

CONNECT.

YEAR IN REVIEW | 2024



► Staff and Trustees visit the Spud Seller, a fourth-generation family farm in the San Luis Valley. The farm is operated by the family of Trustee Dr. Lindsey Paulson.



2024: The Power of Connection

Dear Friends and Community Members,

As 2024 comes to a close, I find myself reflecting on a year defined by **connection** — the theme that guided our efforts across the Boettcher Foundation this year.

Whether it's helping our Scholars and Alums connect or building stronger partnerships with nonprofit organizations and communities, we remain true to our support of the promise of Colorado and potential of Coloradans.

The year we celebrated the **15th anniversary of the Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Awards**, a program that continues to propel groundbreaking research and innovation.

Another highlight was launching our **Rural Impact Advisory Committee**, a stakeholder group of community champions whose insights and experiences will elevate our work in rural communities long into the future.

In August, we supported the **Denver Rustlers** as the group celebrated its 40th anniversary of promoting the vital contributions of agriculture and youth to Colorado's economy and history.

Meanwhile, our grantmaking and scholarship program remain focused on opportunity, community, and leadership.

Looking ahead, we're excited to continue building community and supporting organizations and individuals who make a difference every day. Connection has the power to create lasting change, and I'm confident that our momentum will push us forward.



KATIE S. KRAMER
President & CEO

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Celebrating 15 Years: Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Awards

Boettcher Innovation Summit

The Boettcher Foundation celebrated the **15th anniversary** of the Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Awards at its Innovation Summit, showcasing Colorado’s national leadership in biomedical research.

Since 2010, the program has supported 106 Boettcher Investigators with over \$24 million in grants. Their work has attracted an additional \$150 million in research funding.

Our expert panel discusses the power of collaboration and how it fuels biomedical research. Panelists from left to right include Rushika Perera (2016 Investigator); Taylor Heap (2018 Scholar); Melissa Reynolds (2010 Investigator); John Thompson (2017 Investigator); and Stephen Kissler (2009 Scholar).



We were proud to present the Innovation Award to Dr. Elena Hsieh, a 2016 Boettcher Investigator, in recognition of her contributions to human health.



2024 BOETTCHER INVESTIGATORS



ALLEGRA T. ARON, PhD
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER



MARISSA BARANAUSKAS, PhD
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
COLORADO SPRINGS



BENJAMIN J. KOPECKY, MD, PhD
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS



JENNIFER MCKEY, PhD
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS



JESSICA NELSON, PhD
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS



ANDREW QUESADA TAN, PhD
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
BOULDER



KATHRYN WILSTERMAN, PhD
COLORADO STATE
UNIVERSITY



LAUREN ZELL-BARAN, PhD, MPH
NATIONAL JEWISH HEALTH



Read more about the 2024 Investigator class and their research areas in the Colorado BioScience magazine.

HISTORICAL SNAPSHOT

106
TOTAL INVESTIGATORS

94
STILL CONDUCTING
RESEARCH AT COLORADO
INSTITUTIONS

2024 SPOTLIGHT

\$846k
IN FEDERAL GRANT
FUNDING

6
PATENTS

171
ARTICLES

10

BOETTCHER FACILITATED
COLLABORATION GRANTS
BETWEEN INVESTIGATORS
AND SCHOLARS

The **Leadership Practitioners Collaborative** empowers leadership development program staff across Colorado by providing access to essential resources, knowledge, and networking opportunities. This initiative, in its fourth year, fosters collaboration and strengthens connections within our state’s leadership ecosystem.



The Leadership Colorado Needs

In August, we partnered with the University of Colorado Boulder’s **Center for Leadership** to host a convening that connected leadership practitioners from across the state. The 100-plus attendees engaged in meaningful discussions on how to address the challenges and opportunities facing our communities and institutions.



► **President & CEO Katie Kramer with Stefanie Johnson, director of the CU Boulder Center for Leadership.**



▼ **Juliana Tafur of the Greater Good Science Center presents on bridging differences.**



▼ **Andrea Palm-Porter of Roaring Fork Leadership presents on the transformative power of AI for effective program design and management.**



▼ **D.J. Whetter, CEO of CiviCO, presents on exploring liberating structures for collaboration.**

Leadership Practitioners Catalyst Grants

In 2024, the Boettcher Foundation awarded \$40,000 in **Leadership Practitioner Catalyst Grants** to five nonprofit organizations within the collaborative. These grants supported innovative projects aimed at fostering a more inclusive and accessible leadership ecosystem in Colorado. These grants empowered organizations to launch critical initiatives, enhancing the state’s leadership development landscape.

