roots in Southern Colorado more than 20 years ago, she became deeply involved in preserving the beautiful arts and culture of the area and founded a non-profit, Huajatolla Heritage Foundation, to promote cultural equity.





**Margaret Dunn, Creative Director, Fire & Bliss, she/her**



Margaret Dunn is a multidisciplinary marketing professional with nearly a decade of experience building brands into household names. As a natural-born connector, she enjoys finding nuanced, intentional ways to connect with a project's target audience. She loves pottery, drumming, baked goods and RuPau!s Drag Race!

**Paul Edwards, Artistic Director, Crested Butte Mountain Theatre, he/him**



Dr. Edwards has lived in Colorado since 1983. He is professor emeritus in Communication Arts at Western Colorado University. During his 31-year tenure, he twice served as chair of the department and was involved in dozens of theatrical productions. He has served on numerous non-profit boards at the state and local level, and is currently the Artistic Director of the Crested Butte Mountain Theatre, and board member of Vita Institute for the Arts.

**Maryo Gard Ewell, Director of Community Impact, Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley, she/her**



Maryo Gard Ewell has been in arts administration ever since she had a summer job in college as a go-fer for the first rural arts grant ever awarded by the National Endowment for the Arts, in Wisconsin. Since then, she's worked for local arts agencies in Connecticut, for the Illinois Arts Council, and for Colorado Creative Industries where she was instrumental in designing the state's Creative Districts programs. She currently works as Director of Community Impact for the Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley. With an undergrad degree in social psychology, she has graduate degrees in Organizational Behavior and in Urban & Regional Planning.

**Gina Ferrari, Director of Grants Program, Bonfils-Stanton Foundation, she/her**



Gina Ferrari has been with Bonfils-Stanton Foundation for nine years as Director of the Grants Program. Prior to her current role, Gina worked as a nonprofit consultant and as the Director of Colorado Association of Funders. Gina's early career includes ten+ years in arts marketing, fundraising and management for art museums. Gina has a B.A. from Harvard University in art history and visual & environmental studies.

**James Foguth, Documentary Filmmaker, he/him**



James Foguth, founder of Nizhoni Films, grew up in Luckachukai, AZ, on the Navajo Nation. Storytelling in Navajo culture is a way to teach spirituality and life lessons. From a very early age, he wrote children's stories. Learning storytelling through video became the natural next step in his path. At age 14, he produced his first documentary. Since then, he has contributed to countless video projects, including Big City Bright Lights, NOAA CLIMAS, and the critically acclaimed Give Us This Day. Foguth is currently working on the documentary "Brave," which documents the Navajo Nation's public school princess and brave pageants through video within the context of the difficulties of growing up on the Navajo reservation.



**Anthony Garcia, Sr., Executive Director, Birdseed Collective, he/him**

Anthony J. Garcia Sr. was born and raised in Denver, Colorado, more specifically in the Globeville community. Beginning as an urban street artist, Anthony has since grown into a multifaceted creative entrepreneur and community leader, and is now most recognized for his public artwork, community outreach programming, and his leadership in championing emerging artists from Denver and abroad.



**Tony Garcia, Executive Artistic Director, Su Teatro, he/him**

Tony has been the Executive Artistic Director of El Centro Su Teatro since 1989 and has been a member of Su Teatro since 1972. He received his BA in Theatre from the University of Colorado at Denver. Artistic awards and accolades include the 1989 University of California, Irvine Chicano Literary Award, a 2006 United States Artists Fellowship. He was named the Denver Post 2010 Theatre Person of the Year. He has published two volumes of original plays and produced more than forty productions. Twenty of his plays are music driven, collaborating often with Daniel Valdez. His multi-media adaptation of "Interview with a Mexican" was selected by NEFA (New England Fund for the Arts) to tour nationally in 2021. His original productions Enrique's Journey, Serafin: Cantos y Lágrimas and El Sol que Tu Eres and the Westside Oratorio have received critical awards and recognitions.



He is a recipient of the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation's prestigious Livingston Fellowship and the Community Service Award and the Funke Award for Community Building from the Colorado Nonprofit Association. He serves on the National Association of Latino Art and Culture (NALAC) Board of Directors and is a Co-Founder of the NALAC Leadership Institute. He served on the Western State Arts Federation's (WESTAF) Board of Trustees. In 2014, he was elected Chair of the Board of Directors for the Council in Support of Tier IIIs and was founder and Co-Chair of the Community ACTS Fund in 2019. He has been a faculty member in the Department of Chicano/a Studies at Metro State University at Denver since 1994.

