MISSION: Connecting residents and visitors with arts and culture to enrich the Pikes Peak region

VISION: A Community United by Creativity

From our Board Chair

A big THANK YOU is in order for your wonderful contributions to COPPeR in 2009. As you will read in this report, it was another banner year for advancing art, culture and creativity in the Pikes Peak Region despite our topsy-turvy world.

As a COPPeR stakeholder, your confidence in our ability to fulfill our mission is essential. The board at COPPeR takes fiscal responsibility very seriously. We believe that having a financially sound, fiscally responsible arts agency is not just the right thing to do, but makes good business sense too. I am happy to report that we had another positive year thanks in large part to your financial support and our staff’s good skill in making the most of what we have to work with. This year, we were fortunate to once again add terrific new talent to our team - our board list can be found on page 6. We invite you to continue to be a part of our future. Thank you for all you do to make ours a more vibrant and livable community!

-Kimberley Sherwood, 2009 Board Chair

From our Executive Director

In 2009, COPPeR matured from a start-up into an organization of regional significance. You can read more about our successful programs in this report. Every day we advocate for the value of the arts as essential to our communities--from the economy to quality of life, from helping seniors to youth education, from informing public policy to enhancing neighborhoods.

The vision and commitment of COPPeR’s staff, board members, donors, volunteers, community partners and ever-growing list of champions is impressive and we are proud of the ways in which COPPeR elevates arts, culture and creativity in the Pikes Peak region.

With your support, we move closer to our vision of living in a community united by creativity. Thank you!

- Bettina Swigger, Executive Director

GOAL: Build Cultural Participation in the Region
COPPeR's signature audience-development tool, celebrated its second anniversary in June 2009 and is the leading online guide for arts and cultural information in the Pikes Peak region. Event listings offer complete descriptions, interactive Google Maps, images, video, reviews, and links to ticketing, email, and social media. PeakRadar also provides a place for artists to gather—people can browse classified listings for calls for entries, arts jobs, studio space, auditions and more, and our Artist Profile Directory showcases more than 160 individual artists with links to their work and their websites. Our weekly “PeakRadar Picks” eBlast delivers one week’s cultural highlights direct to more than 3500 residents’ inboxes. And we connect with even more people through our social media efforts and media partnerships (including KRCC, KCME, The Gazette, FortCarsonMobile and more!). In 2009, PeakRadar experienced 1.8 million pageviews!

In 2009 we published the second edition of The COPPeR Pages: The biennial Official Guide to Arts & Cultural Organizations in the Pikes Peak Region. This free guidebook features information on more than 200 cultural groups - what they do, how to contact them, and how individuals can get involved in the community through the arts. The guidebook is useful for newcomers and longtime residents eager to discover cultural gems. The COPPeR Pages is designed to help people connect to arts opportunities that extend beyond being a spectator and into opportunities to explore their own creative side. We were proud to partner with The Gazette for the 2009-2010 edition. 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. To date, more than 5,000 copies of The COPPeR Pages have been distributed!

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 nontraditional settings. The first-ever Pikes Peak poet laureate, Aaron Anstett, compiled “Poetry While You Wait,” a collection of work by local poets designed to be available in places people wait - auto repair shops, dentist offices and the like. In 2009 Anstett also made 53 appearances in front of more than 5,000 people, including civic leaders, teachers, aspiring writers and children.

COPPeR acts as the booking agent and communications coordinator for the Poet Laureate. To learn more, visit www.PikesPeakPoetLaureate.org.

Dream City: Vision 2020 is a grassroots, community-owned project that engaged more than 3,000 people in discussing what they’d like our community to look like in the year 2020, and which culminated in a day-long summit in 2009. COPPeR served as a coordinating partner for Dream City along with the Pikes Peak Library District, Leadership Pikes Peak and The Gazette. Together with other community visioning and planning processes, Dream City sought the feedback of outside experts, key community stakeholders, and the community at large, all telling us they embrace enhanced collaboration, attracting and retaining the creative class, an environment that fosters creative entrepreneurship and more. COPPeR is putting Dream City data to work in our Cultural Planning Process set to publish Fall 2010.