\$7,500

Estes Nonprofit Network:

Grant to address gaps in representation in nonprofit leadership compared to the demographics of the community, ensuring better service.

\$7,500

Colorado Business Committee for the Arts:

Grant to support Colorado Business Committee for the Arts (CBCA) in running a feasibility study to expand CBCA’s Leadership Arts program to other parts of the state beyond the Denver metro region.



\$7,500

Roaring Fork Leadership:

Grant to support the launch of a collaboration and impact management program, aiming to address specific challenges in the Roaring Fork Valley through community-focused initiatives.

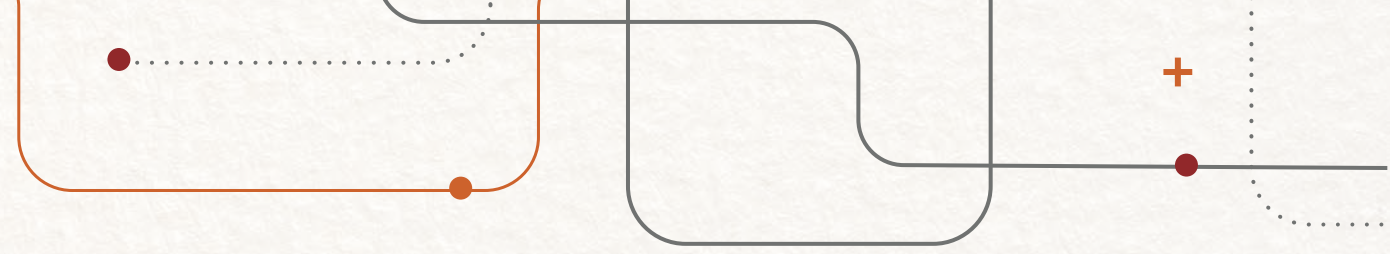
\$10,000

Colorado Young Leaders: Grant to support Colorado Young Leaders in developing skills related to professional development, career pathways, and instilling transferable business skills for community-minded leaders.

\$7,500

Leadership Veterans Institute (Statewide):

Grant to support launching a statewide collaboration and impact management initiative for veteran service organizations.



Rural Impact Advisory Committee

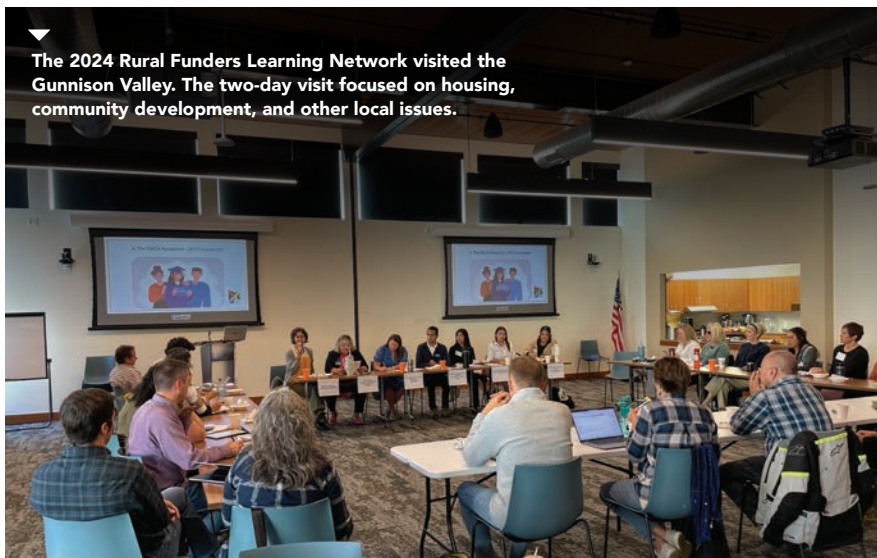
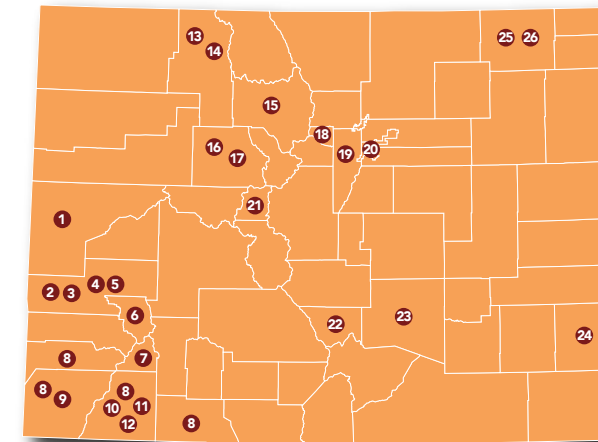
In the fall, we launched the **Rural Impact Advisory Committee**. This initiative aims to enhance the effectiveness of our grants and programs across rural Colorado. The committee serves in an advisory capacity to staff and Trustees, leveraging diverse expertise to inform critical decisions and shape our rural impact strategies.

