



YEAR IN REVIEW

2015-2016



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

IMAGINE 2020 is rooted in seven vision elements that collectively elevate arts, culture and creativity in our city. At its core, this cultural plan is about providing arts and culture for everyone in Denver — all residents, neighbors and visitors.

This year, I've seen more examples of implementation from our community organizations than ever before, and I want to extend my sincerest gratitude. Thank you for creating more inclusive and diverse programming, bringing more art into Denver's neighborhoods, and supporting local talent, while tackling the tough social issues all growing cities face through the lens of arts and culture. I want Denver to be known around the world for its commitment to arts and culture, and your efforts are making our great city even greater.

Recently, the Denver Commission on Cultural Affairs and Denver Arts & Venues met with City Council to provide a comprehensive arts assessment for each district. Know that your local leaders are on board — they are engaged, excited and eager to support efforts in advancing IMAGINE 2020 at the neighborhood level and throughout the city.

In 2017, Denver Arts & Venues will conduct another survey to measure the impact and success of the plan since it was first unveiled in 2014. Our hope is to see that we've moved the dial in our initial efforts, but there is no doubt we'll find there is still more work to do. With that, I ask for your help. I want to challenge all of Denver policymakers, city agencies, cultural leaders, arts patrons, artists and residents — to get involved in IMAGINE 2020.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael B. Hancock".

Mayor Michael B. Hancock

FROM OUR COMMUNITY

WE'VE SEEN INCREDIBLE PARTICIPATION FROM LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS THIS YEAR. HERE ARE JUST A FEW PROGRAMS THAT PUT THE PLAN'S **7 VISION ELEMENTS** INTO ACTION.

1 INTEGRATION

Increasing Art, Culture & Creativity in Daily Life

SUN VALLEY DUMPSTER PROJECT

- BirdSeed Collective and the Sun Valley Community and Coalition enlisted over 20 local artists with help from the community to paint 55 dumpsters in the Sun Valley neighborhood.
- This project was designed to connect all residents of the neighborhood with a shared sense of community pride.



WRITE DENVER

“Our aim is to surprise people with literature — poems on street signs, letters along running trails, short stories on the light rail. Wherever you go, you encounter a neighbor’s story, enabling us to know each other just a little bit better.”

Michael Henry, Lighthouse Writers Workshop, on the community writing and reading project

2 AMPLIFICATION

Amplifying Arts, Culture & Creativity to Residents & the World

WINGS OF THE CITY

- “Wings of the City” features nine monumental sculptures from internationally acclaimed Mexican artist Jorge Marín along Commons Park as part of the City’s Outdoor Downtown initiative and IMAGINE 2020.
- “Wings of the City” has traveled to various cities throughout the U.S.



LA ALMA CONNECTION

“In receiving a National Endowment for the Arts grant, we’re hoping that ‘LA ALMA CONNECTION’ can become a model for other communities to inspire local talent to create art within their neighborhoods. And we now have the structure and support to share our findings on a national scale.”

Amy Banker, Arts Street, on the youth created creative placemaking initiative

3 ACCESSIBILITY

Achieving Access & Inclusivity
to Arts, Culture & Creativity

FREE FOR KIDS

- Denver Art Museum launched “Free for Kids” in 2015, a program underwriting free general admission for youth 18 and under through 2020.
- To date, over 109,000 kids have visited the museum through this program, made possible by Scott Reiman.



THE ART OF ACCESS

“I believe good access is good business. By designing our programs and our offerings to be accessible to as many people as possible we can open new markets and serve more people.”

Damon McLeese, VSA Colorado/Access Gallery, on symposium dedicated to accessibility, inclusion and community

4 LIFELONG LEARNING

Filling Our Lifetimes with Learning

STOMPIN' GROUND GAMES

- “Stompin’ Ground Games,” a neighborhood Olympics created by Warm Cookies of the Revolution, explores diverse neighborhoods in Denver using arts and culture to learn about their unique histories, current issues affecting residents and ways to take action.
- Over 1,250 residents have participated thus far, reaching neighborhoods like Globeville, Elyria-Swansea, Sunnyside, Capitol Hill, La Alma-Lincoln Park, Montbello, Green Valley Ranch and more.



PROJECT Ñ

“Our mission is to create new conversations about culture and identity that breakdown typecasts and showcase the beauty, complexity and reality of growing up bi-cultural in America.”

Denise Soler Cox, Project ñ, on the multi-platform documentary project about Enyes (ñ)

5 LOCAL TALENT

Building Careers & Businesses
by Nurturing Local Talent

YOR SESSIONS

- Youth on Record (YOR) brought 12 national artists — Arrested Development, Twenty One Pilots, Esme Patterson and more — to Denver to record live sessions in the YOR studios.
- Over 60 local youth participated in the “YOR Sessions” to learn the intricate process of writing, recording, engineering and marketing an album.



COLORADO ATTORNEYS FOR THE ARTS (CAFTA)

“CAFTA enables local artists to focus on what they do best — make art! It also gives them the tools and support to professionalize and grow their work.”

Meredith Badler, Colorado Business Committee for the Arts, on the pro bono legal referral service for limited-income artists and creative entities

6 ECONOMIC VITALITY

Fueling Our Economic Engine

HOPE TANK

- Hope Tank is a for-profit social enterprise that sells local goods that give back to more than 20 local nonprofits.
- The store, visited by over 30,000 people this year, features local vendors who are veterans, youth with disabilities, single parents, teenagers and people from all backgrounds within our community.



ICONIC COLFAX: WHERE PEOPLE MEET THE STREET

“Can art change motorist and pedestrian behavior to improve safety? We’re testing this theory with artistic crosswalks to highlight and improve a common issue on Colfax — safely crossing Denver’s iconic main street.”

