About the Cultural Office

The Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region (COPPeR) is the nonprofit local arts agency that serves the City of Colorado Springs and the greater Pikes Peak region (El Paso and Teller Counties). 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.

The Cultural Office takes a strategic view of Colorado’s Pikes Peak region to ensure that cultural services reach all people, and that the arts are leveraged to positively address issues of economic development, education, cultural tourism, and quality of life. We provide an umbrella service encompassing areas such as marketing and communication, broad-based data gathering, strategic planning and programming, and advocacy for our creative sector in its entirety.

Our Mission

The Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region champions our diverse creative community as a vital part of the region’s identity and economy through service, connection, and advocacy.

Our Vision

A thriving community united by creativity.

Our Goals

- ADVOCATE... serving as a respected and recognized leader in advocacy for our creative sector.
- PROMOTE... presenting our region as a vibrant cultural destination, and a hub for artists and creatives to live, work, and thrive.
- CONVENE... bringing together the arts, cultural, and creative community to foster collaboration, networking, and innovation.
- LEAD... growing our capacity as the local arts agency for the City of Colorado Springs and the Pikes Peak region.

2022 COPPeR Guild Members As of 12/31/22

The COPPeR Guild is a group of arts patrons and community leaders who understand that a vibrant and dynamic creative sector requires the strong and effective leadership of a local arts agency, like the Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region.

Betsy and Vance Brown
Al and Leigh Rueffner
Nard Clea and Sheary Clough Suiter
Nechie & Patrick Faricy
Holly and Tony Flores
Michael and Susan Grace
Erin Hannan and Jon Caskany
Robert and Sara Howseam
Kyle and Sally Hybl
Phil and Meg Kendall
Kevin and Jamie Kratt
Brenda Lammers
Laura Lyman
Christina McCary
Robin and Mike McGrath
C.J. Moore
Karen Pfeifer
Prashant Krishnan and Sheyul Prashant
Pat Shockley-Zalabak
Wayne and Bets Smisek
John Spears
Jordan Strub and Michele Strub-Heer
Rathyn Stults
Danielle Summerville
Herman and Tang-Lin Tiemens
Jean Tiemens and Herb Comet
Lois Vick
George Vradenburg
Dennis Wagner
Steve Weed and Laurie Wilson

Advocacy & Community Engagement

Cultural Office staff represented our creative sector as Board members and/or Committee members with the following national, state and local organizations:

- United States Urban Arts Federation
- Colorado Creative Industries
- Colorado Education and Cultural Facilities Authority
- Front Range Cultural Arts Partners
- Front Range Executive Directors of Local Arts Agencies
- City of Colorado Springs
- LART Citizen Advisory Committee
- Olympic City USA Task Force
- Panorama Park Public Art Expert Panel
- Visit Colorado Springs
- Board of Directors
- Marketing Committee
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Committee
- Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC
- Colorado Springs Pikes Peak Cultural District
- Arts Vision Grant Program
- Connect Colorado Springs Concierge Program
- Pikes Peak Poet Laureate Committee
- Regional Leadership Forum
- Rotary Club of Colorado Springs

Plus, ongoing interactions with elected officials and community leaders.

2022 Board of Directors

Holly Flores, President
Krithika Prashant, Vice President
Erin Hanan, Secretary
Peter Maiozzi, Treasurer
Chris Alvarez (partial year)
Rodney Guillatle, Jr.
Scott BC Levy
Jeff Mahrman
John Romero (partial year)
John Spears (partial year)
Kathy Stults
Danielle Summerville
Beth Ann Taylor
Tara Sewanne Thomas
Sara Vaas
Laurie Wilson

Engagement

In the summer of 2022, Arts Vision Grants were offered for creative projects that bring to life the declarations and opportunities in Arts Vision 2030, the 10-year cultural plan for the Pikes Peak region. The grants are supported by the Pikes Peak Fund for the Arts at the Pikes Peak Community Foundation, and managed by the Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region with support from Relevant Project Studio. Learn more at CulturalOffice.org/arts-vision-grants.

Applications were invited from arts-focused nonprofits, arts-focused businesses, and individual artists based in El Paso and Teller counties of Colorado, for projects occurring between September 1, 2022 and August 31, 2023. Grantees included:

- A.M. Lewis Films for “All the Beautiful Things”
- Ballet Folklorico de Barajas for dance and enrichment programming
- Colorado Springs Community Ventures for “Art on the Streets Fellowship”
- Ladyfingers Letterpress for “Printmaking Free for All”
- Lupita Carrasco for “Expressions on Caring”
- Poetry Heals for “Write It Out After School”
- Sophia Hanna for “by the skin of my flesh”
- That Cat Pluto for “That Cat Pluto” children’s book series
- UCCS Theatreworks for “Cultivating Young Theatre Artists of Color”
- Youth Documentary Academy for Year 2 of the Youth Media Matters Film Festival and the “OUR TIME” PBS broadcast
- zoneFIVE for DIY archival matting, mounting & framing workshops
Have you ever visited a new location with a trusted guide to show you the ins & outs and local favorites? Diverse creatives from the Colorado Springs arts community are here to do just that, through the Creative Stays multimedia series, created in partnership with Springs Media. Each Creative Stay is a curated exploration of their favorite hotels, community attractions, restaurants, entertainment, hidden hangouts, and not-to-miss cultural destinations through lively videos and accompanying articles. Funded by a grant from the Colorado Tourism Office, and with content creation by Springs Media and JasonFleming.com, Creative Stays will eventually feature a series of 13 weekend getaway itineraries. Creative Stays brings to life one of the specific opportunities in the Arts Vision 2030 Cultural Plan, building our region as a cultural destination.

Scan the QR code to watch Diego Arnedo and Adhya Spencer’s Creative Stay — Roll With It: Bicycles, Art & Culture! Learn more (and see every Creative Stay so far) at COSCreativeStays.com.

ART-O-MAT
Our whimsical Art-o-Mat machine is a retired cigarette vending machine that has been altered by North Carolina artist Clark Whittington to dispense small, handmade works of art by creatives from all across the country. Our machine, entitled Carnival, sits inside the main entrance of the Ivywild School, just south of Downtown Colorado Springs.

In 2022, our machine dispensed 3,644 art pieces, 15 percent more than we sold in 2021. With an average of over 300 art sales per month, the Colorado Springs machine is one of the top-selling machines in the country.

Learn more at CulturalOffice.org/programs/Art-o-Mat and visit the machine at Ivywild!

CREATIVE STAYS
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ARTS MONTH
Celebrated each October during National Arts & Humanities Month, our local Arts Month is all about showcasing artistic talent, providing opportunities for arts advocacy, supporting innovative cross-sector community collaborations, and creating new avenues for arts engagement and cultural enrichment. In its 9th year in 2022, Arts Month continued to elevate the visibility of arts & culture in Colorado Springs and across the Pikes Peak region.

Arts Month 2022 continued its trend of annually expanding programs, reaching new audiences, and elevating a wider variety of creative voices. The campaign delivered millions of impressions across the Pikes Peak region and beyond.

As we look ahead to our 10th annual celebration in October 2023, Arts Month has grown into one of the largest and most recognizable cultural events in the Pikes Peak region.

Learn more at ArtsOctober.com

ARTS MONTH MIXER
125 creatives joined Cultural Office staff at Kinship Landing for the Arts Month Mixer. With music from Meat & Potatoes and made-to-order poetry from Becoming Poetry, the evening generated new connections and important conversations in the field.

GUIDE TO ARTS MONTH IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE GAZETTE
Over 37,000 print and digital copies of original content showcasing the events and personalities of Arts Month – as well as how to connect to local arts year-round – reached Gazette readers to kick off the month.

“HIGHLIGHTS” ON ARTSOctober.COM
In 2022, the Cultural Office reinvested over $25,000 back into the creative sector with over 50 partners to help support Arts Month awareness and programming.

ARTIST OF THE DAY ON SOCIAL MEDIA
The Cultural Office featured 31 diverse local artists as “Artist-of-the-Day” on social media, with stories that featured original multimedia content.

ARTS MONTH PROCLAMATIONS
Secured formal proclamations from the El Paso County Board of Commissioners and the Colorado Springs City Council.

PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED:

"There were so many wonderful events and programs, I had to make hard choices about what NOT to attend. Congrats on growing Arts Month to a critical mass of excellence!"

It seems like Arts Month keeps getting more and more vibrant and well attended each year. Thank you for securing these dollars and helping so many small arts organizations with the critical funding it takes to run their programs. Thank you for elevating the entire region’s arts and culture scene.”
### MILITARY ARTS CONNECTION

In partnership with Creative Forces®: NEA Military Healing Arts Network, and Colorado Creative Industries (our State Arts Agency), the Cultural Office continued the Military Arts Connection (MAC) program in 2022. The MAC program is about leveraging the power of the arts to help create stronger community connections, teach new skills, and enable our local military service members, veterans, and their families to unleash their inner creativity. The program is also designed to generate new economic opportunities for participating artists and arts organizations.

This experience got me out of the house and talking to new people, which is something that I need help with."

Learn more at [MilitaryArtsConnection.org](http://MilitaryArtsConnection.org)

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### PEAK RADAR

The multi-faceted Peak Radar arts marketing program has connected locals and tourists to the vibrant arts & cultural community of the Pikes Peak region since 2007. Peak Radar is a comprehensive arts & culture community events calendar that showcases everything from theater to sports, music to film, and poetry to outdoor recreation—serving over 400 arts & cultural groups across El Paso and Teller counties. Operating as a free marketing department for these groups, the Peak Radar team promotes events, creative opportunities, cultural attractions, and more across an array of communications platforms.

In 2022, the Peak Radar team continued to build cross-sector collaborations, with continued partnerships with organizations such as Sports Corp, Visit Colorado Springs, Pikes Peak Lodging Association, and more. Through Peak Radar ad buys and trades, the Cultural Office also invested in local events such as the MeadowGrass Music Festival, Commonwheel Art Festival, Pikes Peak Pride Fest, and Southern Colorado Juneteenth Festival.

### 2022 PEAK NUMBERS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>Change</th>
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<tr>
<td>Local events listed to PeakRadar.com</td>
<td>3,802</td>
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<tr>
<td>PeakRadar.com pageviews</td>
<td>6,637,644</td>
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<td>“Buy Tickets” button clicks</td>
<td>14,317</td>
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<td>Social media followers (across five platforms)</td>
<td>13,674</td>
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<td>Pageviews of PeakRadar.com content, including views on partner websites</td>
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<td>PeakRadar.com users (a new program record!)</td>
<td>290,428</td>
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<tr>
<td>PeakRadar Picks e-blast subscribers</td>
<td>20,241</td>
<td>+3%</td>
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Guides and theme pages such as the Free Outdoor Summer Concert Guide and Holiday Guide continue to drive PeakRadar.com website views while giving users inspiring packages of cultural info. The “Buy Tickets” link on every ticketed event listing, clicked over 14,000 times in 2022, demonstrates how Peak Radar funnels public interest into direct economic impact for local arts. Beyond the website, the Peak Radar team continued to market the arts community’s activities year-round on radio, television, and social media.

In 2023, make sure you explore the creativity of the Pikes Peak region like never before through the breathtaking lens of PeakRadar.com!
FINANCIALS

REVENUE

Public Support 54.6%
Foundation Support 25.7%
Earned Revenue 8%
Program Sponsorships 3.7%
Individual Contributions 3.4%
In-Kind Support 3.4%
Uncategorized 0.001%
Corporate Contributions 0.6%
Investments and Interest 0.7%

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<td>Foundation Support</td>
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<td>Uncategorized</td>
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TOTAL REVENUE $712,620

EXPENSES

Programming 88%
General Administration 9%
Fundraising 3%

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<td>Fundraising</td>
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TOTAL EXPENSES $698,949

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

CONTACT INFO

Mailing: P.O. Box 190, Colorado Springs, CO 80901 • Office: 121 S. Tejon St., #111 • 719-634-2204 • info@CulturalOffice.org

CulturalOffice.org (Official Website) • ArtsOctober.com • MilitaryArtsConnection.org • PeakRadar.com