Rural Leaders Collaborative

This is a dynamic group of cross-sector rural leaders dedicated to advancing leadership within their organizations, communities, and regions. Meeting quarterly, participants discuss pressing issues, share knowledge, and build connections. In 2024, the collaborative focused on the important role of community foundations, teacher apprenticeship programs, water resources, and serving immigrant communities.

Rural Catalyst Grants

In 2024, the Boettcher Foundation awarded a total of \$155,000 in **Rural Catalyst Grants** to 26 nonprofit organizations participating in our Rural Leaders Collaborative. This funding supports capacity-building initiatives designed to address unique challenges facing our rural communities.



The 2024 Rural Funders Learning Network visited the Gunnison Valley. The two-day visit focused on housing, community development, and other local issues.



The group participated in a community housing tour and visited neighborhoods in Gunnison. This tour emphasized the different approaches to creating affordable housing.

Rural Grantees

- 1 Counseling and Education Center
- 14 Better Tomorrow
- 2 Bright Futures
- 15 The Grand Foundation
- 3 Time Bank of the Rockies
- 16 The Cycle Effect
- 4 Dream Catcher Therapy Center
- 17 Vail Valley Works
- 5 West End Economic Development Corporation
- 18 The Belvidere Foundation
- 6 Paradox Community Trust
- 19 MindSpark Learning
- 7 Silverton Creative District
- 20 Housing Colorado - Statewide
- 8 United Way of Southwest Colorado
- 21 Lake County Community Fund
- 9 Montezuma Leadership Network
- 22 Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation
- 10 Regional Housing Alliance of La Plata County
- 23 Sangre de Cristo Community Care
- 11 Colorado Center for Nursing Excellence
- 24 National Parks Conservation Association
- 12 The ELHI Association
- 25 Logan County Council on Aging
- 13 Integrated Community
- 26 CSU Extension - Northeast Colorado

This fall, we launched innovative groups to amplify our reach and enhance our programming: the Boettcher Scholar Student Committee (BSSC) and the Boettcher Brand Squad.

Boettcher Scholar Student Committee (BSSC)

We're thrilled to introduce the 10 members of the Boettcher Scholar Student Committee. This diverse group serves in an advisory capacity with the goal to deepen the impact of our scholarship program. BSSC members represent a variety of institutions and courses of study, and hail from communities throughout Colorado, bringing a wealth of perspectives to our initiatives.



BRYCE DAVIS (2024)
CU Boulder



JAYMI GILE (2024)
CU Boulder



KIMBERLY GUEVARA (2021)
DU



JJ MCKINNEY (2021)
CSU



ARIANNA MCCARTY (2022)
CU Boulder



AVEN MCCALL (2023)
DU



ALINA MIRANDA (2023)
CC



MARIAH ROSENSWEIG (2023)
CU Boulder



ELLA SWANSON (2023)
Mines



SOPHIE WHITEHEAD (2022)
CU Boulder



The **Boettcher Brand Squad** brings together passionate members of the Boettcher community who embody and proudly represent our brand. This dedicated group of 20-plus plays a crucial role by sharing stories of our transformational work across Colorado.

Denver Rustlers 40th Anniversary

For four decades, the **Denver Rustlers** have been bringing Denver-based leaders to support the Junior Livestock Sale at the Colorado State Fair in Pueblo. The Rustlers have invested more than \$3 million in Colorado youth by bidding on their animals during the auction. The Boettcher Foundation is proud to partner with the Denver Rustlers in supporting Colorado's future leaders in agriculture.



What is the Junior Livestock Sale?

The Junior Livestock Sale at the Colorado State Fair is an event that supports Colorado's young farmers and ranchers as they showcase their livestock to earn money for college or support their future as ag producers.