**Cassandra Gearhart, Non-Profit Manager, Art Parts Creative Reuse Center, she/they**

Cassandra Gearhart is a manager at Art Parts Creative Reuse Center in Boulder, a non-profit organization that strives to keep creative materials out of the landfill and to make them affordable and available to the community. While Cassandra's educational background is in zoology and ecology, she has found she is happiest when creating something, from sewing to painting to welding, and anything in between, and she will jump at the chance to learn a new creative skill. She finds inspiration in reuse and repurposing, especially old items that others might simply discard, and creates almost exclusively with second-hand materials, so she feels right at home amongst the donated supplies at Art Parts. She loves seeing how the odds and ends inspire others to create, and enjoys getting those materials into the hands of people who can use them again.



**Dave Goe, Community Engagement Manager, GJ Creates and Downtown Grand Junction, he/him**



Dave Goe is the Community Engagement Manager for GJ Creates and Downtown Grand Junction. Dave has a passion for developing artistic projects, experiences, and public spaces that grow community interaction. Dave is focused on developing high-impact projects that create new economic opportunities for artists across Colorado. Currently Dave is working to bring a Space to Create affordable housing development to Grand Junction. Dave is a certified Colorado Change Leader, a Boettcher Foundation Doer and Difference Maker, and a CBCA Colorado Cultural Champion.

**Madison Goering, Capital Access Manager, KIVA Colorado, she/her**



Madison is currently pursuing her master's in Social Work and Public Health. Previously Madison's work has been in community development efforts, from supporting families experiencing houselessness to running a referral hotline for survivors of human trafficking. Madison grew up in Colorado and is thrilled to be connecting with local creatives after living and working in Bolivia for 2 years. In her free time, she loves to camp in the backcountry, cook dinner with friends and go West Coast Swing dancing.

**Emily Greenwood, Landscape Architect and Professor, CU Boulder, she/her**



Emily Greenwood is a Teaching Assistant Professor in the Program in Environmental Design at the University of Colorado Boulder, specializing in landscape architecture, urban planning, ecological design, and contextually responsive product design. She is a member of the Environmental Design Honors Council and the 2018 recipient of the Designers Without Boundaries Outstanding Faculty Award. Emily is a member of the leadership team for the Historic Preservation Professional Practice Network of ASLA. Emily's professional work focuses on the design of sustainable native landscapes, design-build projects, wetland design, ecological restoration, trail and trailhead design, the design of playgrounds and learning landscapes, and meaningful residential landscape designs. Emily has worked in open space where she balanced the preservation of open space and the increasing needs for recreation on open land. Her research includes published works on how learning landscapes can increase physical activity for children in underserved communities.

Emily holds a Masters of Landscape Architecture from the University of Colorado Denver, a B.A. in Environmental Studies from the University of Colorado Boulder and a Paralegal Certificate with a focus in environmental law from Colorado State University. Emily is also an avid rock climber, mountaineer, mountain biker and trail runner.

**Sarah Harrison, CCI Program and Marketing Manager, Colorado Creative Industries, she/her**

Sarah Harrison is Program and Marketing Manager at Colorado Creative Industries, overseeing the Community Revitalization and Colorado Creates grants. Her passion project at CCI has been creating and continuing the CCI Webinar Series, which highlights what Colorado artists are doing to ignite advocacy conversations and push public policy in a more empathetic direction. This project allowed her to become a certified Colorado Change Leader in September 2022. Sarah moved to Colorado two years ago from Paris, France with her partner and cat. She writes songs, comedy sketches, and murder mysteries in her spare time.



**Mark Heller, Executive Director, Colorado Educational and Cultural Facilities Authority, he/him**

Mark Heller has accumulated more than 30 years of experience in bond financing, community planning, economic development, real estate development, sustainability programming, small business legal counseling, organizational management, and community involvement. He has been honored to serve the Colorado Educational and Cultural Facilities Authority (CECFA) as Executive Director since January 2015. CECFA has issued over \$9 Billion of tax-exempt bonds to support educational and cultural facilities throughout the state and across the nation.

Prior to CECFA, he worked to create significant positive changes for downtown Golden as the Executive Director for the Golden Urban Renewal Authority between 2004 and 2014. Mark developed a passion for community planning and development while living in Crested Butte, Colorado, where he served on the boards of some of the area's leading environmental and cultural organizations. He was a board member of High Country Citizens' Alliance and the Crested Butte Mountain Theatre and was counsel to the Crested Butte Wildflower Festival and the Crested Butte Music Festival. One of Mark's objectives in working with such diverse groups was to balance sustainable economic development with environmental conservation and community vitality.

Mark earned an undergraduate degree and a law degree from the University of Texas at Austin. He earned a Masters in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Colorado at Denver in 2006. Mark lives in Golden, CO with his wife, two kids, one dog, a camper, three vehicles, eight tents, a dozen sleeping bags, 14 backpacks, 20 pairs of skis and boots, etc, etc, etc. That's what a basement is for, right?





