Boulder High School Orchestral Coaching Partnership

2021 Arts Education Project Grant

Rocky Ridge Music Center
Dr SoYoung Lee
1128 Pine Street
Boulder, CO 80302
0: 303-449-1106

Mr. John Dilts
1128 Pine Street
Boulder, CO 80302
john@rockyridge.org
0: 720-234-1894
Application Form

Grant Information and Confirmation

Si prefiere leer esta información en español, por favor haga clic aquí. Se puede responder a la solicitud en español. Un miembro del personal de la Oficina de Artes y Cultura traducirá sus respuestas para que sean revisadas.

PURPOSE: The Arts Education Project Grant provides opportunities for children in the City of Boulder to have unique experiences with practicing artists, access to tools and techniques, or improved instruction in the creative professions. The goal of the grant is to increase the exposure of students to unique and memorable experiences that may shape their future in cultural participation and creative careers.

In 2021, it is also important to the Boulder Arts Commission that the Cultural Grants Program is responsive to current pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic. There are no questions directly related to the pandemic on the application. However, the Commission asks the community to apply with projects, emphasizing collaborations, that directly address those most impacted by the pandemic. The goal is an equitable distribution of resources throughout the community in a way that supports economic and social recovery.

Total Funds: $30,000

Awards: Approximately 10 awards at $3,000 each

Details: The award amount of $3,000 is a maximum funding guideline. Smaller requests will be accepted.

Cycle: Annual

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT APPLICATION: Monday, April 12 at 11:59 p.m.

TImeline

- Monday, April 12 at 11:59 p.m. – Deadline for applications
- April 12 to April 19 – Review by staff for eligibility and revision by applicants if necessary
- April 19 to May 3 – Preliminary review and score by panel (15 days)
- May 3 to 7 – Score processing by staff
- May 7 – Preliminary scores and comments sent to applicants via email
- May 7 to 17 – Applicants prepare and send written responses to the panel’s questions. The written response should be emailed to Lauren Click at clickl@boulderlibrary.org by Monday, April 19, 2021 at 11:59pm.
- May 17 to 21 – Response processing by staff
- May 24 – Responses sent to panel
- May 24 to June 7 – Final review and score by panel (14 days)
- June 7 to 11 – Processing of final scores
- June 11 – Final scores sent to applicants via email
- June 16, 2021 – Arts Commission meeting. Discussion and final decisions on grants
ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- **General eligibility.** Meets all general eligibility requirements.
- **Open to educators, administrators, and presenters.** Classroom teachers and school administrators in public schools, private schools, home school associations, and non-traditional classroom settings, as well as artists / individuals / organizations collaborating with schools on programming are eligible.
- **Service area and programming.** Projects must have a demonstrated benefit to school children in the City of Boulder.
- **Timing.** Projects must take place after the grant deadline and end before the end of the 2022 spring semester.

REVIEW PROCESS

- Deliberation. Applications are reviewed by the Boulder Arts Commission grants panel. Final funding decisions are made at public Boulder Arts Commission meetings. See schedule.
- Evaluation of applications. Funding in previous years does not imply continued support. Each application is reviewed anew in the context of current policies and applications. Applicants that have received repeated funding should be aware that the Boulder Arts Commission looks for indication of growth and a fresh approach to their work.
- Evaluation criteria
  - Benefit to students (Maximum 8 points)
  - Complementing curriculum (Maximum 8 points)
  - Proposed outcomes and evaluation strategy (Maximum 8 points)
  - Community Priorities (Maximum 8 points)
  - Cultural equity (Maximum 8 points)
  - Boulder focus (Maximum 4 points)
  - Encouragement points (Maximum 4 points)
- The complete scoring system and rubric for the Arts Education Project Grant can be found here.

APPEALS PROCESS

Written appeals process. The deadline for a written appeal is 14 days after funding decisions has been made by the Boulder Arts Commission. The appeals process can be found on our website.

