



YEAR IN REVIEW

2017-2018



Arts & Venues is committed to facilitating more culturally diverse programs throughout our city. Read more about our array of programs offered in this 2017-18 Year in Review.

“Denver residents and visitors continue to enjoy thriving arts, culture and creativity thanks to the thoughtful implementation of IMAGINE 2020. Now two years away from 2020, our city’s richly diverse arts and culture have never experienced momentum as strong as it is today.

IMAGINE 2020, Denver Arts & Venues and the Commission on Cultural Affairs have instilled in Denver residents the belief that arts, culture, and creativity elevate our communities and create positive change in our society. Still, there is more work to be done. There is a desire among residents for more culturally diverse programs in our city. So, we will continue the pursuit of ensuring arts and culture are at the heart of this great city through 2020 and beyond.”

Mayor Michael B. Hancock

**Image courtesy of Jon Phillips
Data provided by Corona Insights IMAGINE 2020 Public Survey, 2017*

89%



of respondents in 2017 believed that arts, culture and creativity in Denver bring communities together compared to 84% in 2013

88%



of respondents in 2017 believed that arts, culture and creativity in Denver support and create active and unique neighborhoods compared to 81% in 2013

1 INTEGRATION

Increasing Art, Culture & Creativity in Daily Life



IMAGINE 2020 DISTRICT CHALLENGE

The District Challenge encouraged each of Denver's City Councilmembers to infuse arts and culture into their districts during Denver Arts Week. Denver Arts & Venues provided \$2,020 to each councilmember to fund new programming or enhance an existing arts program in their district. The winning district was District 11 - Councilwoman Stacie Gilmore's district. Artist Pat Milbury engaged volunteer residents and students from Montbello High School to create a community mural. Dubbed "Community Channels." Not only did this project beautify the space, but it also brought together neighbors to connect through art.



LUMONICS

Artists Dorothy Tanner and the late Mel Tanner, in partnership with Marc Billard, brought awareness of how the arts can be integrated into our lives and positively impact our well-being. Through the creation of Lumonics Mind Spa, a site-specific installation at the McNichols Civic Center Building, 95-year-old Tanner intended for this meditative environment to offer everyone the opportunity to experience new ways to stretch the body, expand the mind and achieve greater spiritual awareness.

2 AMPLIFICATION

Amplifying Arts, Culture & Creativity to Residents & the World



DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY PODCAST

The Podcaster in Residence Program at the Denver Public Library supports local creatives, promotes use of its ideaLABs throughout Denver and empowers residents to tell and record their stories. DPL hosted Denver podcaster Paul Karolyi to create the podcast "Changing Denver." The project took place throughout Denver using DPL facilities and recording studios at the Central Library and Montbello, Gonzalez, Hadley and Hampden library branches.



Image courtesy of Sierra Voss

BREAKING BARRIERS

The Breaking Barriers Project amplifies the power of dance by combining the worlds of ballet and hip-hop through a choreography partnership and a documentary piece.



3 ACCESSIBILITY

Achieving Access & Inclusivity to Arts, Culture & Creativity



COLORADO PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTS CENTER'S VETERANS PROJECT

The Veterans Project was a photographic education program benefitting U.S. Veterans in the Denver area. Through a series of high-quality workshops, veterans learned how to create a professional portfolio, refined technical skills, exhibited their photographs in CPAC's gallery and wrote about their works in an exhibit catalogue.



GIVING VOICE

Giving Voice is a partnership between Access Gallery and professional graphic designers from the greater Denver Metro Area. The program is designed to empower teens living with disabilities to give voice to a social cause that's important to them. Working with professional graphic design mentors, the teens share their views on a significant cause. In partnership, they work to develop and produce a graphic image that captures their views and commitment to critical social issues.

4 LIFELONG LEARNING

Filling Our Lifetimes with Learning



P.S. YOU ARE HERE

The P.S. You Are Here grant is a creative place-making and neighborhood revitalization program that cultivates collaborative, community-led outdoor projects in Denver's public spaces. With the help of this grant, Denver local artist Eric Robert Dallimore and Think 360 Arts brought their vision to life: "This Land Over Time." This piece, which is one of three massive painted canopies depicting Denver's geological and cultural history, was created in collaboration with the residents of Balfour Senior Living and an art class from Westerly Creek Elementary School.



YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ACADEMY

Arts Street's "We Still Live" project is a community-based arts venture with area youth and nationally renowned Denver artist Thomas Evans to combat gang involvement and other contact with the justice system. Youth ages 14-21 explore multiple art disciplines and participate in activities centered in self-discovery and creative positive youth development.

5 LOCAL TALENT

Building Careers & Businesses
by Nurturing Local Talent



CENTER FOR VISUAL ARTS INTERNSHIP

This three-week, project-based workforce readiness program led by Metropolitan State University in Denver, engages youth between the ages of 16–21, building their understanding of public and private networks that support the arts. The program provides students with tools and resources to navigate the creative sector.



Image courtesy of Amanda Tipton

ARTHYVE

The program engages artists and art collectives with the radical art of archiving and documenting their artistic processes and works, providing future generations with visual and aural narratives that collectively showcase our city's culturally vibrant history.

6 ECONOMIC VITALITY

Fueling Our Economic Engine



AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS CONFERENCE

For more than 60 years, the Americans for the Arts Annual Convention has gathered artists, arts administrators, advocates, and public and private sector funders together to build stronger networks and more vibrant and equitable towns, counties, and cities through the arts. In June 2018, Denver hosted more than 1,000 attendees who were “wowed” by its vibrant cultural scene.



COLORADO ATTORNEYS FOR THE ARTS (CAFTA)

This pro-bono legal referral service connects limited-income artists and creative entities with volunteer attorneys. CAFTA serves individual artists, cultural nonprofits and creative businesses across Colorado.

7 COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP

Leading Cultural Development to 2020 and Beyond



Image courtesy of Ken Hamblin III

SAFE CREATIVE SPACE FUND

Denver Arts & Venues, Denver Fire Dept., Community Planning and Development, RedLine, and the Gates Family Foundation partnered to develop and fund short and long-term solutions for safe, creative spaces that support creative production, artistic growth and better protect these critical contributors to our city.



DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSIVENESS MINI GRANT PROGRAM

The DEI Mini Grant Program supports community-driven projects that incorporate an art, cultural or creative component to bring communities together in the spirit of diversity, equity and inclusiveness. This program is implemented in partnership with the African American Commission, American Indian Commission, Asian American Pacific Islander Commission, Commission on Aging, Immigrant & Refugee Commission, Latino Commission, LGBTQ Commission, Commission for People with Disabilities and Women's Commission.

IMAGINE 2020 DISTRICT CHALLENGE WINNER



DISTRICT 11'S "COMMUNITY CHANNELS"

“This mural project has become a catalyst for our community to embrace public art. The vibrant colors, community participation and sense of pride continues to be a source of celebration. Winning the IMAGINE 2020 District Challenge was such an honor and we are already planning our next “Montbello Channels” installation!”

Councilwoman Stacie Gilmore, Denver City Council | District 11

AND MORE IMAGINE 2020...

PROGRAMS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE OR ARE IN PROGRESS

Access Coalition / Access Gallery

Creative Time Workshops / Art from Ashes Inc.

Cross Pollinations / Athena Project

Colorado Dragon Film Festival / Colorado Dragon Boat Festival

Plays as Platforms / Curious Theatre Company

Denver Women in Music Symposium / Denver Young Artists Orchestra

“The Reluctant Dragon” / ImaginASL Performing Arts

Document Ed. / Loco Lane Filmworks

“This Belongs to Us” / Mirror Image Arts

Creative Industries Internship / MSU Denver Foundation, Inc.

Accessible Site Specific Theatre Production / Phamaly Theatre Company

Movimiento Elders / Razalas Studios

“Latin America: Endless Transformation” / RedLine

Sensory Friendly Concerts / Swallow Hill Music

**Images courtesy of local organizations*



TOGETHER WITH THE DENVER COMMISSION ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS, DENVER ARTS & VENUES CONTINUES TO STEWARD IMAGINE 2020 THROUGH ONGOING IMPLEMENTATION, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, OUTREACH AND REPORTING. **HERE'S A SNAPSHOT OF WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO THIS YEAR.**

ARTS & VENUES



DENVER PUBLIC ART 30TH ANNIVERSARY



DENVER TALKS



CULTURAL PARTNER PROGRAM



FIVE POINTS JAZZ FESTIVAL



DENVER MUSIC STRATEGY



YOUTH ONE BOOK, ONE DENVER

URBAN ARTS FUND DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSIVENESS PARTNERSHIPS

SPEAKER SERIES

- Now in its 5th year, this original series was created to inspire implementation of all aspects of the cultural plan and offer a forum for collective conversation
- 27 Speaker Series and Interactive Workshops to date
- More than 4,500 registered attendees plus drop-ins



2017-2018 EVENTS

October 2017: Looking Forward: Demographic Change, Economic Shifts, and the Role of the Arts
Manuel Pastor, University of Southern California

3

November 2017: Audience Development: Changing Patterns of Audience Behaviors and Expectations
LaPlaca Cohen, Corona Insights

3

7

February 2018: Data Snacks: Satisfy Your Hunger for Fresh Insights
Karla Raines and Kate Darwent, Corona Insights

3

7

May 2018: IMAGINE 2020 Workshop Series: No More Starving Artists
John Paul Fischbach, Auspicious Arts Incubator

5



Vision Element supported

ART DROP DAY



CHANCE TO DANCE



- **MAYOR'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN ARTS & CULTURE**
- **ARTS EDUCATION FUND**
- **ARTSPACE**
- **CITY COUNCIL ARTS TIME**
- **IMAGINE 2020 FUND**
- **McNICHOLS PROJECT**

AI WEIWEI: CIRCLE OF ANIMALS/ZODIAC HEADS

DENVER COMMISSION ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS



“I continue to be both amazed and proud of the passion, leadership, and effectiveness the commission regularly demonstrates through its work. This year we launched new programs like the IMAGINE 2020 District Challenge, developed new innovative policies like the Safe Creative Space Fund, and expanded our outreach efforts to the Mayor’s various boards and commissions. We also helped Denver host the annual Americans for the Arts convention, which brings together over 1,000 artists and arts professionals from across the U.S. Amplification, arts integration, arts thrive — check! ”

Bobby LeFebre, Denver Commission on Cultural Affairs

MEMBERS 2017-2018

Evi Bachrach Makovsky
NAI Shames Makovsky Realty

Rachel Basye
Art Student League of Denver

Stephanie Blake
Blake Communications

Stephen Brackett
Flobots

Kyle Chism
Turner Construction Company

Josh Comfort
Real Estate Development Services

FloraJane DiRienzo
Strategic Partnerships, Community Relations

Jami Duffy
Youth on Record

Kate Greeley
George Washington HS, DPS

Carolynne Harris
Carolynne Harris Consulting

Sarah Kurz
Rose Community Foundation

Bobby LeFebre
Poet, Performer, Cultural Worker

Paul Lhevine
Swallow Hill

Michael Mowry
Mowry Studio

Toluwanimi Obiwole
Artist, Educator, Organizer

Sean O’Connell
Live Nation Worldwide, Inc.

Madalena Salazar
Western States Arts Federation

Van Schoales
A+ Colorado at edXchange

Suzi Q. Smith
Poetry Slam, Inc.

Maren Stewart
Taloma Partners

Alvina Vasquez
Strategies 360

Derrick Velasquez
Tank Studios LLC, Yes Ma’am Project

Bobbi Walker
Walker Fine Art

GET INVOLVED

We’re two years away from reaching the goal of IMAGINE 2020. With your help, we anticipate great strides implementing Denver’s Cultural Plan. Learn how you can get involved today!



So that all may thrive, Arts & Venues enriches and advances Denver’s quality of life and economic vitality through premier public venues, arts, cultural and entertainment opportunities.

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#IMAGINE2020