**Matthew Ché Kowal, Co-Founder, Majestic Collaborations, he/him**

Matthew, co-founder of Majestic Collaborations, Majestic Amplifications, and Majestic Water is a festival coordinator, artistic director, spokesperson, musician, and community leader. His consulting work with Performing Arts Readiness spans agencies, festivals and venues in emergency and disaster preparedness. Contracted by Denver Arts & Venues, the Canadian Government, brands like New Belgium, and festivals like Tour de Fat, and Five Points Jazz Festival, he has organized hundreds of gatherings since 2005, collectively raising over \$5 million to raise awareness and resources to capitalize locally-directed initiatives and inspire advocacy. A passionate skill-sharer, Matthew has used collective leadership to arrive at state-of-the-art festivals that are sustainable, safe, and equitable. A recovering marketer with a knack for initiating and identifying trends; he envisioned the experiential learning platform Art of Mass Gatherings Symposium as a way to catalyze emergency preparedness training across multiple stakeholders.



**Bobby LeFebre, Artist and Colorado's Poet Laureate, he/him**

Bobby LeFebre is an award-winning writer, performer and cultural worker. He holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from the Metropolitan University of Denver and a master's degree in art, literature and culture from the University of Denver. In 2020, with support from the Surdna Foundation and the National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures, LeFebre was named a Catalyst for Change grant award recipient to explore racial justice through radical imagination. LeFebre was named Colorado's eighth poet laureate in 2019, making him the youngest and first person of color to be appointed to the position in its 100-year history. In 2021, he received an Academy of American Poets Laureate Fellowship.



**Jillian Liebl, Co-Executive Director, Development and Finance, Center for the Arts Crested Butte, she/her**

Jillian Liebl serves as one of three Co-Executive Directors of the Center for the Arts, focusing on Development and Finance. She has a diverse background in event planning, sales and marketing, theater, and outdoor education. Most recently, Jillian served as the Center's Special Events + Culinary Arts Program Manager, planning and executing the Center's fundraising events. Other past roles include Event Coordinator at the SteamPlant Event Center in Salida, Program Officer at Humanities Texas (the Texas state NEH affiliate), and theater critic and arts features writer at the Austin Chronicle in Austin, TX.

Jillian graduated from The University of Texas at Austin with degrees in Religious Studies and Plan II, a multidisciplinary honors program. She was one of twelve Dean's Distinguished Graduates in the College of Liberal Arts, and her research on a Texas megachurch won the Mitchell Award.

When she's not planning events, Jillian can be found mountain biking, snowboarding, practicing yoga, and going on adventures with her husband, five-year-old son, baby daughter, and border collie mix, Puck.

**Celeste Helminski, Director, Gunnison County Chamber of Commerce, she/her**

Celeste is the director at the Gunnison Country Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center and has lived in the Gunnison Valley for 28 years. Celeste is an active supporter of our vibrant arts community and looks forward to sharing with you the variety and talent of our local arts and business neighborhood.



**Michael J. Henry, Executive Director, Lighthouse Writers Workshop, he/him**

Michael J. Henry, MFA currently serves as Executive Director of Lighthouse, where he also teaches poetry and memoir and essay workshops. A former recipient of a Colorado Council on the Arts Fellowship and a Platte Forum Fellowship, his work has appeared in such places as Copper Nickel, Threepenny Review, 5280 Magazine, and Bloomsbury Review. Since 2008, he's collaborated with Garrett Ammon of Wonderbound to create three narrative poetry performances.



**Emily Grace King, Exhibition Manager and Associate Curator, Arvada Center, she/her**

Emily Grace King is the Exhibition Manager and Associate Curator at the Arvada Center and serves her city as Chair of the Arvada Arts and Culture Commission. She is a strong advocate in the community for public art and for civic investment in local artists at all stages of their careers. Emily founded the much-beloved community project Art Drop Arvada, working with artists and art-lovers throughout Metro Denver to create interactive, grassroots events in public spaces that bring free, hyper-local art to anyone willing to hunt for it. Emily is a Colorado Change Leader and a multidisciplinary artist.



**Carlie Kenton, Executive Director, Gunnison Arts Center, she/her**

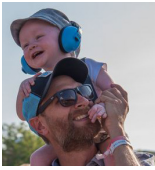
Believing the arts nurture and grow creativity, goodness, and beauty in the world, Carlie Kenton began her journey with the Gunnison Arts Center as a volunteer receptionist in 2011. With a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Western State Colorado University, she sporadically explores the worlds of photography, painting, and mixed media creation. Carlie has a passion for bringing the arts to life in our community and values the delight and emotion felt when experiencing the arts, either as a creator or as an observer. She hopes to improve other people's lives, and our world, by sharing the impact of these experiences. As Executive Director, Carlie has taken on the essential responsibilities of reporting to the Board of Directors and raising funds for organizational operations and a major capital campaign.





