

2008 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

CONNECTING RESIDENTS AND VISITORS WITH ARTS
AND CULTURE TO ENRICH THE PIKES PEAK REGION

OUR VISION:

A community united by creativity

OUR GOALS:

- Build cultural participation in the region
- Foster sustainability of the region's cultural arts industry
- Advocate for the region's cultural vitality
- Leverage cultural assets to promote a positive regional brand and image
- Foster authenticity by celebrating aspects unique to our community's heritage and future

2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Deborah Thornton
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Bettina Swigger, Executive Director
Kevin Johnson, PeakRadar Manager
Abby Comerer, Arts Marketing Intern





FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

Hello friends!

Thank you for your enthusiasm and investment in COPPeR. The board and staff are delighted to share our progress in 2008 with you.

COPPeR officially has evolved from a great idea into an organization creating real impact in our community. In 2008 our executive director, Bettina Swigger, and board members found a home in our downtown office and arts information space. We continued our fortunate trend of finding great staff; Kevin Johnson, PeakRadar.com manager, propelled PeakRadar forward. Please take a minute to read this report detailing our 2008 program enhancements and initiatives. We think you'll be impressed at all we have accomplished.

During this period of unsettling economic change, the arts provide us with pleasure and comfort, while also challenging us to see the world in new ways. As you engage in your work this year, please join with us in strengthening your commitment to the arts! We encourage you to participate in our local cultural scene by attending a performance, becoming a member of one of our fine institutions, listening to local musicians, taking the young people in your life to the many free or low-cost programs around town, and considering a contribution of any size to those organizations you hold most dear. But also talk to your friends and neighbors about the transformative power of the arts and encourage them to support and advocate for our local art and cultural landscape by plugging into COPPeR!

Cheers,
Kimberley Sherwood



FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2008 was a delightful whirlwind of activity and accomplishment for COPPeR and the arts. The vision and commitment of COPPeR's staff, board members, donors, volunteers, community partners and ever-growing list of champions is truly astonishing. More importantly, it is making a real difference and raising the profile of the arts in the Pikes Peak Region. As a result, leaders in our community are recognizing how essential the arts and cultural offerings are to the vitality of our community and our quality of life.

COPPeR is the result of truly visionary people; thanks to all of you, old friends and new. With your support, every day we move closer to COPPeR's vision of living in a community united by creativity.

Thank you!
Bettina Swigger

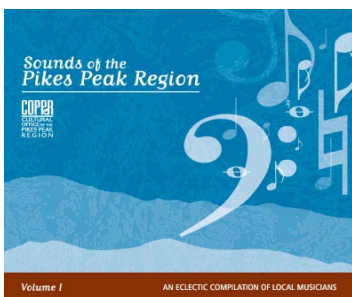
2008: A YEAR IN REVIEW



"Peakradar.com is an excellent source to find cool events around town! I am the organizer of three "social" groups here in Colorado Springs for singles, singles/couples and then an outdoor club. I use this resource often to find great arts events for our groups!"
– Donna Scharfenberg, Colorado Springs

PeakRadar.com, COPPeR's signature audience-development tool, celebrated its first anniversary in June 2008. In just one year of operations, PeakRadar doubled its site visits and became the No.1 arts web site in Southern Colorado. In April, Kevin Johnson joined COPPeR's staff and his dedicated work improved site comprehensiveness, look and feel, and service to the hundreds of artists and arts organizations we serve. PeakRadar.com serves as the official calendar for Experience Colorado Springs at Pikes Peak (the Convention and Visitors Bureau), KRCC and KCME. We also established a relationship marketing PeakRadar.com through test-messaging to Fort Carson soldiers and families. Overall enhancements to the site included search-engine optimization and promotions to increase the numbers of unique visitors, total visitors and page views. Our most popular new feature was the Artist Profile directory, which spotlights more than 100 painters, sculptors, musicians, writers, and other creative individuals.

"This is going to sound really cheesy, but I felt one thing while listening to the new compilation album "Sounds of the Pikes Peak Region": pride. That's right. This collection of songs made me proud of the music coming out of Colorado Springs."
– Music critic Bill Reed, The Gazette



We were thrilled to release Volume I of the Sounds of the Pikes Peak Region in October. This CD features 13 local, original musical acts, including a range of eclectic selections from acoustic and folk to blues and traditional with

everything in between. A concert series followed in the footsteps of the CD's release—our collaboration with the Pikes Peak Center, KRCC, Independent Records and The Gazette led to the ongoing "Showcase at Studio Bee" series, a free concert series featuring many of the musicians on the CD, as well as other local favorites.



Pikes Peak Poet Laureate Project – COPPeR is one of five presenting partners (along with the Pikes Peak Library District, Colorado College, UCCS and Poetry West) for this new initiative to inspire and celebrate poetry through outreach and performances in non-traditional settings. The poet laureate, Aaron Anstett, serves a two-year term. In 2008 he made 18 appearances in front of more than 1,400 people, including civic leaders, teachers, aspiring writers and children. COPPeR acts as the booking agent and coordinator for the Poet Laureate. To learn more, visit www.PikesPeakPoetLaureate.org.