Anne Kuechenmeister, Colfax Business Improvement Districts, on the creative placemaking initiative

7 COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP

Leading Cultural Development to 2020 and Beyond

303 ARTWAY

- The Urban Land Conservancy is championing the creation of a pedestrian/bike trail to connect the Park Hill and Elyria-Swansea communities to the new 40th & Colorado Rail Station and other amenities.
- With the theme “Art. Health. Heritage.” the urban trail will feature installations by local artists to celebrate the rich history of these two communities.
- Together with PlatteForum and Northeast Transportation Connections, their collective leadership will guide the community outreach process.



SCFD TIER III GUIDELINES

“Incorporating IMAGINE 2020 into the SCFD Tier III granting process shows our collective efforts to ensure that all Denver residents have access to the diverse artistic, cultural and scientific opportunities that Tier III organizations offer.”

Pam Packer, Denver County Cultural Council, on integrating IMAGINE 2020

**Images courtesy of local organizations*

AND MORE IMAGINE 2020...



WE HAVE SO MANY GREAT EXAMPLES FROM OUR COMMUNITY.

- **38th Street Underpass Creative Lighting Intervention**
River North Art District
- **48 Hours of Socially Engaged Art**
RedLine
- **DSA-Ashley School Partnership**
Denver School of the Arts
- **Moxie U**
Art Students League of Denver
- **Music Unexpected**
Denver Young Artists Orchestra
- **Picture Me in the Sky**
Colorado Photographic Arts Center
- **Refugees Remembering & Rebuilding**
Picture Me Here
- **Youth Poetry in the Park**
VSA/Access Gallery



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



URBAN ARTS FUND



FIVE POINTS JAZZ FESTIVAL



ART DROP DAY



YOUTH ONE BOOK, ONE DENVER

MAYOR'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN ARTS & CULTURE



P.S. YOU ARE HERE



CHANCE TO DANCE



SPEAKER SERIES

- Now in its second year, this original series was created to inspire implementation across all areas of the cultural plan and offer a forum for collective conversation
- Nine Speaker Series and Interactive Workshops in 2015-2016
- Over 1,180 registered attendees plus drop-ins



June 2016: Artist As...Citizen, Neighbor, Change Agent 5
Kemi Ilesanmi, The Laundromat Project



April 2015: The Art of Community Building 1

Tom Borrup, author of "The Creative Community Builders' Handbook;" Brian Payne, Central Indiana Community Foundation

May 2015: Interactive Series on Public Art 5

National, regional and local experts including Keynote Speaker Jon Rubin, Carnegie Mellon University

June 2015: Models of Collective Leadership: Creative and Cultural Alliances 7

Jonathon Glus, Houston Arts Alliance; Maud Lyon, Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance

July 2015: Get Artsy & Go Outdoors: Arts, Festivals, Fairs & Your Portfolio 5

Panel of juried artists at the Cherry Creek Arts Festival

September 2015: Regional Collective Leadership Part 2 7

Jeff Hohensee, Alliance for Sustainable Colorado; Renny Fagan, Colorado Nonprofit Association; Tisha Schuller, Natural Gas Initiative at Stanford University

November 2015: Art & The City 6

Shawn Micallef, Toronto Star and Spacing Magazine

January 2016: Creating Diverse Audiences for Dynamic Community Engagement 3

Donna Walker-Kuhne, New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC)

May 2016: Culture Track 2.0 3 7

La Placa Cohen

Vision Element supported

THE NEXT STAGE NOW



- ART & CULTURAL DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT
- ARTS EDUCATION FUND
- ARTSPACE
- CITY COUNCIL ARTS TIME
- CULTURAL MAPPING PROJECT BY CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT
- IMAGINE 2020 FUND
- McNICHOLS PROJECT

McNICHOLS BUILDING CULTURAL PARTNER PROGRAM

DENVER COMMISSION ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS



“In 2016, as part of the Commission’s ongoing efforts to advance IMAGINE 2020 vision elements, Commissioners worked closely with Denver City Council to better inform council members about the activations and initiatives occurring in their districts. This consistent and continued partnership with the Council advances collective leadership and increases amplification and accessibility among all of Denver’s neighborhoods.”

Stephanie Blake, Denver Commission on Cultural Affairs

MEMBERS

Co-Chair Stephanie Blake
Blake Communications

Co-Chair Rick Tallman
Renova Capital Partners

Rachel Basye
Art Students League of Denver

Jayne Buck
VISIT DENVER

Kyle Chism
Turner Construction Company

Josh Comfort
Real Estate Development Services

Ann Daley
Captiva Resources

Jennifer Evans
Community Volunteer

Kate Greeley
Denver Public Schools

Rick Griffith
MATTER

Leslie Herod
LNH Solutions

Sarah Kurz
LiveWell Colorado

Mary Louise Lee
First Lady of Denver (Ex-officio)

Bobby LeFebre
Poet, Performer, Cultural Worker

Evi Bachrach Makovsky
NAI Shames Makovsky Realty

Michael Mowry
Mowry Studio

Chandler Romeo
Artist

Maruca Salazar
Museo de las Americas

Margie Soo Hoo Lee
Soo Hoo Design Associates

R. Tony Smith
Cherry Creek Arts Festival

Maren Stewart
iQu Strategies

Derrick Velasquez
Artist

Bobbi Walker
Walker Fine Art

Nancy Walsh
Denver Museum of Nature & Science

Dustin Whistler
Forte Commercial Real Estate

GET INVOLVED

With your help, we anticipate great strides implementing Denver’s Cultural Plan. Learn how you can get involved today!

IMAGINEDENVER2020.ORG
#IMAGINE2020



DENVER
ARTS & VENUES