**Damon McLeese, Executive Director, Access Gallery, he/him**

Working at the intersection of art and ability, Damon is passionate about opening avenues of community by providing an innovative, collaborative space where all viewpoints can be both shared and valued. In 2019, Damon was an honoree of the Arts and Society Award from Bonfils Stanton Foundation and featured on Channel 4 CBS Denver. He also received the Governor's Award for Creative Leadership in 2017, as well as the Mayor's Award for Innovation of the Arts in 2016. Under his leadership, Access Gallery continues to grow and expand exponentially as it increases awareness of the artistic gifts individuals with disabilities have to offer.



**Bryce Merrill, Director of Music Programs at Bohemian Foundation, he/him**

Dr. Bryce Merrill is the Director of Music Programs at Bohemian Foundation in Northern Colorado. Bryce is an expert on public sector support of music and has helped public and private entities build sustainable and equitable music ecosystems. Bryce is co-author of *Understanding Society through Popular Music* (Routledge) and *Interactionists Take on Popular Music* (Emerald). He serves on the boards of Take Note Colorado, a statewide music education initiative; CACHE, a regional arts organization; and is a special advisor to the Center for Music Ecosystems, a global music policy organization.



**Marc Moss, Roger S. Mitchell Professor of Medicine and Head of the Division of Pulmonary Sciences and Critical Care Medicine, University of Colorado School of Medicine, he/him**

Dr. Moss has a longstanding interest in critical care-related research and has held continuous NIH funding as a Principal Investigator for over 20 consecutive years. Dr. Moss's research interests include studying burnout syndrome, posttraumatic stress disorder, and wellness in healthcare professionals. He was the invited keynote speaker at the National Academy of Medicine's Action Collaborative on Clinician Well-being and Resilience. The National Endowment of the Arts currently funds Dr. Moss' research on wellness.



**Tanya Mote, Associate Director, Su Teatro Cultural and Performing Arts Center, she/her**

Tanya Mote is the Associate Director at Su Teatro Cultural and Performing Arts Center where she has practiced for 25 years to become a better movement builder. She facilitates and teaches and also serves on the board of directors for D3 Arts, Denver, CO; Art2Action, Tampa, FLA; and Working Narratives, Wilmington, NC. Tanya holds a Ph from the Josef Korbel School of International Studies. Her areas of study were comparative politics, Latin America and human rights.

**Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk, Master's in Environmental Management Student,  
Western Colorado University, she/her**

Regina Lopez Whiteskunk is former co-chair for the Bears Ears Intertribal Coalition and Education Director for the Ute Indian Museum in Montrose. She is currently a Master's student in Environmental Management at Western Colorado University. She serves on the Telluride Institute Board, Advisory board for Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Torrey House Press Board, and Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance. Lopez-Whiteskunk has traveled extensively throughout the country sharing the Ute culture through song, dance, and presentations



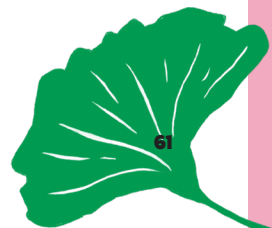
**Sharon Loudon, Artist and Educator, she/her**

Sharon Loudon is an artist, educator, advocate for artists, editor of the Living and Sustaining a Creative Life series of books. She is a visionary leader with decades of experience as an educator in academia, community builder & catalyst connecting underrepresented artists with established institutions, and collaborator by convening initiatives with siloed stakeholders across the non-profit and business sectors. Sharon graduated with a BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and an MFA from Yale University School of Art. Her work has been exhibited in numerous venues including the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, the Drawing Center, Carnegie Mellon University, Weisman Art Museum, National Gallery of Art, Birmingham Museum of Art, Weatherspoon Art Museum and the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art. Loudon's work is held in major public and private collections including the Whitney Museum of American Art, National Gallery of Art, Neuberger Museum of Art, Arkansas Arts Center, Yale University Art Gallery, Weatherspoon Art Museum, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, among others.



**Louise Martorano, Executive Director, RedLine Contemporary Art Center, she/her**

Louise Martorano is the Executive Director of RedLine Contemporary Arts Center, a non-profit contemporary art center and artist residency located in Denver, Colorado. Martorano holds a M.H. from the University of Colorado at Denver with a focus in Contemporary Art History & Music. In addition to her work at RedLine and the contemporary arts, she has worked in the film industry producing and fundraising for independent films that have received international festival recognition in Dallas, Austin, Poland, and Denver





**Viniyanka Prasad, Executive Director, The Word, she/her**



Viniyanka Prasad is the Executive Director and Founder of The Word, A Storytelling Sanctuary—a nonprofit that promotes storytelling for equity, with programs including the Editor-Writer Mentorship, [margins.] Literary Conference + Book Festival, #MarginsBookselling, and the BIPOC Bookseller Award. In addition to her work with The Word, Viniyanka is an attorney working in indigent criminal defense, serves as a Commissioner with the Denver Commission on Cultural Affairs, as the PEN America Denver Chapter Co-Head, and on various additional literary and grantmaking committees.

**Arvin Ramgoolam, Writer and Co-owner, Townie Books and Rumors Coffee and Tea House, he/him**



Arvin Ramgoolam is a father, writer, and co-owner of Townie Books and Rumors Coffee and Tea House with his wife Danica in Crested Butte, CO. He is the 2020 recipient of the Adina Talve-Goodman Fellowship from One Story and a MacDowell Fellow in 2022. In 2023, he will be an artist in residence at Green Box Arts in Green Mountain Falls, CO. His work focuses on otherness and place, especially minorities in the American West. He is currently a board member of the Crested Butte Center for the Arts and an organizer of literary arts programming.

**Dave Ratner, Lawyer, Creative Law Network, he/him**



It isn't often that you run into a band manager turned lawyer. But that's Dave Ratner. During his career in the music and entertainment industry, Dave learned first-hand the important legal considerations and challenges creative professionals face. Dave channeled his passion into Creative Law Network, a law firm built specifically for creative professionals. Dave advises both creative and general business clients on all aspects of intellectual property and business law. Dave is the Colorado Attorneys for the Arts (CAFTA) Advisory Committee Chair and on the Board of Swallow Hill and the Colorado Independent Venue Association.

**Meghan Rauker, Community Engagement Officer, DreamSpring, she/they**



Raised in Idaho and now based in Colorado, Meghan is passionate about creating opportunities for underserved entrepreneurs and small business owners. An aspiring documentary producer and former grant writer, Meghan works with creatives and entrepreneurs on funding strategies. Outside their work supporting the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Colorado, Meghan can be found at the Sie FilmCenter enjoying films from around the world or experimenting with new recipes in the kitchen.

**Patrick Mueller, Artistic Director, Control Group Productions, he/him**

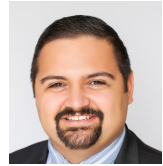
Patrick Mueller is a multidisciplinary artist and the founding artistic director of Control Group Productions, where he leads the creation of “expeditionary performance” works, and supports and presents ambitious new works by emerging voices in Colorado’s vibrant performing arts community.

Control Group’s 2022 production *THE END* – a journey through Denver’s climate future on an apocalypse-ready renovated school bus – garnered national attention, and is in development for future productions on the Front Range and beyond.



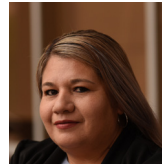
**Hassan Najjar, Executive Director, Foothills Art Center, he/him**

Hassan is a museum professional with 15 years of experience, he’s utilized mission-focused thinking and community input to create memorable museum experiences for learners of all ages. As a lover of the arts, he strives to ensure that the arts are appreciated, valued, and used to help people think critically about the world they live in. As an art administrator, he looks for ways to grow sustainably and responsibly while also serving the needs of the community. Najjar holds a BA in History from Winthrop University and Postgraduate Diploma in Interpretive Studies from the University of Leicester (UK).



**Priscilla Orozco-Garcia, Business Navigator, Colorado Enterprise Fund, she/her/ella**

Priscilla possesses over two decades of experience in the accounting industry. Has become a go-to within the small business community – guiding hundreds of small businesses and leading countless small business financial literacy training courses; she consults at the Denver Metro SBDC and at Colorado Enterprise Fund. An active member of the community, she serves on the board of directors of various nonprofit organizations.



**Courtney Ozaki, Founder + Creative Producer, Japanese Arts Network, she/her**

Courtney Ozaki is an independent creative producer/experiential designer, and the founder of the Japanese Arts Network, a national resource advancing and strengthening visibility for Japanese Artists in America. She holds an MFA in Performing Arts Management from Brooklyn College, and is a CUI Denver CAM alum. Recent productions include *ZOTTO: A Japanese Supernatural Folktale* at Sakura Square in Denver, and *IKKAI Means Once*, a site-specific dance work in the Bay Area. She serves on the Boards of the Western Arts Alliance and SCFD, and is on the organizing committee for the Creative Independent Producers’ Alliance.





