



YEAR IN REVIEW

2016-2017

IMAGINE DENVER,

A city filled with dreamers,
where the summertime pavement is alive with possibility,
glistening bits of loose gravel smiling at the sun.
Here, a thriving community of creators
who have always learned to make what we need,
have made this city our home.
We, who pour ourselves over horizons in unmistakable color.
We who have found, and have always been, the frontier.

We, who have learned the weight of expansion.
the rich lives we build carefully, persistently,
holding command over every element,
staring and stirring until only the best emerges,
teaching a corner of the sky to stand still
with a glance and the crook of a finger,
wielding hips and hands and moving parts
until each person has a place at our table.

We stretch and shift the reach of our arms,
encompassing each other in perfect mosaic.
We, the soil, roots, the leaves,
making and marking our own history.
We, the air, the water, the fiery new morning
illuminating a city alive with our dreams.
What is art if not us?

IMAGINE DENVER,

Where we lift our voices,
use the power of our words and dreams to build lives.
Where the amplification of our harmony shakes the ground,
opening new trails to forge.
Where we speak together, listen and understand.

***Imagine what we will create
together.***

Suzi Q. Smith, Executive Director, Poetry Slam Inc.
Denver Commission on Cultural Affairs (2017)

“We’ve now reached the halfway point of the cultural plan. I’m thrilled with the collaboration and implementation of arts and culture at the neighborhood level. Let’s keep this momentum going and continue to make arts, culture and creativity a defining characteristic of our city.”

Mayor Michael B. Hancock



1 INTEGRATION

Increasing Art, Culture & Creativity in Daily Life

MOVEABLE FEAST

- RedLine partnered with local artists, businesses and community hosts to create five arts-focused dinners, “Moveable Feasts,” in Denver’s Five Points neighborhood.
- Using the arts to create a safe space for people to come together, 75-120 attendees enjoyed a local meal, learned about each other and witnessed art integrated into their shared community.
- Everyone contributed to creating a festive and joyful experience for all, including the sounds of the Montebello Drumline.



“It’s our goal that the presence of vibrant student art in an otherwise pedestrian location will brighten up the monotony of the Hampden corridor and will serve as a point of pride for Thomas Jefferson High School and DPS, the neighborhood and all SE Denver residents.”

Spring Hericks, DPS, on the student-led community bus shelter and bus bench project

2 AMPLIFICATION

Amplifying Arts, Culture & Creativity to Residents & the World

ONE GOOD EYE

- One Good Eye brings attention to Denver’s best artists and art exhibits as they happen, via a vibrant website, social media posts and email blasts.
- OneGoodEyeOnline.com shines a light on local creativity and encourages people to get out and see art in their community
- Experienced critics and new voices write for the site, but also artists themselves.
- It’s reaching beyond Denver with many of the page views coming from outside the city and state.



“My family and I became refugees as a result of the Viêt Nam War. After losing everything, we realized our culture is the only aspect we were able bring with us. Ai Weiwei succeeded in making the zodiac animals, a symbol of Asian culture, more visible and accessible for all of us. I’m proud that a gifted and renowned Asian artist who looks like me has created these globally-recognized works of art, now displayed here in Denver for our community to appreciate.”

Nga Vuong-Sandoval, Denver Asian American Pacific Islander Commission, on bringing the Ai Weiwei exhibit to Denver

FROM OUR
COMMUNITY

3 ACCESSIBILITY

Achieving Access & Inclusivity
to Arts, Culture & Creativity

LITTLE SWALLOWS EARLY CHILDHOOD OUTREACH PROGRAM

- Recognizing how music education improves language, math and creative thinking, Swallow Hill partnered with McGlone Academy in Montbello to provide weekly music instruction to 60 preschool students through a year-long pilot program.
- Limited resources create major barriers for accessing music programs, Little Swallows provides music education to those children who wouldn't otherwise have the same opportunity.



“It was an extraordinary week bringing classical chamber music out into the community and providing access to many residents who might be unable or unsure about attending similar kinds of programs in a traditional concert hall. The Harlem Quartet was exciting and charismatic and easily able to relate to all of the different members of the Denver community who participated.”

Alix Corboy, Friends of Chamber Music, on The Harlem Quartet's five-day residency in Denver

4 LIFELONG LEARNING

Filling Our Lifetimes with Learning

COMMUNITY CYPHER

- Creative Strategies for Change created “Community Cypher,” a community-based arts leadership program to provide a public forum for youth to showcase their growing artistic skills, using social imagination to share their “under told” stories.
- Through storytelling, music, applied theater, hip hop and spoken word, the performance troupe addresses issues related to the school-to-prison pipeline and other pressing social disparities that hit close to home for many in their communities.



“Edify was thrilled to bring the world of music to 30 first graders at Roots Elementary in 2016. With many of them having limited to no prior exposure to music education, it was wonderful to see these Roots scholars using our MusiQuest software to learn the fundamentals of music and compose original songs as beautiful and diverse as the school itself.”

Jacob Zax, Edify Technologies, on exposing youth to the joy and creativity of the arts

5 LOCAL TALENT

Building Careers & Businesses
by Nurturing Local Talent

MOLINA SPEAKS: ROOT THE FILM

- In creating “ROOT the film,” artist Molina Speaks has engaged 100+ citizens from across the Denver metro area and more than a dozen artists commissioned specifically to contribute to the film.
- There will be a short version that is more arts centered and a full-length educational version supplemented with curriculum for high school and college students.
- Molina Speaks envisions thousands of people directly impacted by this film project across artistic, educational and cultural events through the year 2020.



“As a growing city, we must work harder than ever to preserve space for artists to safely nurture their skills and talents. The Safe Occupancy Program gives us a critical tool to halt displacement while pulling together the resources and support needed to find ways to keep creative spaces intact, affordable and safe.”

Jamie Licko, RiNo Art District, on the new, conditional building occupancy program designed to improve the safety of buildings for occupants and visitors

6 ECONOMIC VITALITY

Fueling Our Economic Engine

PHONE IT IN FILM FESTIVAL

- At the first “Phone It In” film festival in Denver, a show dedicated to videos captured with mobile devices, filmmakers from across Colorado came together to share their work with 170+ attendees.
- With over 20 films entered, many were first attempts in film or created by teams working together for the first time, creating new opportunity for artists.
- “Phone It In” will continue to expand its efforts to inform and educate the creative community.



“Five Points Jazz Festival has an incredible impact on Coffee at The Point and the community that I work in, live in, and love. To have a free festival with so many stages of entertainment centered around the heart of Five Points has had a great draw of diverse people from all over. This day is our best day of the year and has really helped to financially sustain my business after the event. The economic impact is also felt with our staff as tips for this one day are paid out triple of what they would be for an entire week.”

Ryan Cobbins, Coffee at the Point, on the economic impact of Five Points Jazz Festival

7 COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP

Leading Cultural Development to 2020 and Beyond

ARTIVISM AND COMUNIDAD: I AM DREAMING OF...

- Renowned artist and immigration rights activist, Favianna Rodriguez, joined Art Students League of Denver (ASLD) and the Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR) to discuss her work and the role of “artivism” to inspire change in ourselves and in the world.
- ASLD and COLOR co-hosted a lecture, workshops and a voting registration booth for both Spanish and English language speakers during Rodriguez’s time in Denver.
- 250+ families and individuals participated in the events, sharing stories about their hopes and dreams for their community.



“Denver Parks and Recreation strives to create healthy relationships within communities. By partnering with Mirror Image Arts to create “Speak Up, Speak Out!” we have developed an innovative way to amplify the voices of young adults in the La Alma community. Allowing them to become leaders and advocating for change within their community.”

Tiffany Tungate, MY Denver, on the collaborative effort to engage youth in the La-Alma Lincoln Park neighborhood

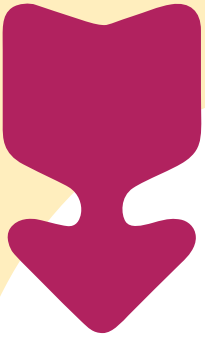
**Images courtesy of local organizations*

AND MORE IMAGINE 2020...



WE HAVE SO MANY GREAT EXAMPLES FROM OUR COMMUNITY.