Cultural Planning - In April 2008, Colorado Springs (with COPPeR as initiator) was selected by Arts for Colorado to be part of a statewide collaborative community planning process, which resulted in an online arts community needs assessment survey and the 2008 Arts Summit: Imagination and Innovation, which brought more than 150 artists, arts administrators, and arts educators together to develop a vision for the future. In 2009, the Planning Team completed Phase One of this two-phase cultural planning process: gathering information and

GOAL: Foster Sustainability of the Region’s Cultural Arts Industry
conducting research through targeted focus groups, interviews with key leaders, and additional public meetings. Phase Two will include assessment and analysis by synthesizing gathered information; identifying opportunities and issues; discerning community priorities and potential benefits; and writing and disseminating the plan.

**Business & Arts Awards Luncheon** – COPPeR partnered with the Chamber of Commerce on this 2nd annual fall luncheon celebrating and recognizing 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 leadership.

**Sounds of the Pikes Peak Region:** COPPeR celebrates and honors the talented musicians who call the Pikes Peak region home through sales of our CD compilation and through the ongoing Showcase at Studio Bee series, our collaboration with the Pikes Peak Center, KRCC, Independent Records and The Gazette. This free concert series features many of the musicians on the CD, as well as other local favorites. Eighteen local musical acts performed to capacity crowds as part of this series in 2009.

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

**Arts Bootcamps** – COPPeR facilitated and hosted a series of workshops aimed to help nonprofit arts organizations improve their sustainability. These spring sessions, which served more than 60 members of the local arts community, focused on budget development and oversight, collaborative programming, marketing, and board development.

**Office and Arts Information Space** – Every day residents, tourists and newcomers visit our storefront office in downtown Colorado Springs to learn more about ways to engage in local arts and culture. We showcase the work of local artists in our office and collaborate with other nonprofits on exhibits, and in 2009 our proximity to the Fine Arts Center MODERN allowed us to provide our visitors with an even more in-depth arts experience. The installation of Chris Weed’s “Paperclips” in front of our office as part of the Art on the Streets program has made COPPeR a more popular destination.

**Broad-based Arts Advocacy and Education** – COPPeR staff facilitate Arts Day for Leadership Pikes Peak programs, to include the Signature Program, the Women’s Community Leadership Initiative, Experience the Springs, and Leadership Now! (a young professionals leadership program). 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 such as the Diversity Festival, Pridefest and many other civic events. Our staff and board are regularly in contact with key leadership in the community, across business, government, education and human services sectors. From the Dream City visioning process to a fact-finding trip to Austin with community leaders, COPPeR endeavors to raise issues about the arts and culture sector. In 2009, COPPeR staff and volunteers made more than 30 presentations to community groups about the value of arts and culture in our community.

**GOAL: Advocate for the Region’s Vitality**
GOAL: Leverage Cultural Assets to Promote a Positive Regional Brand and Image

Financial Summary
January 1-December 31, 2009

Operating Revenue

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

Total Revenue: $216,384

Operating Expenses

- Program Services $131,011
- General and Administrative $47,919
- Fundraising $2,203
- Planned Operating Surplus $20,000

Total Operating: $201,133
Many thanks to our 2009 Supporters!