**Anton Sinkewich, Community Development Director, City of Gunnison, he/him**

Anton Sinkewich is a professional community planner, manager, and educator with a diverse background of experience. With 20+ years of professional planning experience, he has served as the Community Development Director for the City of Gunnison Colorado since February 2019. Before relocating to Gunnison, he served for 7 years as the Executive Director of the East Downtown (EaDo) Management District in Houston, TX, an organization focused on creative community building, economic development, design, marketing, and maintenance. In this role, Anton received the AIA 2018 Civic Vision Award from the Houston chapter of the American Institute of Architects for his work on EaDo's economic development while maintaining the district's character through architectural preservation. Passionate about lifelong learning, Anton earned his masters degree from Rice University School of Architecture, is a graduate of the American Leadership Forum inaugural community development class, an alumni of the Whitney Museum of American Art NY Independent Study Program, and has completed the Urban Retail Planning & Development executive education course at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design. He has also served as a professor at Texas Tech University's School of Architecture and Houston Community College's Department of Fine Arts. Anton is an AICP Certified City Planner, member of the American Planning Association, and is a passionate advocate for community driven planning, resilience, sustainability, preservation, and the development of cities as great livable and socially equitable environments. Whenever he's not working, Anton loves skiing, cycling, gardening, camping, hiking, and fishing with his wife and kids.

**Hillary Sinn, Licensed Dance/Movement Therapist, Children's Hospital Colorado, she/her**



Hillary Sinn, LPC, R-DMT, graduated from Naropa University in 2013 with a Master's in Somatic Counseling Psychology receiving specialized training in Dance/Movement Therapy. She studied dance and theater throughout her childhood, ultimately taking her to New York where she trained in modern dance at Sarah Lawrence College and pursued a stage career as an actor. Following the tragedy of 9/11, she became interested in politics, psychology, and concepts of service and justice. She currently works as a Dance/Movement Therapist in the Ponzio Creative Arts Therapy Program at Children's Hospital Colorado, working with kids and teens in the Pediatric Mental Health Institute. She is a member of the American Dance Therapy Association, the American Counseling Association, and CORAL, the Colorado Resiliency Arts Lab.

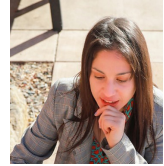
**Matte Rfeic, Artist, he/him**

Matte Rfeic is a multi-disciplinary artist based in Pueblo. Matte's work focuses primarily on the transformative effects arts have on communities and individuals. Matte's work varies from public art in the form of murals, performance art, illustrations, designs and education. Matte has facilitated art programs at the Federal Corrections Complex in Florence since 2016. Through participatory art projects, Matte aims to spread arts education to communities where access is limited.



**Bernadette Salem, Documentary Filmmaker and Professor of Film Studies, Western Colorado University, she/her**

Bernadette Salem is a documentary and experimental filmmaker and professor in film studies. She received her PhD in film theory and practice at Lancaster University in the UK. She is currently an Assistant Professor at Western Colorado University. She has completed documentary work with the Zuni Conservation Corps under a National Geographic explorers grant at Bears Ears National Monument.



**Mark Schwiesow, Co-founder of Vinotok, Film/Video Artist, he/him**

Mark has been a film/video Artist-in-Residence for 6 states including Colorado. As such, he helped a wide range of communities, from inner city streets to First Nation tribes, document their places in relationship to the world around them. He often worked with a variety of storytellers, performance artists, etc. in a process known as Cultural Animation, in which a community (however defined) reclaims its stories as a way of celebrating past and present while re-envisioning the future.



**Sheila Sears, Nonprofit Consultant, she/her**

Sheila Sears is the former Deputy Director of Colorado Creative Industries and has been involved with the agency for almost 40 years. Her nonprofit careers focused on arts education, grant writing and grantmaking, as well as nonprofit leadership and consulting. In her decade at CCI, she had a major focus on rural and small communities in Colorado--visiting and getting to know people in 62 of our 64 counties. Her post-"rewirement" work has focused on equity and support for historically marginalized communities. She is currently working with promotion and support of creative aging and anti-agist education and programs.



**Marcie Telander, Licensed Professional Counselor and Founding Director, Vinotok, she/her**



Marcie is a professional storyteller, eco-therapist and Community Animator who has worked in dozens of communities across the country for over 45 years. Her work is inclusive, serving a full range of Black, LatinX, Appalachian, LGBTQ+, First Nation peoples ranging in ages from preschool to Senior Citizens. The Vinotok Fall Harvest Celebration she created in Crested Butte, Colorado was once described by U.S. News & World Report as, “The best small-town festival in the country”.