- ➔ **ArtForward**
Cleo Parker Robinson Dance
- ➔ **Art in Beds: Tree of Transformation**
Civic Center Conservancy
- ➔ **Art Reaching Kids**
The Art Garage
- ➔ **A Beckwourth Spirit**
Randle Media Properties
- ➔ **The Barnum Piñata Parade**
Concerned Citizens of Barnum
- ➔ **Connections_Our Civic Ecology**
Santa Fe Drive Business Improvement District, Our Community Speaks, Café Cultura
- ➔ **Denver Access Conference and Consortium**
VSA/Access Gallery
- ➔ **Literary Hide and Seek in City Park**
City Park Alliance/City Park Neighborhood Advisory Committee
- ➔ **Quigg Newton Housing Development Dumpster Beautification Project**
BirdSeed Collective
- ➔ **Southwest and Far Northeast Denver Mural Collaborative**
Gang Rescue and Support Project
- ➔ **Voices**
West Colfax Association of Neighbors



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



YOUTH ONE BOOK, ONE DENVER



THE NEXT STAGE NOW



COUNCIL DISTRICT CULTURAL MAPPING



ART DROP DAY DENVER



MAYOR'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN ARTS & CULTURE

SPEAKER SERIES

- Now in its third year, this original series was created to inspire implementation across all aspects of the cultural plan and offer a forum for collective conversation
- 23 Speaker Series and Interactive Workshops to date
- More than 4,100 registered attendees plus drop-ins



2016-2017 EVENTS

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

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October 2016: Developing Youth Leadership and Engagement Through the Arts
Kevin Coval, Louder Than a Bomb and local panelists

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October 2016: Strategies for Attracting Millennial Audiences to the Arts
Denver Center for the Performing Arts & The Wallace Foundation

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October 2016: The Art of Relevance: Mattering More to More People
Nina Simon, The Participatory Museum

3

March 2017: Kevin & The Storytellers with Stories on Stage
Kevin Kling with local storytellers

4

September 2017: Storytelling to Make Your Organization Stand Apart From the Rest
Kyle Dyer, Kyle Dyer Storytelling

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

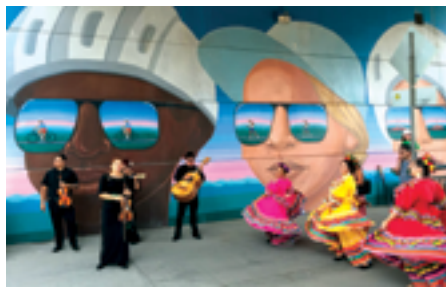
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November 2017: Audience Development: Changing Patterns of Audience Behaviors and Expectations
LaPlaca Cohen & Corona Insights

3

Vision Element supported

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSIVENESS INITIATIVE



- ART & CULTURAL DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT
- ARTS EDUCATION FUND
- ARTSPACE
- CITY COUNCIL ARTS TIME
- CULTURAL PARTNER PROGRAM
- IMAGINE 2020 FUND
- McNICHOLS PROJECT
- P.S. YOU ARE HERE
- SAFE CREATIVE SPACES

CHANCE TO DANCE

DENVER COMMISSION ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS



“This has been an important year for commissioners to work closely with City Council, as we are now three years into implementing the cultural plan. We continue to act as liaisons, informing each councilmember of the great activity occurring in their districts and helping them identify opportunities to advance leadership, foster local talent and create new points of accessibility to arts and culture at the neighborhood level.”

Josh Comfort, Denver Commission on Cultural Affairs

MEMBERS 2016-2017

Co-Chair Stephanie Blake
Blake Communications

Co-Chair Bobby LeFebre
Poet, Performer, Cultural Worker

Rachel Basye
Art Students League of Denver

Jayne Buck
VISIT DENVER

Kyle Chism
Turner Construction

Josh Comfort
Real Estate Development Services

Ann Daley
Captiva Resources

Kate Greeley
Denver Public Schools

Rick Griffith
MATTER

Leslie Herod
Colorado State Representative for District 8

Sarah Kurz
LiveWell Colorado

Evi Bachrach Makovsky
NAI Shames Makovsky Realty

Michael Mowry
Mowry Studio

Sean O'Connell
Live Nation Worldwide Inc.

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
MCS Consulting, LLC.

Alvina Vasquez
Strategies 360

Derrick Velasquez
Artist

Bobbi Walker
Walker Fine Art

Evan Weissman
Warm Cookies of the Revolution

Dustin Whistler
Forte Commercial Real Estate

GET INVOLVED

We're at the halfway point of IMAGINE 2020. With your help, we anticipate even more success in implementing Denver's Cultural Plan in the coming years. Learn how you can get involved today!

HALFWAY TO IMAGINE 2020!

IMAGINEDENVER2020.ORG
#IMAGINE2020



DENVER
ARTS & VENUES