GRANT AWARDS

- **Notifications and dispersal of funds.** Staff notifies all applicants if their Application has been successful and begins the process of securing supporting information and issuing payment for successful applicants. Grantees must contact the grant coordinator to arrange for payment. Checks are sent by mail or electronically to bank accounts designated by the applicant.
- **Communications.** All official communications and notifications will be made to the named individual applicant or person designated as the organization contact. It is this person's responsibility to communicate Boulder Arts Commission requirements of the grant award to collaborators or other
participants. This includes, but is not limited to, requirements for compliance with grant agreements, identifying Boulder Arts Commission sponsorship on publicity materials, and reporting.

- **Implementation.** Grantees shall implement programs / projects as outlined in the grant application. Any change to the project, venue, Grantee address, schedule, or staff / team members must be reported to culturegrants@boulderlibrary.org.

- **Award amount.** The Boulder Arts Commission reserves the right to adjust the amount of a grant award offered to an Applicant.

- **PERA impacts.** Retirees affiliated with the Colorado Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) will be impacted by a withholding requirement enacted by the Colorado State Legislature if awarded an arts grant. Details are available on the PERA website. See "Disclosure of Compensation."

- **Vendor forms.** Grantees must submit a City of Boulder vendor form and current IRS W-9 form in order to receive the grant award. The W-9 must be in the same name as the Grantee named on the grant application. Individual Grantees must also submit an Immigration Status Affidavit and Determination of Independent Contractor / Employee Status for Payment document. Colorado law requires proof of legal residency prior to payment. Applicants will receive the appropriate forms from payments@colorado.gov. Failure to supply a proper W-9 may invalidate the grant award.

- **IRS taxation.** Grant awards are non-transferable, taxable and are reported to the federal government.

- **Agreement.** When a grant award is made by the Boulder Arts Commission, the successful Applicant will be contacted by staff to sign a Grant Letter of Agreement. In that agreement, the Grantee will indicate the completion date of the project and the date a grant report will be submitted.

- **Issuance of funding checks.** Once the agreement is signed, staff of the Office of Arts and Culture will submit it to City Finance along with the invoice. Funds/checks are delivered within the next three weeks. Grants are initially funded at 80 percent of the grant amount awarded. The remaining 20 percent of the grant awarded is paid out upon receipt and Boulder Arts Commission approval of the grant report. Failure to submit a final grant report will result in ineligibility to apply for future grants.

- **Acknowledgment of Boulder Arts Commission funding.** All publicity for Boulder Arts Commission-funded projects must include the following credit line: *This project is funded (or funded in part) by a grant from the Boulder Arts Commission, an agency of the Boulder City Council.* In lieu of the credit line, the Boulder Arts Commission Logo may be used. The Grantee must sign a release form and submit photographs and/or videos of the project that the Office and Arts and Culture may use on its website, social media, printed materials or for any other publicity purpose.

- **Thanking City Council.** It is suggested that all grant recipients write the Boulder City Council members to thank them for supporting the Boulder Arts Commission and the Office of Arts and Culture. Please let them know how this grant will be used, and the difference it will make to your organization. Please also invite them to attend your events and programs. Visit the City Council website page to find out more about contacting City Council members.

**REQUIRED REPORTING**

- **Timeframe for reporting.** The grant report is due one month after the project is completed.

- **Method.** Submit the report through the online system access through the boulderarts.org website. Log in with the same user name and password utilized to submit the application. After logging in, go to the
‘Dashboard’, then you’ll see a ‘Follow Up’ section for the grant. On the far right is the ‘Edit’ button. That will take you to complete the final report.

- **Extension requests for reporting.** If circumstances delay the Grantee’s ability to complete the project and/or the report, the Grantee must notify the Boulder Arts Commission before the original report deadline by submitting an email addressed to the Boulder Arts Commission at culturegrants@boulderlibrary.org with the following information:
  
  - an update on the project status,
  - a request to change the project completion date, and
  - new report due date.

- **Responsibility.** The Grantee is responsible for submitting a report by the due date. The Boulder Arts Commission recommends reviewing the online report form well in advance. There is no grace period for the report.