**Betsy Tobin, Artistic Director, Now or Never Theatre, she/her**



Betsy Tobin, Artistic Director of the Now Or Never Theatre, has directed and performed original theater across the United States, in Canada, Guinea, Bali, and throughout Europe where she won awards at festivals and earned an international reputation as a puppeteer. Her innovative work integrates puppetry with acting, masks, shadow theater, and video projection. Shows are presented in unusual settings with projection on a variety of surfaces, as in SHADOWS & JOURNEYS, performed in canyons across the Southwest with shadows on rock walls representing the memories of the land. Betsy works with recycled and upcycled materials in workshops and shows, most recently in her show about climate change, Tales from the Tipping Point. Betsy has been a member of the Boulder County Arts Leadership Forum (BCALF) since its inception in 2013.

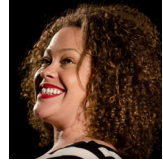
**Maria Jose Torres, Community Impact Officer At Rose Community Foundation (she/her/ella)**



Maria Torres is a community impact officer at Rose Community Foundation. Torres joined the Foundation in 2017, initially supporting the former program areas of education and aging, then managing the portfolio focused on child and family development. Torres moved to Colorado from San Luis Potosi, Mexico to pursue her master's degree in international development from the University of Denver's Josef Korbel School of International Studies. She has over ten years of non-profit and philanthropy experience, having worked for organizations both locally and internationally. She currently also serves as the vice-chair for ACCESO, the Spanish Language Advisory Board for the City of Denver Elections Division.

**Suzi Q. Smith, Artist and Director, The Word and [margins.], she/her**

Suzi Q. Smith is an award-winning artist, organizer, and educator who lives in Denver, Colorado. The author of poetry collections *Poems for the End of the World*, *A Gospel of Bones*, and *Thirteen Descansos*, Suzi is also a singer-songwriter, playwright, and multi-disciplinary creative. Currently, she is working on her first memoir while she serves as the [margins.] Director for The Word. Suzi is Affiliate Faculty with Regis University's Mile High MFA, Lighthouse Writers Workshop, and DU's Prison Arts Initiative, and she serves as a community representative on the Denver County Cultural Council for SCFD.



**Jennifer Bliss Coulter Stapleton, Founding Partner, Fire & Bliss, she/her**

Jennifer Bliss is an arts promoter, communications strategist, and artist. She has spent her career developing public outreach, garnering media, and helping non-profit organizations, businesses, and artists fund their work and tell the stories they want in the world. She lives in Evergreen, CO with her wife, two children, and a Beagle.



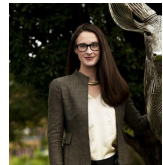
**Gary Steuer, President/CEO, Bonfils-Stanton Foundation, he/him**

Gary Steuer joined Bonfils-Stanton Foundation as President/CEO in 2013 where he leverages the voice and legacy of the foundation to sustain and strengthen the arts and nonprofit leadership. Along with overseeing \$3.5 million in annual grantmaking, Gary empowers the foundation's programs and initiatives to ensure they advance equity, innovation, community and quality of life. Previously, he was Philadelphia's Chief Cultural Officer and Vice President for Private-Sector Affairs at Americans for the Arts. He has written, lectured and taught on arts management, philanthropy, impact investing and policy issues and has served on many boards and funding/advisory panels for local, state and national organizations.



**Claire Swinford, Executive Director, Bee Vradenburg Foundation, she/her**

Claire Swinford is Executive Director of Bee Vradenburg Foundation, a grantmaker advancing the relevance, resilience, and greatness of the arts in the Pikes Peak Region. She serves on the advisory board of the UCCS Galleries of Contemporary Art, and has been recognized as a Mayor's Young Leader in Creative Industries and a Pikes Peak Arts Council Rising Star for her cultural advocacy as well as her work as a narrative figure painter.



**Kristine Whittle, Artist and Associate Director, Control Group Productions, she/her**



Kristine Whittle (Founding Associate Director) lives in Lakewood, CO with her husband Patrick and 9 year old kiddo Levi. In addition to being an active performance artist, she offers massage therapy, restorative yoga, and bodymind ballwork through her healing arts practice @restorativetherapies.org.

Kristine holds a BFA in Dance Performance and Choreography from Arizona State University. She has worked in the dance companies of Ann Ludwig (Phoenix, AZ), Barbara Grubel (NY, NY), Aura Fischbeck (SF, CA), KC Chun/Fresh Blood (Denver, CO), Wild Heart Dance (Boulder, CO), and Tara Rynders Dance (Denver, CO). She is a founding member of Control Group Productions, and has served multiple central roles throughout the organization's history. Most recently, she originated a role in THE END (2022), and is co-leading research and development of Control Group's Treeline series.

**Christine Woods, Director, Immersive Denver, she/her**



Christine Woods (BACWRU, member AEA) is a Denver-based stage manager, interaction designer and producer, working exclusively in the immersive arts industry.

