Community Cultural Plan
Annual Report 2016
City of Boulder, Colorado

Office of Arts + Culture - Library & Arts Department
Adopted by City Council: November 17, 2015
OUR FIRST YEAR has been a fast-paced experiment in how the strategies of the Community Cultural Plan can benefit Boulder in real time. We, the staff of the Office of Arts and Culture, are honored to have been in service to the community through these tools. This document is meant to record our progress and maintain a high level of transparency as the Community Cultural Plan matures. Of note in 2016 were the cornerstone programs: City Council saw fit to increase grant funding significantly and we took on an effort to refine how that money is well stewarded. Our public art program emerged with a new policy, robust public outreach, a novel series of temporary projects called *Experiments in Public Art*, and a new staff person to implement it. We also made progress on the foundations of programs for individual artists and increased our capacity for research, policy, and leadership across the region and nation. And, our success was part of a year of growth and recognition for the entire cultural community. Looking back on 2016, it is clear that together we are making strides to achieve the Community Vision for Culture:

Together, we will craft Boulder’s social, physical, and cultural environment to include creativity as an essential ingredient for the well-being, prosperity, and joy of everyone in the community.

Signed, with our thanks!
David Farnan, Library & Arts Department director
Matt Chasansky, manager of the Office of Arts + Culture
Mary Fowler, grants program coordinator
Mandy Vink, public art program coordinator
Mary Wohl Haan, coordinator of programs for artists
Oromo Tribe – Ethiopian Dance Group
Participants in the 2016 Dance Showcase
With a full year of the Community Cultural Plan behind us, we look back at our accomplishments with enormous gratitude to the community for investing in the future of Boulder’s culture. Below is a selection of our achievements in 2016:

**support our CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS**
- New Grants Program
  - General Operating Support for 18 organizations
  - Project Support through 29 grants
- Sponsorships & Partnerships
- Cultural Organization Leadership Summits

**reinvent our PUBLIC ART program**
- New Public Art Policy
- 6 temporary projects for Experiments in Public Art
- Support of art-in-public-places
- 2 new murals
- Art in Private Developments Study
- Public art maintenance

**support individual artists and CREATIVE PROFESSIONALS**
- Forums for professional artists
- Dance Month program pilot
- Professional development scholarships
- *Business of Arts* partnership with BCAA

**engage our YOUTH**
- Public art partnerships with classrooms
- More to come in 2017 and 2019
With a full year of the Community Cultural Plan behind us, we look back at our accomplishments with enormous gratitude to the community for investing in the future of Boulder’s culture. Below is a selection of the work we did in 2016:

**Create and Enhance Venues**
- Macky Rental Grants
- City Programming Forum

**Strengthen Culture in Our Neighborhoods**
- Support for the Neighborhood Grants
- More to come in 2018

**Enhance the Vitality of the Creative Economy**
- Fact-finding trip to Artist Live/Work spaces
- More to come in 2017 and 2019

**Civic Dialog, Awareness, and Participation**
- Boulder Arts Week
- Regional Cultural Alliance feasibility study
- Arts & Prosperity 5 study
- Multi-year grants study
- AFTA Executive Leadership Forum

**We Also:**
- Sent out 2,442 tweets, held dozens of public meetings, and distributed 38 email newsletters to nearly 2,500 people to engage with the cultural community of Boulder.
- Supported other city departments to ensure that projects like the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan, Civic Area revitalization, University Hill Reinvestment Strategy, and other projects were made more successful from the inclusion of a good dose of culture.
- Spent 40 hours in meetings with the five members of the Boulder Arts Commission to support their decision process on the cultural grants and public art. We are grateful for their advice and consultation on the work that we do.
## 2016 Measures

Tracking Progress on the Municipal Strategies:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scale of Arts Commission cultural grant funding.</strong></td>
<td>$225,000</td>
<td>$450,000</td>
<td>$675,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 grants</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of works of public art installed by the City of Boulder.</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of people employed through public art projects.</strong></td>
<td>ten</td>
<td>forty</td>
<td>forty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>People attending Office of Arts + Culture outreach events.</strong></td>
<td>1,486</td>
<td>2,262</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>City budget assigned from all sources for the Office of Arts + Culture.</strong></td>
<td>$675,000</td>
<td>$1.37 million</td>
<td>$1.67 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>or ~$6.75 per resident</td>
<td>or ~$13.70 per resident</td>
<td>or ~$16.70 per resident</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Photo appears courtesy of madelife.
## 2016 MEASURES