$20,000 and above
City of Colorado Springs

$10,000 - $19,999
El Pomar Foundation
Bee Vradianburg Foundation

$5,000 - $9,999
Colorado Council on the Arts
The Gazette

$500 - $999
Michael and Susan Coumotos
Susan J. Edmondson
Eric & Ann Fetsch
Tom & Lisa McElroy
Tom & Marla Twardoski
Angela White
The COPPeR Fund of the Pikes Peak Community Foundation

$200 - $499
June Chan
Aimee Cox
Benjamin Day
Mark Dempsey
Larry Fish
Michael & Susan Grace
Dick & Sandra Hilt
Beth & Dave Kosley
Amanda Mountain
Judy & Dick Noyes
Ed & Mary Osborne
Jenny & Mark Stafford
Joshua Waymire

$100 - $199
Lindsay & Joanna Fischer
Jennifer & Jeff George
Phil & Meg Kendall
Suzanne MacAulay & Alan Lazrus
Jan Martin
John & JoAnn Orsborn
Randy & BJ Scott
Kimmerley Sherwood
David & Eve Skolnick
Judy & Buzz Sellers

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Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center and FAC MODERN
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Nosh
Bristol Brewing
Blue Sage Catering
Cukjati Marketing/Intelligence/ Creative
Creative Medium
Jefjoni Sign Mfg.
Ron Graham, CPA
The Wine Shop

Thank you to the following artists and performers who participated in events and activities benefitting COPPeR:
Bill Starr
Atomic Elroy
Neil Fenton
Eleanor Annand
Sean O’Meallie
Lindsay Weidmann
Cottonwood Center for the Arts
Stick Horses in Pants
Manitou Art Theater
Aaron Anstett
Grass It Up
Christopher Weed
Mark Wong
Ormao Dance Company
Opera Theatre of the Rockies
Kaleena Kovach
Rence Seyb
Smokebrush Foundation for the Arts
Edith Makes a Paperchain
The Electric Illuminati
Low Down High
The Mitguards
Jason Bennett
Tom Taylor and the Needledwood Orchestra
Jeremy Facknitz
Anthony Davis Band

Additional thanks: Aaron Retka, Amber Cote, Jeanette Holman, Jen Furda, Rita Pantoya, Dave Cslintyan, Caitlin Green, Deborah Thornton, Stephannie Finley, Nancy Johnson, Dave Talbot, Thomas Wilson, Jan Martin, Todd Liming, Heather Brown

* All contributions are deeply appreciated and critical to our operations. Every effort has been to made to accurately reflect the names of our donors throughout 2009. If there is an error or omission, please contact us at 634-2204 so we may correct it as soon as possible.
COPPER
Staff, Board
& Advisors

Staff
Bettina Swigger, Executive Director
Kevin Johnson, PeakRadar Manager
Brett Garman, Becca Siegel, Bipaswi Tuladhar, Interns

2009 Board of Directors
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Amanda Mountain, Vice Chair
Susan Edmondson, Secretary
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Michael Coumastos
Benjamin Day
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Nancy Lewis
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Chuck Murphy
Judy Noyes
Deborah Thornton
Eve Tilley

Annual Report design by Benjamin Day and Bettina Swigger; Photos by Allison Daniell, Woody Wood, Jen Furda and Bettina Swigger

CULTURAL OFFICE OF THE PIKES PEAK REGION

2009 AT-A-GLANCE

- COPPeR staff and volunteers made more than 30 presentations to community groups about the value of arts and culture in our community.

- PeakRadar celebrated its second birthday and is a proven tool for building audiences in the arts - PeakRadar experienced 1.8 million pageviews!

- More than 5,000 copies of the COPPeR Pages guidebook have been distributed, spreading the word about ways to participate in cultural groups.

- COPPeR partnered with the Chamber of Commerce on the 2nd annual Business & Arts Awards Lunch, celebrating businesses that support the arts.

- Every day residents, tourists and newcomers visit our storefront office in downtown Colorado Springs to learn more about ways to engage in local arts and culture.

- Bettina Swigger was elected to the Americans for the Arts National Emerging Leaders Council

- COPPeR earned honorable mention in The Independent’s “Best Of” issue in the category of “Best Arts Advocate” (Bettina Swigger won the Silver category and COPPeR board secretary Susan Edmondson won gold!)

- Bettina Swigger was appointed to the Colorado Council on the Arts Peer Assistance Network.

- COPPeR staff joined community leaders on a fact-finding trip to Austin, Texas and represented the arts community.