- **Consequence of Delinquent Report.** Unless an extension request is approved by the Boulder Arts Commission in advance of the due date, all individuals or organizations / businesses attached as collaborators on the project will no longer be eligible to apply for Boulder Arts Commission grants until the delinquent report has been received.

**Certification**

I certify that I have read the above information and that this project meets the Boulder Arts Commission’s eligibility requirements and, if a funding award is made, will continue to comply with the Boulder Arts Commission’s requirements and meet with guidelines for high artistic quality, community impact, inclusiveness, funding acknowledgment and reporting.

I certify

**Applicant information**

**Discipline**

Select your discipline. If multi-discipline, please check all that apply.

- Music

**Tax status**

Cultural organizations/businesses are eligible. Nonprofit status is not required for this category.

- Nonprofit

**For individuals: organizational affiliation**

Even if an organizational affiliation is stated, awards will be made to the individual whose account is associated with this application. If no organization affiliated, please state ‘none’.
**Project information**

**Project title**
Boulder High School Orchestral Coaching Partnership

**Amount requested**
The maximum award amount offered is $3,000.
$2,800.00

**Project summary**
A brief overview of your project. Include how it will connect with or complement the class curriculum, how many students the project will reach, if the project will benefit underrepresented populations, and the benefits that you expect for the students.

In Fall 2019, RRMC launched a teaching partnership with the Orchestra Department at Boulder High School focused on providing supplementary instruction for orchestral students. In November and December, we began providing regular sectional coaching with professional teaching artists, and held a chamber music master class led by Karoly Schranz. Unfortunately, this collaboration went dormant with the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, but we plan to resume it in the 2021-2022 school year. We will provide a series of 14 sectional coaching sessions and two master classes at BHS, which will engage over 100 students in a series of training activities more advanced than can be provided by the school. Students will improve both in individual technique and ensemble playing experience, benefits that are typically available only to students with the resources to participate in a community youth orchestra. The BHS Instrumental Musicians Parents’ Association provides some scholarship support to exceptional students for this purpose, but by providing this training tuition-free and onsite we will help remove financial barriers to advanced training.

**Project calendar**
Projects must take place after the grant deadline and end before the end of the 2022 spring semester.

Specific dates for teaching sessions at BHS will be arranged at the beginning of the 2021-2022 academic year. The general schedule of activities will be as follows:
- Sectional training sessions 1-5: Nov-Dec 2021
- Master Class 1: Dec 2021
- Sectional training sessions 7-12: Jan-Apr 2022
- Master Class 2: Mar 2022
- Collection and analysis of data for evaluation: May 2022
- Submission of final report: June 2022
- Location: All activities will take place at BHS in normal rehearsal and performance spaces

**Project location**
Where do your projects take place?
Boulder High School
**Project completion date**
This is the last day of any public event related to the project. Projects must take place after the grant deadline and end before the end of the 2022 spring semester.
05/31/2022

**Date grant report is due**
One month after the project completion date.
06/30/2022

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**Panel evaluation**

**Benefit to students**
In what ways will this project directly benefit the students and their growth as cultural participants or in the creative industries? What new skills or experiences will be offered?

High school orchestras are the setting where student musicians begin learning the skills needed to participate successfully in ensemble playing. Because of school resource limitations, it is often difficult for orchestra directors to provide intensive training in technique and the behaviors and responsibilities needed for students to continue developing as collaborative musicians. Sectional coaching—where students engage in rehearsals separated by instrument type—is the primary vehicle that orchestras at all levels use to build these skills and learn to take their repertoire to a more advanced level. Our partnership with BHS focuses on string musicians, and provides regular sectional coaching with teaching artists drawn from the RRMC faculty, all of whom are seasoned professional performers and instructors holding advanced degrees in music. In addition, we will provide two opportunities for students to participate in master classes with Karoly Schranz—a founding member of the world-renowned Takacz Quartet. The master class format delivers advanced instruction by placing students in a coached performance setting with an accomplished artist, and is typically only available in a conservatory or elite arts magnet school.

**Complementing curriculum and offerings**
How does this project enhance, or fill a gap in, the generally available curriculum and offerings? For more information about Curriculum in Colorado visit this website.