**TEMPERATURE CHECK OF THE CREATIVE COMMUNITY:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residents who positively rate “cultural/arts/music activities”(^1)</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td></td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of performing arts theater seats in Boulder(^2)</td>
<td>4,850*</td>
<td>5,056</td>
<td>5,056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of businesses / jobs in the creative sector(^3)</td>
<td>1,124 businesses 9,814 jobs</td>
<td>1,156 businesses 10,214 jobs</td>
<td>Data to be released.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic impact of tourists visiting culture and recreation(^4)</td>
<td>$62.1 million</td>
<td></td>
<td>$68.1 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total dollars in gov’t arts grants from all sources(^5)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$658,000</td>
<td>$1.07 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenues of cultural nonprofits(^6)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$28.33 million 135 organizations</td>
<td>$44.72 million 159 organizations</td>
<td>Data to be released.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DATA SOURCES:


2. Office of Arts and Culture email survey of purpose-built, indoor performing arts theaters in the City of Boulder. Note: some venues have flexible seating, and this number may not reflect top capacity, for instance in venues which offer standing-room only events. Note: this figure is for purpose-built theater seats only. Additional spaces exist across Boulder which, while not a primary function, do offer performing arts events. Examples are coffee shops and restaurants, rooms for rent in hotels and museums, and meeting rooms.

* Note: the 2014 data includes a period of time when the Dairy Arts Center was under construction.

3. IRS filings for businesses in NAICS codes 323110, 323111, 323112, 323113, 323115, 323122, 327112, 327212, 332323, 337212, 339911, 339913, 339914, 339992, 423940, 424920, 443130, 448310, 451130, 451140, 451211, 451220, 453110, 453310, 453920, 511110, 511120, 511130, 511191, 511199, 511210, 512120, 512131, 512191, 512199, 512210, 512220, 512230, 512240, 512290, 515111, 515112, 515120, 515210, 519110, 519120, 519130, 519140, 519150, 519180, 541300, 541340, 541345, 541400, 541420, 541430, 541490, 541810, 541850, 541860, 541890, 541921, 541922, 611610, 711110, 711120, 711130, 711190, 711310, 711320, 711410, 711510, 712110, 712210, 811420, 812910, 812922, and 813410 in City of Boulder zip codes 80302, 80304, 80301, 80303, 80305, and 80310.


   Page 9, from Table 5 “Total Spending in Boulder”: represents a calculation of total spending in 2015 derived from respondents who indicated their primary purpose of visit was “arts, entertainment, recreation”.


5. Represents government cultural grant funds delivered directly to Boulder residents and organizations. Data from several grant reports have been assembled to calculate this number:

   > The National Endowment for the Arts: ([https://www.arts.gov/grants/recent-grants/grant-announcements](https://www.arts.gov/grants/recent-grants/grant-announcements))

   > Colorado Creative Industries (no data from 2014)

   > Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD): ([http://scfd.org/p/grant-distribution.html](http://scfd.org/p/grant-distribution.html))

   Note: only includes General Operating Support funding from SCFD. A small portion of additional funds has historically been distributed to individual projects which cross county lines.

   > Boulder Arts Commission (City of Boulder Office of Arts + Culture)


OTHER WAYS WE TRACK CULTURAL AFFAIRS:

> Arts and Prosperity 5 from Americans for the Arts - [take me there](#)

> National Endowment for the Arts Creativity Connects Study - [take me there](#)

> CBCA Economic Indicators Study - [take me there](#)

> Boulder Convention and Visitor’s Bureau Economic Impact of Tourism - [take me there](#)

> Boulder Community Foundation Trends Report - [take me there](#)

> Boulder Community Survey - [take me there](#)

> City of Boulder Grants Data Project - coming soon

> Artist Census - coming soon
Untitled by Anna Charney
Commissioned in collaboration with & Art Space
It is worth remembering and celebrating the fact that, here in Boulder, 2016 was full of accomplishments for our cultural community:

**ARTISTS** Michelle Ellsworth, faculty at CU Theater/Dance, was awarded the Guggenheim Fellowship; dancer, teacher, and performing artist, Barbara Dilley published a new book; The Dairy Center Honors paid tribute to playwright Ami Dyan, choreographer Noel Hefty, music director Thomas Morgan, musician David Fulker, artist and professor Sally Elliot, and arts patron Caryl Kassoy; Katie Elliot, Jim LaVita, Nii Armah Sowah were honored by the Carson Brierly Giffin Dance Library; Rebecca Remaly was recognized by the National Theatre Conference; Emily K. Harrison, Pesha Rudnick, Amanda Berg Wilson, and Rebecca Remaly received the True West Award; Marina Kassianidou was recognized by the Joan Mitchell Foundation; and, our congratulations to all the other Boulder artists who received awards, fellowships, and honors.