2024 Boettcher Scholars

The **2024 Class of Boettcher Scholars** represents our ongoing commitment to nurturing Colorado’s changemakers. This cohort of 50 outstanding high school seniors exemplifies academic excellence, service, leadership, and character.

Each Scholar receives an \$80,000 scholarship over four years to support their undergraduate pursuits. Our comprehensive program provides tailored resources to maximize Scholars’ academic and leadership potential.

“These dynamic leaders each bring unique perspectives, passions, and talents to the Boettcher community. It’s truly inspiring to witness the positive impact they’ve already made through their leadership and service in communities across Colorado.”

VANESSA ROMAN
DIRECTOR OF SCHOLARSHIPS &
FOUNDATION PROGRAMS



**Serving Dreams in Rural Colorado:
Q&A with Scholar Erick Monroy**

Meet Erick Monroy, a 2022 Scholar who attends the CU Boulder. Erick’s entrepreneurial spirit led him to co-found El Sazón de Jalisco, a food truck business based in his rural hometown of Silt.



*Learn more
about Erick*



TONY ADAMS
D’Evelyn High School
University of Colorado Boulder



SOFIA AMBRIZ
D’Evelyn High School
Colorado State University



CARMEN ANARELLA
Soroco High School
Colorado State University



GILKAH ARGUETA
Northglenn High School
University of Denver



REEMA BAISHYA
Niwot High School
University of Colorado Boulder



EGAN BAUERSFELD
Loveland High School
University of Colorado Boulder



BROCK BENTON
Alamosa High School
University of Colorado Boulder



SAMMY BERMAN
Northfield High School
Colorado College



SARA BLAZIER
Basalt High School
University of Colorado Boulder



ELI COHEN
Roaring Fork High School
University of Colorado Boulder



RHIANNON DANBORN
Arvada West High School
University of Colorado Boulder



AIDAN DATTERI
Greeley West High School
Colorado State University

2024 Boettcher Scholars



BRYCE DAVIS
Grand Junction Central High School
University of Colorado Boulder



MARGAUX DEMPSEY
Lakewood High School
University of Colorado Boulder



AISHA EBADI
Peak to Peak Charter School
University of Colorado Boulder



COLE GADDIS
Longmont High School
Colorado School of Mines



CHLOE JOHNSON
Douglas County High School
Colorado College



MICHELLE LAU
Pine Creek High School
Colorado School of Mines



KYA LEPRONE
Fountain-Fort Carson High School
University of Colorado Boulder



MISA LOPEZ
Platte Valley High School
University of Colorado Boulder



GRACE GARDNER
Las Animas High School
Western Colorado University



JAYMI GILE
Alamosa High School
University of Colorado Boulder



EMMANUEL GIL GONZALEZ
CEC Early College
University of Denver



VICTOR PARRA GONZALEZ
Mapleton Early College High School
University of Colorado Boulder



