

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**(APRIL 2025)** - Announcing the 2025 grantees for the Arts in Society Program—a collaboration between Bonfils-Stanton Foundation, Colorado Creative Industries, Colorado Health Foundation, Denver Arts & Venues, and a cohort of funders from Southern Colorado including Bee Vradenburg Foundation, Bloom Foundation, and the Tiemens Foundation.

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### **\$645,000 GRANTED TO 24 ARTISTS and ORGANIZATIONS FOSTERING CROSS-SECTOR WORK IN COLORADO**

Denver, CO: [Arts in Society](#) is a cross-sector grant program that seeks to support art projects that positively impact cross-sector initiatives, such as health, environment, and other human service programs statewide. Founded in 2017, this unique collaboration between Colorado funders and administered by RedLine Contemporary Art Center seeks to meet what is now over \$6 million in cross-sector grant requests across the state of Colorado each year. To-date, Arts in Society has granted over \$4 million for projects fostering cross-sector work and supporting the integration of arts and culture into multiple disciplines critical to the health and well-being of Coloradans.

*"Colorado Creative Industries is again honored to partner with the Arts in Society collaborative, investing in arts projects that provide more opportunities for Coloradans to access the arts while also confronting Colorado's highest priority issues. Research shows that arts and culture programs provide tools to bolster community development and civic engagement, further empowering every Coloradan to thrive."*

*- Josh Blanchard, Director, Colorado Creative Industries*

24 projects were funded for amounts ranging between \$10,000-\$35,000 for the 2025 grant cycle, which will be announced and grantees will be acknowledged during RedLine's annual [EPIC Gala](#) on April 17, 2025.

*"The 2025 cohort of Arts in Society grantees reflects a diverse and dynamic group of community driven projects from across Colorado, demonstrating the*

*creative power of our beautiful state. From youth directed documentaries to art infused public transit, the projects selected are poised to meet the needs of the moment through art and creativity. We are thrilled to see these projects unfold and to support the work along the way."*

*- Lares Feliciano, Art Grants Manager, RedLine Contemporary Art Center*

From January 2025 to March 2025, a 14-member panel composed of individuals across the state of Colorado assembled to review over 387 grant applications. Grant applications were assessed based on the applicant's ability to illustrate artistic commitment, broaden the understanding of the role arts play in society, demonstrate cross-sector work, exhibit cultural relevance, foster community engagement, and present opportunities for shared learning. New grantees from across the state will join in a learning community cohort that will meet throughout the next year to share best practices, challenges, and opportunities related to their projects.

To learn more about Arts in Society, the funding partners, grantees, and history of granted projects, please visit <https://www.redlineart.org/arts-in-society>.

**Learn more about the grantee projects and organizations below.**

**Lighting Up Denver's Chinatown - Colorado Asian Pacific United**

*Metro Denver Seven-County Region*

Lighting Up Denver's Chinatown' serves as an act of cultural pride and reclamation, and will feature an installation of overhead lanterns designed by local AANHPI artists and community members in the alleyway that used to be the heart of Denver's Historic Chinatown which no longer exists.

**Storytellers of the Ancestral Red Road - Storytellers of the Ancestral Red Road (SOAR)**

*Upper Arkansas Valley - Pueblo*

Storytellers of the Ancestral Red Road is a collective of Indigenous teachers and allies working in multi-generational educational settings to promote ancestral wisdom, and cross-cultural healing through creative expression.

**Creative Practices in Colorado Prisons - Coalition for Creative Practices in Colorado Prisons (CCPCP)**

*Colorado Department of Corrections Statewide*

Our coalition of three nonprofits– ACT Ensemble, Impact Arts, and Unbound Authors– connects with the incarcerated community in the Colorado Department of Corrections through a myriad of creative activities, from play-building and performance, to writing workshops and anthology creation, to robust visual art classes.

**La Sandia Project - Small Town Project**

*Arkansas Valley - Rocky Ford*

The La Sandia Project is a dynamic community art initiative in Rocky Ford, Colorado, creating Colorado's largest watermelon sculpture, murals, and fruit art to celebrate agricultural heritage and cultural diversity, culminating at the Arkansas Valley Fair to promote inclusivity and economic growth.

### **Reframing Justice Narratives: A Colorado Comic Memoir Program - Brink Literacy Project**

*Metro Denver Seven-County Region*

Reframing Justice Narratives unites justice-impacted adults across Colorado to create short comic memoirs about an important turning point in their lives. Our student storytellers embrace the power of their own stories to advocate for their futures, enable community healing, and gain a skillset spanning arts education, behavioral health, and social-emotional learning.

### **Increasing Water Awareness in Ouray, Colorado Through Cinema and Education - San Juan Film Institute (Ouray International Film Festival)**

*San Juan Region*

Nearly 60% of Colorado's water leaves the state, yet many Coloradans are insufficiently informed about water scarcity, drought, and climate-driven shifts in our watersheds. Our film festival aims to reverse that trend in Ouray County by programming films, speakers, and community discussions that lead our community to identify pathways toward water conservation informed by our festival programming.

### **Escultura San Luis - Jacales Fine Art**

*San Luis Valley*

Escultura San Luis is an outdoor sculpture exhibit showcasing sculptures in various mediums in San Luis. The project will educate about the acequia culture that has been in use for generations and continues to this day. The artwork will bring tourists to walk along Main Street to visit our businesses and learn about San Luis.

### **Globeville StoryWalk - Sidewalk Poets**

*Metro Denver Seven-County Region*

The Globeville StoryWalk will amplify local voices in a public art-story installation and community walk around the neighborhood, featuring poems and stories on signs, wraps, murals and more--all written by community members at creative writing workshops hosted by Sidewalk Poets.

### **Unfiltered: Real Stories from the Village - Mari Moxley**

*Pikes Peak Region*

A collaborative documentary project in which young adults facing housing insecurity, currently residing in a tiny home village, direct point-of-view films that build community and transform how we witness one another's lives.

### **áyA Con, Colorado's Indigenous Comic and Art Festival - Create áyA**

*Metro Denver Seven-County Region & Northeastern Colorado*

áyA Con is an Indigenous comic and arts festival that empowers artists and fosters cultural reconnection

### **Our Words Are Powerful - Words To Power**

*Metro Denver Seven-County Region*

Our Words Are Powerful brings together Words To Power and Cultivando to serve youth in the most polluted areas of Colorado as they find the power in their words through poetry workshops, an Earth Day community open mic event, four books of youth-written poetry, two book release events with youth performers, and social media videos of poems.

### **Youth Media Matters: Destigmatizing Mental Health and Sparking Courageous Conversations through Documentary Storytelling - Youth Documentary Academy**

*Pikes Peak Region & Central Plains Region*

Youth Media Matters is a project of the Youth Documentary Academy (YDA) that engages high impact, high caliber, youth-produced films to destigmatize mental health topics and open the door to courageous, peer-to-peer conversations across Colorado.

### **Colorado Dashiki Festival - Colorado African Cultural Center**

*Metro Denver Seven-County Region*

The Dashiki Festival is a dynamic three-day celebration of African arts and culture that fosters integration, identity, and belonging through music, dance, fashion, art/craft, and community engagement—using the power of the arts to bridge racial divides, empower youth, and promote mental well-being in Colorado.

### **TRANSformative Stories: Colorado Impact Tour - Motus Theater**

*Metro Denver Seven-County Region, Northern Colorado, Western Slope & Upper Arkansas Valley*

With TRANSformative Stories: Impact Tour, Motus Theater launches a year-long impact tour across Colorado, using powerful autobiographical monologues to counter rising threats against transgender Coloradans and their families by engaging conservative-leaning communities that have fewer opportunities to access artful stories that uplift the humanity of transgender and nonbinary people, and key decision-makers through strategic, cross-sector collaborations with transgender & nonbinary advocacy leaders, community outreach organizations, and PRIDE organizations.

### **Focus on the Creek at Concrete Coyote - Concrete Couch**

*Pikes Peak Region*

The "Focus on the Creek" project at Concrete Coyote Community Park in Colorado Springs will enhance Lower Shooks Run Creek's ecological health, improve safety along

the Legacy Loop Trail, and foster community pride through a mural, educational programs, a science and art kiosk, a youth summer camp, and volunteer opportunities.

**Bloomers: Transforming Aging Through Arts, Culture, and Storytelling in Rural Colorado - The Blue Sage Center for the Arts**

*Western Slope*

The Blue Sage Center for the Arts' Bloomers: Transforming Aging Through Arts, Culture, and Storytelling in Rural Colorado, is a year-long program featuring music and storytelling events that celebrate the lives of older adults.

**Write to Connect - Lighthouse Writers Workshop, Inc.**

*Metro Denver Seven-County Region*

Lighthouse Writers Workshop will host eight-week creative writing workshops for front-line staff at local social service organizations, offering a space for participants to engage with the literary arts to process their experiences—including highs and lows; triumphs and traumas—and build connections and camaraderie with others.

**Building Colorado Artist Legacy: Creating Accessible Resources for Collection Planning for Artists and Their Families - Emily Grace King**

*Metro Denver Seven-County Region*

Building Colorado Artist Legacy will create accessible resources for artists to decide what happens to their artworks after their deaths, empowering them to plan with their families to preserve their place in the cultural conversation and actively create their continuing legacy.

**Procession - House of Kodō**

*Metro Denver Seven-County Region, Northern Colorado & Southeast Colorado*

A Japanese-American woman confronts her past when she decides to attend her first pilgrimage to one of the 1940s incarceration camp sites on her 70th birthday.

**Transcendent Femme: “Evolution of the Self in Community” - Kai Gaynor**

*Pikes Peak Region*

Presented by Colorado Springs artist Kai Gaynor in October 2025, Transcendent Femme is a five-week immersive installation at the Meanwhile Block in Downtown Colorado Springs. The installation features a lush environment dominated by plants, textiles and paintings that create a welcoming atmosphere for challenging questions about what mental health means for Black Springs residents.

**NestQuest: Harnessing the power of The Arts to personalize Salida's housing crisis - KHEN Community Radio 106.9, Salida**

*Upper Arkansas Valley*

NestQuest, a collaboration between artistic groups and local government agencies, examines the concept of “home” through multiple lenses (including storytelling,

performance, and visual arts) to help Chaffee County residents see that our current housing crisis impacts everyone in our community, regardless of home ownership or housing security status.

### **Fort Collins Mural Project - Everyone Deserves Art - Fort Collins Mural Project**

*Northern Colorado*

In September, Fort Collins Mural Project, in partnership with the Alliance for Suicide Prevention of Larimer County, will launch an impactful mural tour with on-site support in Fort Collins, featuring new and existing murals by Colorado artists whose creativity address mental health and its interconnected social issues, all while cultivating empathy and providing vital and lasting resources to aid in the decrease in suicide rates and isolation within our community and its visitors.

### **The Knock: Opera Co-Production at the US Air Force Academy - The Chamber Orchestra of the Springs**

*Pikes Peak Region*

A free performance of The Knock, an opera exploring the lives of military spouses on Colorado Springs' Fort Carson, as they learn about an incident overseas that has claimed the lives of one of their husbands, hosted at the US Air Force Academy.

### **Bringing Art & Culture into Pueblo's Public Transportation Stops - Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment (PDPHE)**

*Upper Arkansas Valley - Pueblo*

Bringing Art & Culture into Pueblo's Public Transportation Stops

Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment, in collaboration with Pueblo City's transit and public works departments, is beautifying bus stops near youth-friendly spaces with local artwork to create safe, welcoming environments, boost youth transit ridership, and strengthen community pride.

### **About RedLine Contemporary Art Center**

Located in Denver, Colorado, RedLine Contemporary Art Center fosters education and engagement between artists and communities to create positive social change.

Founded by Laura Merage in 2008, RedLine was created to support emerging artists and provide creative opportunities for local residents. RedLine serves as an incubator for a thriving group of resident artists through an in-depth, two-year residency program that includes free studio space, professional development, and community engagement opportunities. The organization also offers a range of programming that responds to the needs of the diverse communities that live in the surrounding neighborhoods. Viewing art and arts education through a lens of social issues, the organization ensures equitable access to the arts for under-resourced populations by working to fulfill a vision of empowering everyone to create social change through art.