In 2020, she became the director of Immersive Denver, a community organization dedicated to advocacy, education, and networking for creatives working in the immersive industry ([immersivedenver.com](http://immersivedenver.com)). Immersive Denver supports those working in the interactive and environmental storytelling fields, from interactive theater and haunted houses to escape rooms and virtual reality and more. Last fall, Immersive Denver produced the Denver Immersive Gathering, which brought nearly 300 producers and artists from 92 cities, 36 states, and 4 countries to Denver for a 3-day industry gathering and showcase of Denver's thriving immersive scene.

Christine is also the interaction designer and co-founder of Cleveland-based immersive theater company Shadow of the Run, and recently stage managed David Byrne's collaboration with DCPA, Theater of the Mind. She is passionate about this emerging art form, and its power to change the arts landscape.





**Kathryn Waggener, Executive Director, Durango Creative District, she/her**

Kathryn Waggener is the Executive Director of the Durango Creative District, and a fine art professional with a multi-faceted background as a painter, art historian, museum educator, gallerist, and community organizer.

Kathryn moved to Durango, CO in 2021 after owning and directing Clerestory Fine Art, a museum-quality exhibition venue in Montclair, New Jersey known for scholarly exhibitions and broad programming aimed at developing robust and diverse community involvement across multiple platforms. In response to the pandemic, she co-founded Fresh Air Montclair, an outdoor exhibition platform connecting artists with business and property owners in the Montclair Business Improvement District to increase morale and foot traffic to economically vulnerable small businesses. Her prior work includes serving as Co-Director for the non-profit artist consortium Studio Montclair Inc's "Incubator for Emerging Artists," working with special exhibitions in the education department of The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, and completing an MA in Museum Education and Historical Research at Teachers College, Columbia University.

Waggener has written and curated extensively on African American artist Alexander Brooks Jackson, and has a specialty in developing programs for museum audiences with Alzheimer's and dementia.



**Renee Walkup, Artist, she/her**

A lifelong artist in Colorado, Renee's expertise smiles in creating 3D mosaics using mostly upcycled and sustainable materials. Her work is currently in galleries from California to Chicago, and has been chosen in juried shows. She specializes in innovation and using materials that emphasize 3D shapes and forms.



**Carrie Wallace, Executive Director, Friends of the Majestic, she/her**

Originally an East Coaster, Carrie majored in nonprofit management at George Washington University and served as Executive Director of a small nonprofit in DC. She's played many roles in the Crested Butte community, from ski instructor to KBUT DJ and Performing Arts Manager at the Center for the Arts. Carrie loved being the Manager of the Majestic before its COVID-related closing, and quickly jumped at the opportunity to incorporate a nonprofit to bring back this iconic establishment. Running the Majestic is her dream job.



**Jessica Wallach, Accessibility Activist and Artist, she/her**

Jessica Wallach is a life-long disability and accessibility activist, photographer, arts educator, and producer. She went to graduate school before there were disability programs, so she hand-crafted her own at Cornell University's City and Regional Planning School by always asking: for whom are we making cities accessible? Her organizing principle is to make space a love letter to the body through art. Jessica is the Accessibility Lead and Documentarian at Majestic Collaborations



# CCI About Us

Colorado Creative Industries believes in the power of creativity to inspire human connections, create social change and support economic vibrancy throughout Colorado. We believe in the practice of creation, the artists and entrepreneurs who contribute to our rich culture and the benefits of our creative economy.

We support and encourage the innovators, creators, change-makers and dreamers who improve our quality of life and make Colorado creative. We focus on strengthening the vitality of visual, performing and literary arts through promotion, resources and funding opportunities. We believe in bold innovation and the invaluable contributions the arts bring to this beautiful state.

## Accessibility & Belonging

Colorado Creative Industries (CCI) is committed to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in all of our programs and operations. We acknowledge and address systemic barriers that prevent access and opportunities for marginalized communities, including, but not limited to, people with disabilities, communities of color, Indigenous Peoples, and LGBTQIA+ communities. We are committed to ensuring accessibility in all of our programs and operations.

As a statewide funding agency, we believe that accessibility and belonging are essential for the success and sustainability of the creative industry in our state. We encourage our grantees and partners to create an environment of belonging and agency, where all individuals, regardless of their abilities or identities, can participate and thrive in the creative economy.



Colorado  
Creative  
Industries

coloradocreativeindustries.org  
1600 Broadway, Suite 2500  
Denver, CO 80202  
303.892.3802

# Staff

**Christy Costello**  
Interim Director

**Ruth Wilson**  
Administration and Partnerships Director

**Libby Barbee**  
Program Manager

**Sarah Harrison**  
Program Manager

**Emma Acheson**  
Program Coordinator



# Council

Robbie Breaux  
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