Cultural Planning – Due to COPPeR's initiative, Colorado Springs was selected through a competitive process as one of eight cities statewide for a yearlong effort to engage and assist communities in creating a cultural plan. This effort, the Collaborative Community Planning Process, kicked off at the National Performing Arts Convention in Denver in June. Informed by the conference, biweekly meetings of the initial Planning Team (consisting of Jan Martin, David Talbot, Deborah Thornton, Thomas Wilson and COPPeR's executive director) then focused on building partnerships and setting parameters for the plan. This work led to an online arts community needs assessment survey and the 2008 Arts Summit: Imagination and Innovation, which brought together more than 150 artists, arts administrators, and arts educators to develop a vision for the future. This planning process continues in 2009 and beyond.



Dream City: Vision 2020 is a grassroots, community-owned project that engages people throughout the Pikes Peak region in meaningful dialogue to create a brighter future. The goal of Dream City is to promote civic engagement, and to identify common visions and values as well as big ideas that, in the hands of likely champions, will move us forward in the coming decade. Dream City launched in 2008 and is ongoing, gathering the input of everyday citizens to determine a coherent identity and trajectory for the region. COPPeR's executive director serves as arts chair for this creative community visioning process that is a collaboration among lead partners The Gazette, the Pikes Peak Library District, Leadership Pikes Peak and COPPeR. To learn more, visit www.DreamCity2020.com.

Quality of Life Indicators Project – COPPeR’s executive director serves as co-chair of the Arts, Culture and Recreation task force for this collaborative community indicators project. To learn more, visit www.pikespeakqli.com.

Staff and volunteers worked to distribute more than 7,000 copies of *The COPPeR Pages*, our biennial free guidebook with information on more than 150 local arts organizations. Distributed free, The COPPeR Pages is designed to connect residents and newcomers with opportunities to explore their own creativity—from singing in a chorus to joining a painters group or enrolling their children in a theater class. The COPPeR Pages also serves as a tool to attract primary employers and young professionals to the region by showcasing the depth and breadth of our arts scene. Look for the next edition in 2009.



Business & Arts Awards Luncheon – COPPeR partnered with the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce on this new fall luncheon to celebrate and recognize businesses that support and promote arts and creativity. This luncheon featured performances by local arts groups on four stages and presented awards in the areas of philanthropy, creative workspace/workforce, and business/arts partnership.

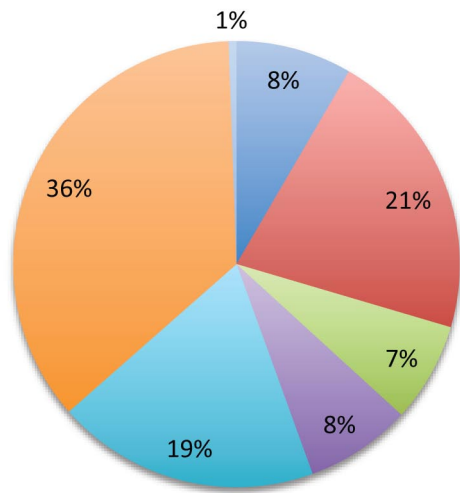
Arts Bootcamps – COPPeR facilitated and hosted two workshops aimed to help nonprofit arts organizations improve their sustainability. The spring bootcamp focused on digital photography and web skills.

Office and Arts Information Space – In February 2008, hundreds of people packed our Open House celebrating our new office and arts information space. Every day residents, tourists and newcomers come in to our storefront office to learn more about ways to engage in local arts and culture. In August we moved across the street to the Plaza of the Rockies and our newfound proximity to the Fine Arts Center MODERN allowed us to provide an even more in-depth arts experience. Our office always showcases rotating exhibits of works by local artists.

Broad-based Arts Advocacy and Education – COPPeR staff and volunteers provide outreach and awareness of the role of arts and creativity in the community through targeted participation in civic events and celebrations alongside formal presentations to civic groups. Also in 2008, COPPeR collaborated with Springs Magazine, Newspeak, and the Smokebrush Foundation on the “Art Creates Community” advocacy campaign.



2008 FINANCIAL SUMMARY JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31

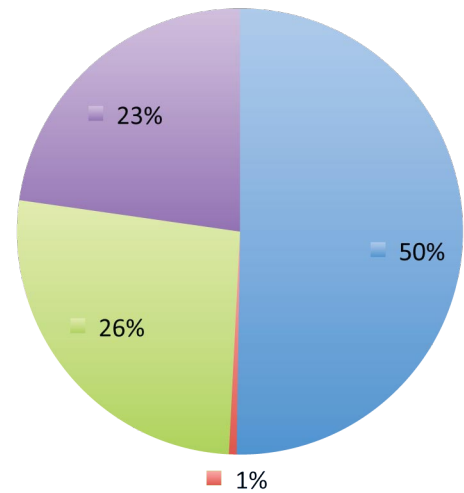


Operating Revenue \$216,384

- Services and Sales \$77,748*
- Foundations: \$45,800
- In-Kind Donations: \$41,203
- Individuals: \$18,181
- State Government: \$16,600
- Corporations: \$15,640
- Interest: \$1,212

* Includes 2008 contracts with City of Colorado Springs and Experience Colorado Springs at Pikes Peak

In 2008, revenue exceeded expenses as we developed a planned surplus. Budget is balanced for 2009 and beyond.