**ART IN PUBLIC PLACES** In addition to all the public art that the Office of Arts and Culture has installed, new murals appeared around Boulder thanks to & Art Space including works by Samuel Parker, Anthony Garcia, Jr, and Rather Severe; Black Cube brought the sculpture ROAM by Jon Geiger to the Civic Area; BMoCA installed a new feature sculpture by Dimitri Oberfell at their entrance; the University of Colorado Environmental Design Program and EcoArts Connections installed Natalie Jeremijenko’s TREExOFFICE; and, an army of activist-artists created work in public spaces, including the mysterious Olej Rightlane who chained stationary bikes at key bicycle stands around Boulder.

**CULTURAL DESTINATIONS** The Dairy Center for the Arts cut the ribbon on their newly renovated lobby and theaters; new facilities broke ground at the Civic Area and the Museum of Boulder; the Jewish Community Center opened a new facility including education and performance space; a new workshop was established by the Boulder Creative Collective; the Boulder Public Library’s BLDG 61 makerspace opened; and, the Rayback Collective established itself as a home for food, film, music, and community.

**GRANT AWARDS** In addition to funding from the Boulder Arts Commission, The National Endowment for the Arts gave grants to Boulder County Arts Alliance, the Boulder Philharmonic, EcoArts Connections, Frequent Flyers, and the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts; Boulder Parks & Recreation and the Boulder Public Library received funds from the Knight Foundation; the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) gave awards to 32 Boulder organizations; and, Colorado Creative Industries delivered 19 grants to our community’s cultural leaders.
In addition to continuing the implementation of the Community Cultural Plan, and adding to the successes of 2016, staff will work on new programs and capacities to support the community.

Below is an abbreviated work plan for 2017:

**2017 OUTLOOK**

- **Support our Cultural Organizations**
  - Strengthen the Cultural Grants program
  - Increased sponsorships and partnerships
  - More Cultural Organization Leadership summits

- **Reinvent our Public Art Program**
  - Begin selection of 10 new public art projects
  - New mural series
  - Continuing support for art-in-public-places
  - Study sustainable funding for public art
  - New public art maintenance projects

- **Support Individual Artists and Creative Professionals**
  - Artist Census
  - More professional artist forums
  - New “Month of” projects
  - More professional development scholarships
  - Explore a new fellowship program

- **Engage our Youth**
  - New Cultural Field Trip Fund
  - More to come
2017 OUTLOOK

In addition to continuing the implementation of the Community Cultural Plan, and adding to the

Below is an abbreviated work plan for 2017:

create and enhance VENUES

> Expanded Rental Assistance Fund
> Cultural Asset Map project
> More to come

strengthen culture in our NEIGHBORHOODS

> Explore new PDA Grants
> More to come

enhance the vitality of the CREATIVE ECONOMY

> NoBo Art District Coordination Committee
> Release of the Arts & Prosperity 5 Study results
> Support the Boulder County Arts Alliance calendar

CIVIC DIALOG, awareness, and participation

> Boulder Arts Week
> Regional Cultural Alliance Feasibility Study
> Research projects
> Cultural Equity and Diversity Task Force

WE ALSO PLAN TO:

> Work with City Council on a declaration officially recognizing the NoBo Art District.
> Continue work with other city departments on projects like the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan, revisions to the Sign Code, the Alpine/Balsam redevelopment, and other projects key to the health, well-being, and resilience of Boulder.
> Support the government and community team that will be exploring an extension of the Community, Culture, and Safety Tax.
Constellatory by Rebecca DiDomenico. Part of the Experiments in Public Art series.
TAKE ACTION

The Cultural Plan is more than guidance for city staff. It is a call-to-action for the leaders in our community to elevate how creativity impacts policy, social and economic prosperity, and the most important conversations of our times. If you have ideas, advice, or creative solutions to offer, then you are a cultural leader and we need your help.

THOUGHTS?

> Attend a meeting of the Boulder Arts Commission. – tell me more
> Write an email to staff or the commission members. – tell me more
> Let City Council know your thoughts on culture. – tell me more
> Join our mailing list to hear about opportunities to engage. – tell me more

READY TO WORK?

> Consider applying for a city of Boulder board or commission. – tell me more
> Volunteer for your favorite cultural organization. – tell me more
> Contribute your skills to our cause! – tell me more

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http://boulderarts.org/