Our sectional coaching sessions will enhance the curriculum by providing intensive instruction on repertoire selected by the BHS director of orchestras for school performances. The master classes will provide a supplemental opportunity for advanced string players to receive instruction from a master teacher on chamber music repertoire, which is not offered through the school orchestras. Both of these modes of instruction are outside the scope of what can be provided for the orchestras given staff time constraints and limited resources for bringing in outside teaching artists.
Proposed outcomes and evaluation strategy*

Describe your evaluation strategy for this project and how you will collect data. How will the benefits to the students be measured?

Our program is intended to result primarily in individual-level impact, with the intent of producing gains in both musical skill and a diverse suite of personal development measures. Growth in musical skill will be evaluated qualitatively by instructors in each program component, with detailed feedback provided to program participants and summary documentation kept for program evaluation. Personal development impact is evaluated by self-reported growth across a set of measures representing confidence, efficacy, discipline, creativity, and overall well-being. This data will be collected via a simple paper or online survey instrument at the end of the 2021-2022 school year.

Community Priorities

The City of Boulder’s Community Cultural Plan is a visioning and strategic document that describes how the people of Boulder will align efforts, with the support of the municipal government, to achieve our collective vision: Together, we will craft Boulder’s social, physical, and cultural environment to include creativity as an essential ingredient for the wellbeing, prosperity, and joy of everyone in the community. The Community Priorities are six points that summarize the community’s most common responses in answer to the question, “What is your vision for Boulder’s culture and creative economy?”. Reference: Cultural Plan and Community Priorities.

Community Priorities*

In what way will this project contribute to one or several of the Community Priorities described in the Community Cultural Plan? Does the project contribute to one priority thoroughly? Or, does it address many? What specific benefits to the community are planned? How will success be measured?

Examples of ways to demonstrate impact on the Community Priorities may include descriptions of how your project or organization:

- Supports artists and creative professionals by providing professional development programming.
- Contributes to Boulder’s creative identity and creates a vibrant cultural destination through high artistic merit and excellence in the practice of a medium or discipline.
- Engages the community in civic dialogue about the arts through interactive outreach in the neighborhoods.
- Adds creativity in the public realm by engaging underserved populations in art making for their community.

As a community music education organization, RRMC works to help ensure that individuals of all backgrounds are able to pursue music in a way that is meaningful to them and is limited only by their own goals. Our programming supports the Community Cultural Plan goal of fostering the city’s identity as a center for creative endeavors by providing the services needed to maintain and grow our community of artists within the field of music. Boulder is known for its high concentration of artists and creatives, but this important asset requires investment to ensure that the necessary opportunities for skill-building are both adequate and equitably distributed. Our orchestral coaching partnership fills an important need by providing advanced training that is typically not available to high school musicians within their school setting. By making this service available and free of charge, we help support Boulder’s artistic community and ensure that the process of building and reinforcing the city’s identity as a creative hub continues to involve not just the production and consumption of artistic works but investment in the skills of creatives themselves.
### Cultural equity*

Among the goals of the Boulder Arts Commission is to encourage the equitable, fair, and just distribution of funds in support of the community. This includes providing support to applicants whose organizational leadership or audience represent groups who are typically underrepresented, i.e. culturally diverse groups, organizations focused on age diversity, etc.) Describe how your project does or does not fulfill one or several of these categories. Describe how your project will address affordability, availability, accessibility, accommodation, and acceptability to diverse groups. For reference, please review the Boulder Arts Commission and Americans for the Arts Statements on Cultural Equity.

References:
Boulder Arts Commission Statement on Cultural Equity
Americans for the Arts Statement on Cultural Equity

We believe that an authentic experience of community is based on inclusion of people of all backgrounds in interaction around a shared passion, manifested in our work as the love of learning and performing music. Recognizing that exclusivity in the arts undermines the opportunity for community-building, diminishes the quality of learning, and perpetuates an injustice by denying access to an activity that is central to our fulfillment as human beings, we work intensively to bring members of underserved communities into our programming through outreach and financial assistance. Our school-based coaching sessions and master classes are offered to students free of charge, to ensure that these are open to all, regardless of income. Because this type of intensive training would otherwise only be available to students with the resources to identify and enroll in supplemental experiences outside of school, our project directly addresses inequities in music education based on financial barriers.

### Additional Questions

#### Boulder focus*

Are you a Boulder organization/individual serving Boulder or are you an organization/individual outside of Boulder and to what degree do you focus on Boulder programming?

RRMC was founded in 1942 on the site of the Hewes-Kirkwood Inn near Longs Peak as a retreat where musicians would be able to immerse themselves in their studies away from the distractions of daily life. Over the past eight decades, this has grown into a flourishing summer camp drawing students and faculty members from across the nation. During the summer, our activities still center on this mountain site, and our residential camp programs are heavily patronized by residents of nearby Boulder. In 2015 we launched Rocky Ridge Music Academy in Boulder, a community music school providing individual and group instruction programming year-round. This school is a component of a long-term vision of serving a diverse array of communities and providing innovative opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to take part in music education. RRMC has been an SCFD-funded organization with Boulder as our home county since 2017, with our most recent SCFD application indicating that 60 percent of our programmatic activities took place in Boulder County and 72 percent of our participants were Boulder County residents.

#### Encouragement points*

Among the goals of the Boulder Arts Commission is to encourage the equitable, fair, and just distribution of funds in support of the community. This includes providing support to applicants who have not yet received a grant in this cycle. Confirm if your organization has received more than $1,000 in funding from the Boulder Arts Commission in the current cycle, including if you’ll be receiving General Operating Support funding.
Attachments

The following attachments are required. Please title your attachments according to the headings listed below.

Budget summary*
Provide a brief budget summary for this project including all revenue (monetary and in-kind contributions, including this grant) and expenses. Please title the attachment "Budget summary". Permitted file types: xl, xlsx, pdf.

RRMC_BHS_Budget.pdf

Partner/Collaborator List*
Provide a list of each individual / organization that has a significant coordinating role in this project. Please title the attachment, "Collaborator list". Include their name, contact information, and role. Permitted file types: doc, docx, pdf.

RRMC_BHS_collaborators.pdf

Venue confirmation letter*
Attach confirmation from the hosting venue that the project is approved and scheduled. Please title the attachment "Venue confirmation letter". Permitted file types: doc, docx, pdf

RRMC_BHS_MOU.pdf

Letters of support
Attach any letters of support that will be useful in understanding community involvement and enthusiasm for the project. This is optional. Please title the file, "Letters of support". Permitted file types: doc, docx, pdf

RRMC_BHS_Support_Letter.pdf

Other support materials
Attach any documents that will help the jury fully understand the project, including videos and other materials that may help the commission evaluate artistic quality. This is optional. Please title the file, "Support materials". Permitted file types: doc, docx, xl, xlsx, pdf

RRMC_BHS_supplemental.pdf
Submission and signature

Application on the website (optional)
I certify that, if funding is awarded, my application may be presented on the boulderarts.org website. The Office of Arts and Culture staff will send a copy of the document to the applicant listed for approval in advance of posting on the website.

Yes

Certification*
I certify that all information contained in this application and attachments is true and accurate. All funded activities must provide equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and may not discriminate on the basis of disability, color, creed or religion.

I certify

Full name*
John Dilts

Submission date*
04/07/2021

TO COMPLETE AND SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION

All required fields must be filled in with the appropriate information and/or attachments. Click on the "Submit Application" button and an email notification that your application has been received will be sent. If you do not receive a confirmation email, please notify staff immediately. Note that once the application is submitted, it cannot be revised or added to. Please make certain that you have included all information and attachments prior to submitting.
File Attachment Summary

*Applicant File Uploads*
- RRMC_BHS_Budget.pdf
- RRMC_BHS_collaborators.pdf
- RRMC_BHS_MOU.pdf
- RRMC_BHS_Support_Letter.pdf
- RRMC_BHS_supplemental.pdf
RRMC Orchestral Coaching Partnership Collaborator List