Operating Expenses \$181,132

- Program Services: \$91,011
- General and Administrative: \$47,918
- In-Kind Expenses: \$41,203
- Fundraising: \$1,000

"Colorado Springs is a better city today because of COPPeR. Not only does COPPeR serve as an advocate for the local arts community, but they have become the voice for the arts at City Hall. People all over town eagerly await their weekly PeakRadar newsletter before deciding which arts events to attend, and through local partnerships, COPPeR has been a key player in important local programs such as the Pikes Peak Poet Laureate Project and Dream City: Vision 2020. The arts community in Colorado Springs is more vibrant than ever, thanks to COPPeR."

– Jan Martin,
Colorado Springs City Council

THANK YOU!

JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31

\$20,000 and above

City of Colorado Springs
Experience Colorado Springs at Pikes Peak

\$10,0000 - \$19,999

Colorado Council on the Arts
El Pomar Foundation
Bee Vradenburg Foundation
Cordera

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Pikes Peak Community Foundation
Gay and Lesbian Fund for Colorado
The Gazette
H Chase Stone Trust
Memorial Health Systems
Downtown Partnership

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Tom and Susan Pattee
The Lewis Family Foundation

\$1,000 - \$2,499

William Edmondson and Barbara Schaefer
Lyda Hill
Kathy Loo

\$500-\$999

June Chan
Michael and Susan Coumatos
Susan J. Edmondson
Tom and Lisa McElroy
Les Gruen
Betty Kane
Eric and Ann Fetsch
Anonymous
Tom and Marla Twardoski
Michael and Cynthia Zahler

\$200-\$499

Michael and Susan Grace
Terry and Elizabeth Lilly
Glena McPeters
Amanda Mountain
Shawn and Jes Raintree
Kimberley Sherwood
Eve Tilley and Sol Chavez

\$100-\$199

Judy and Dick Noyes
Jessica Hunter Larsen
Arthur and Elizabeth Aikin
Aaron Anstett and Leslie Ginsberg
Leif Carter and Marilyn Vickers
Kathleen Collins
Gary Conover
Mark Dempsey
Pam Shockley-Zalabak
Lindsay and Joanna Fischer
Jennifer and Jeff George
Michael and Cheryl Semmens
Donald and Gwendolyn Jenkins
Phil and Meg Kendall
Suzanne MacAulay
Mark and Marsha Patterson
Ride for the Brand Ranch Rodeo
James and Shirley Stewart

Investors up to \$100

Nancy Henjum
John Atkinson and Nancy Bentley
Jean Gumper
Sam and Mary Alice Hall
Erin Hannan
Michelle Marx
Paula and Jay Miller
Libby Rittenberg and Nasit Ari
Roger and Lisa Ruhnnow
Alan Siegel and Edie Greene
Brenda Speer
Ellen Enoch
Carlton Gamer

In-Kind Donations

Nor'Wood
Google AdWords
Americans for the Arts
Brenda Speer, Attorney at Law
Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center
and Fine Arts Center MODERN
Nosh
Bristol Brewing
Blue Sage Catering
Cukjati Marketing/Intelligence/Creative
Creative Medium
The Gazette
KOAA
KRCC
KCME
La'au's Tacos Shop
Ron Graham, CPA
Steve Seifert
Ginger White
Colorado Council on the Arts Peer Assistance Network
Western Jubilee

Laura Ben-Amots
Mark Wong
Douglas Rouse
Merr Shearn
Sean O'Meallie
Aaron Anstett
Joe Uveges
Ahora Dance Company
Theatre 'd Art
Manitou Art Theater
Opera Theatre of the Rockies
Grass It Up
Black Pegasus
Ashley Raines
Rissman, Uveges, Braithwaite
Kelly Feeley
Lindsay Weidmann
John-Alex Mason
Me and Julio
Andy Tanner
Cahalen David Morrison
Mango Fan Django
George Whitesell
Poesis
Dave Voth

Thank you to the following artists and performers who participated in events and activities benefitting COPPeR:

Edith Makes A Paperchain
Atomic Elroy
Daisy McConnell
The Press at Colorado College
Bill Starr
Neil Fenton
Eleanor Annand
Marc Huebert
Smokebrush Foundation for the Arts
Josh Kempf
Timber Kirwan
Erin Jones
Scott O'Malley
Pikes Peak Community College Students
Artists from Cottonwood Center for the Arts
Jay Miller
FutureSelf
Lorenzo White
Mark Reis

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All contributions are deeply appreciated and critical to our operations. Every effort has been made to accurately reflect the names of our donors throughout 2008. If there is an error or omission, please contact us at 634.2204 so we may correct it as soon as possible.

Photo and design credits:

Kevin Johnson, Allison Daniell, Susan Edmondson, Number Six Publishing, Greater Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce.