How The Denver Foundation Supports the Arts
From the desk of our President, David Miller
Spring, 2014

- In 2013, just over 25% of our responsive Education funding went to Arts Education programs. Examples: Think360 Arts, El Sistema, and Youth on Records. No other sub-area of education received as much funding as Arts Education.
- We hired a consultant to work with us exclusively on Arts Education grants: Fabricio Velez.
- In 2013, we gave a grant to A+ Denver to create and support an accountability committee connected to the recently-approved mill levy increase for the arts in DPS schools.
- In 2013, we gave $16,435 in Technical Assistance (TA) grants to arts and culture organizations. This represents about 13% of all TA funds.
- One of our TA grants went to Cast 3. The Cast 3 collaborative is a volunteer driven start-up organization with a vision to create a cooperative, membership organization for all Tier III organizations in the SCFD. We helped with the formation, assessment of membership (40+), filing of 501(c)(3) status, training, and educational sessions.
- We have helped the Arts Evaluation cohort: a group of 8 arts and culture organizations working together to enhance and collaborate on evaluation measures.
- In 2014, we have set aside a minimum of the same amount of funding for Arts Education as in 2013.
- The second meeting of the Education Committee in 2014 was devoted exclusively to Arts Education. Two grantees presented.
- The Economic Opportunity Committee is working to include arts in its grants.
- We are beginning a place-based project where we’ll devote resources from many of our programs to Original Aurora and we anticipate that arts will play a significant role in that.
- We have dramatically increased our work with donor-advisors related to the arts. Donor-advised grants exceed community grants by a factor of about ten. Examples include the Arts Affinity Group, the Bowen Fund, and the Greenwood Fund. The Bowen Fund alone added $106,000 to the arts and culture grant portfolio in 2013 and will do so every year in perpetuity.
- We highlight arts and culture in almost all of our publications, especially our annual reports. The 2012 Annual Report, which came out in 2013, featured the Bowen Fund. The 2013 Annual Report, which will come out next week, features El Sistema.