Boulder High School Orchestras, 1604 Arapahoe Avenue, Boulder 80302
Rocky Ridge Music Center, 1128 Pine Street Boulder CO 80302
Memorandum of Understanding  
between  
Rocky Ridge Music Center and Boulder High School Orchestras  

March 30, 2021  

Background  

Rocky Ridge Music Center (RRMC) and Boulder High School (BHS) are partnering to provide enhanced music training to students in the orchestra program. Continuing a successful collaboration between RRMC and BHS in the 2019-2020 school year, the proposed partnership program is designed to provide an opportunity for enhancing musicianship skills of orchestral string musicians in the Boulder High School orchestras through a series of regular sectional coaching sessions and two master classes. This Memorandum of Understanding sets forth the purpose, responsibilities and duration of this partnership. It is not intended to be, and shall not constitute, a binding or legal agreement or impose any legal obligation or duty.

Responsibilities  

1. Workshop instruction: Rocky Ridge Music Center will provide professional string faculty members to deliver a total of 14 string sectional coaching sessions for the BHS orchestras during the 2021-2022 school year. Curriculum will be developed in consultation with BHS staff to achieve mutually agreed upon goals.

2. Master classes: Rocky Ridge Music Center will provide a master teaching artist to deliver two two-hour master classes focused on chamber music performance.

3. Facility use: Coaching sessions and master classes will take place at BHS in a mutually agreed upon location and schedule.

4. Program management: BHS staff will work with RRMC staff to secure attendance, identify master class performers, and enforce of appropriate standards of student conduct. Students will be asked to complete a program evaluation questionnaire at the end of the workshop series.

5. Funding: RRMC will secure funding to provide compensation for RRMC faculty. Sectional coaching and master classes will be provided tuition-free.
Duration

This MOU is at-will and may be modified by mutual consent of authorized representatives of Rocky Ridge Music Center and Boulder High School. It will become effective upon signature and will remain in effect until modified by mutual consent or terminated by any one of the partners.

SoYoung Lee, Executive Director  Date  4/1/2021
Rocky Ridge Music Center

Ryan Woodworth, Director of Orchestras  Date  4/5/2021
Boulder High School
March 30, 2021

Boulder Arts Commission
Boulder Main Public Library
1001 Arapahoe Ave.
Boulder, CO 80302

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express my enthusiasm for the Boulder High School Orchestra Department’s partnership with Rocky Ridge Music Center, and to encourage the Commission to fund this important work. During the fall of 2019, Rocky Ridge faculty members began working with the BHS orchestras to provide string sectional coaching. Sectionals—where students are grouped by instrument for separate rehearsals—are the primary vehicle that orchestras at all levels use to build skills and work on challenging repertoire and having intensive instruction in this area was an invaluable resource.

In addition, Rocky Ridge provided my students the opportunity to participate in a master class with Károly Schranz—a founding member of the Takács Quartet. Individualized performance coaching by an artist of his caliber is typically only available to students already performing at an elite level, and this was a unique and inspiring experience for both the participants and the students in the audience. Unfortunately, this work was cut short by the onset of the pandemic in spring 2020, and I am excited at the prospect of resuming our partnership in the 2021-2022 school year. I am confident that having RRMC instructors available for the students of the BHS orchestra will contribute to my students’ development as musicians, and that the satisfaction they take from this will impact them positively both during their time at BHS and wherever the future takes them. I hope the Arts Council will support this investment in Boulder’s youth!

Sincerely,

Ryan Woodworth
Director of Orchestras
Boulder High School
RRMC’s partnership with Boulder High School mirrors similar work with other schools in our communities. We have an ongoing collaboration with the Estes Park High School Jazz Band to provide advanced skills in ear training, improvisation, and theory, and a sister program was underway at Denver’s North High School in Spring 2020 prior to disruption by the Covid-19 pandemic. A fourth program providing chamber music master classes at Denver School of the Arts was also suspended due to the pandemic, and remains on hold. We plan on full-scale resumption of this work in the 2021-2022 school year.