

# THE TIME IS NOW

Now is the time to be bold!  
Surrender fear to the exploration of new creative endeavors.

Now is the time to be courageous!  
Advocate for each other loudly and without hesitation.

Now is the time to be collaborative!  
We are at our strongest when we connect, share, and champion each other.

Now is the time to be innovative!  
Reimagine art with accessibility and equity across the region.

Now is the time to lead with change!  
Art is a catalyst for revolution, liberation, and progression.

Now is the time to create art in the image of our region!  
Where every person can say, "I am reflected in the art I see in my community."

This is the future we are working towards.  
Art representing your neighborhood, family, identity, heritage, passions, pain, and joys.  
Art weaving into the fabric of the region seamlessly.  
Art permeating systems, institutions, and structures of power.

From leaders, teachers, artists, and community members, your voice matters.  
From BIPOC, Queer, Disabled, Women, and other marginalized groups, your voice matters.  
Your voice and the voices of our diverse community are integral to this vision.  
The uplifting and collective support of each other is the only way through.  
It will take all of us to implement this work.  
We cannot do this without you.  
We need you to champion art in the ways only you can.

See yourself reflected in these declarations.  
Make your home in the words and be held by their support.  
Feel the way your body is called to a specific action.  
Find the ways you add to the vibrance of art and creativity in this vision and join us.  
Fight alongside us to be better tomorrow than we are today.  
We see our future for art as life-saving.  
We see the future of art in you.

Let art become Aspen grove.  
An interconnected network of roots that supply and nourish each other.  
Despite size or range, let us come together for the good of the people.  
Stand in solidarity and community with those similar and different from yourself.  
Bound by creativity and possibilities.  
As we grow the legacy of art in the Pikes Peak region.

**BY ASHLEY CORNELIUS**  
**PIKES PEAK POET LAUREATE (2021-2023)**  
**AND ARTS VISION 2030 STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER**