The Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region (COPPeR) is the designated local arts agency for El Paso and Teller counties, and the City of Colorado Springs. Governed by an engaged Board of Directors, and with the leadership and passion of a small but dedicated staff, our work at the Cultural Office is all about elevating the visibility, value and impact of the creative sector here in our community.

Andy Vick, Executive Director
Angela Bank, Deputy Director
Jeanette Young, Program Manager
Wendy Weatherly, Cultural Office Assistant (beginning Dec.)
Alyssa Karpa, Cultural Office Assistant (beginning Dec.)

2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Maria Manzanares
Phil Lane
Phil Lane
Phil Lane
Phil Lane

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

ABOUT the CULTURAL OFFICE

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OUR MISSION
Connecting residents and visitors with arts & culture to enrich the Pikes Peak region.

OUR GOALS
- Cultivate robust participation in arts & cultural experiences throughout the Pikes Peak region
- Advocate for investment in the region’s cultural vitality
- Leverage arts & cultural assets to help brand our community as an innovative and vibrant destination
- Foster collaboration and cross-sector partnerships

2018 FINANCIALS

REVENUE

EXPENSES

2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brenda Speer, President
Deb Mahan, Vice President
David Siegel, Secretary
Christine Lowenberg, Treasurer

CONTACT INFO

CONNECTIONS: MEDIA

Impact magazine

Photograph by Adam Williams/Humanitou

Photograph by Adam Williams/Humanitou
Our fifth annual Arts Month celebration saw a great increase, with record levels of community engagement, collaborations, and support. Page views increased 17% and unique users increased 29% across the various Arts Month pages of Peak Radar.com over the previous year’s campaign. We set a new record with over 300 cultural events posted to PeakRadar.com from October 1-31! ArtPOP returned for a second year, in partnership with the Pikes Peak Arts Council, to present “pop-up” performances. New collaborations with the Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance, UCSS Presents, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Angels of America’s Fallen, and others, connected new audiences across the region to Arts Month.

The Town of Monument and City of Cringle Creek also joined the momentum with the new slate of their own programs for Arts Month 2018.

**ARTS MONTH SURVEY**

Did you have one new arts & friends during October?

* I am seeing our city grow and celebrate the arts! (Yes/No)
* I believe in arts and the cultural community! (Yes/No)
* I am driving through a new venue at The Mining Exchange Hotel and adjacent Gold Room. Around 1,000 arts supporters kicked off Arts Month with an evening of talented local artists and performers, culinary delights from food trucks, and free martini tastings from the mixologists employed by the 365 Grand Club properties.

**BUSINESS & ARTS LUNCH**

The 2018 Business 6 Arts Lunch continued an ongoing and popular collaboration between the Cultural Office and the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce 6 EDC. A highlight of the annual Arts Month campaign, the Lunch celebrates innovative and inspiring interactions between the arts and business community across the Pikes Peak region. Almost 400 attendees gathered at the Antlers Hotel to acknowledge this year’s award winners, and enjoy a curated showcase of local artists and performers.

**FREE FIRST FRIDAY SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE**

The First Friday Shuttle Bus program expanded from a four-month pilot in 2017 to a nine-month schedule from April to December in 2018. The free and handicapped accessible shuttle buses made continuous loops during the First Friday Art Walks, stopping along the Creative Corridor that connects Downtown Colorado Springs, Old Colorado City, and Manitou Springs. Orchestrated by the Cultural Office, in collaboration with 31 other fiscal sponsors, the shuttle bus program generated 1,758 rides in 2018, spanning at 276 rides during Arts Month in October. Paid artists hosted each route to guide, inform and entertain riders.

**ARTS MONTH**

ARTS MONTH In 2018, our whimsical Art-o-Mat® machine—a retired cigarette vending machine that has been converted by North Carolina artist Clark Whittington to vend small works of handmade art—found the perfect home in the main hallway of the by-old school. Over 2,600 pieces of artwork were sold to locals and tourists in 2018!

**ART O M AT**

In support of Creative Forces, a national initiative focusing on arts and healing in the military sector, the Cultural Office hosted a “Creative Forces Community Summit” at the new UCSC East Center for the Arts in February 2018. The successful summit. Funded by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and Colorado Creative Industries, attended over 200 attendees from diverse sectors across our community: military, veterans, arts, healthcare, education, government, philanthropy, and more. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and the gathering helped to galvanize awareness, support, and enthusiasm for Creative Forces. The momentum has fuelled the development of a local demonstration project called Military Arts Connection that will launch in 2019.

**CREATIVE FORCES**

We launched our first arts funding program in partnership with Pikes Peak Community Foundation in January-March 2018. Peak Arts Prize re-envisioned the Fund for the Arts into an innovative way to “amplify local arts!” The Prize’s video applications and expanded eligibility for individual artists and for profit arts businesses extended funding to a broader spectrum of our creative sector, receiving 34 applications. It attracted positive attention through a public voting component that received 1,560 public votes. Three winning projects were awarded a total of $25,000. The second year of Peak Arts Prize returns in early 2019.