OLIVIA MADDEN
Cedaredge High School
Colorado College



TAYLA MARTIN
Holyoke High School
University of Colorado Boulder



RICARDO ZAVALA MAGANA
Roaring Fork High School
Colorado School of Mines



GUS MILLER
Monte Vista High School
Colorado State University



MAANASI GOWDA
Mountain Vista High School
University of Denver



KENIA HANSEN GUZMAN
Fort Morgan High School
Colorado College



BROOKLYNN HENSCHEL
Hi-Plains High School
Colorado State University



CECE HOUSEWEART
North Fork High School
Colorado State University



OPAL MUNGER
Meeker High School
Colorado College



TIME NIEMEIER
Colorado Early Colleges Colorado Springs
Colorado School of Mines

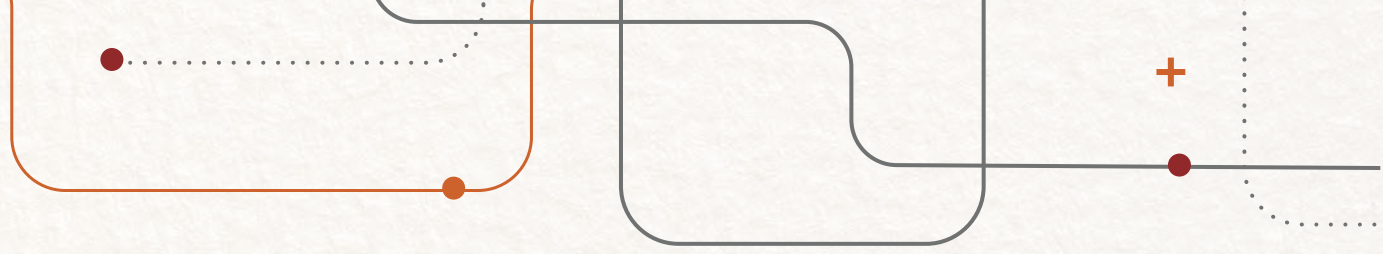


AISHA O'NEIL
Durango Big Picture High School
University of Colorado Boulder

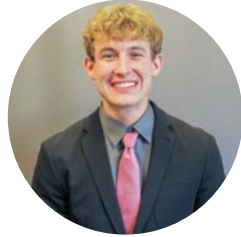


MOOKU PAW
Hinkley High School
University of Colorado Boulder

2024 Boettcher Scholars



LILLY PHAN
Kent Denver School
Colorado School of Mines



KADEN PIEL
Merino High School
University of Colorado Boulder



HARRISON PROCTOR
Fowler High School
University of Colorado Boulder



LAURA PULIDO
Highlands Ranch High School
University of Colorado Boulder



LAUREN WATTS
Mountain Vista High School
Colorado State University



JACOB WELTE
Pueblo Centennial High School
University of Denver

20
EDUCATIONAL
ENRICHMENT
GRANTS

11
INTERNATIONAL
EDUCATION
GRANTS

10
COLLABORATION
GRANTS WITH
BOETTCHER
INVESTIGATORS



JACKIE ROJAS RIVERA
Adams City High School
University of Colorado Boulder



YADILEXY BANUELOS ROJAS
Denver Online High School
University of Colorado Denver



RITA SAINI
Peak to Peak Charter School
University of Colorado Boulder



HABIBA SAMIR
Grandview High School
University of Denver



CHRISTINAMAE SHELEY
Palisade High School
University of Colorado Boulder



KAIA SKADBERG
Centauri High School
Colorado School of Mines



ISMAEL TRIANA
Vantage Point High School
University of Colorado Boulder



NANDHANA VIVEK
Legend High School
University of Colorado Boulder



▼
Current Scholars gathered in Westminster for our annual two-day Scholars Experience.



Impact Since 2021

4 COHORTS

37 FELLOWS

Our fourth cohort of **Boettcher Fellows** features 12 inspiring leaders committed to driving positive change across Colorado.

This fellowship supports community champions, with an emphasis on rural leaders, who are bridge-builders solving local challenges.

“These individuals are already making a difference in Colorado, and we look forward to providing them with more tools and connections to increase their impact locally.”

CURTIS ESQUIBEL
SENIOR DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



2024 Fellows gather in Denver for the Fellowship launch in September.

2024-25 Fellows



JOSIE BOYNTON
Walsenburg



CLAUDIA GARCÍA CURZIO
Telluride



BRIAN HILL
Grand Junction



MACKENZIE LANGLEY
Denver



ELISA LOVE
Grand Junction



CHELSEA LUNDERS
Mancos



JASON MEDINA
San Luis



LAURA MIJARES
Pagosa Springs



SASHA NELSON
Craig



MATT NUÑEZ
Colorado Springs



ROMONA SILVA
Mosca



BRENTON WRIGHT
Cortez



Listen to our interview on Colorado Leadership Stories with Fellow Alum Bryana Starbuck of Glenwood Springs.



FELLOWSHIP COMPONENTS

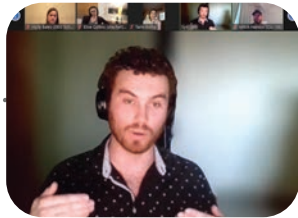
- 6 Monthly Sessions
- 3 Retreats
- Individualized Coaching
- Professional Development Award

In 2024, our Alums came together to connect with each other, make a difference, and strengthen the Boettcher community. From vibrant receptions across the country to rallying at the National Western Stock Show and volunteering at the Food Bank of the Rockies, we connected Alums within and beyond Colorado.

Our programs provided unique opportunities for Alums to showcase their talents and passions. Programming included hosting art exhibitions, leading thought-provoking discussions, and mentoring the next generation of Scholars. We also hosted numerous virtual events, ensuring that our Alums were able to connect with their peers across the globe.



JANUARY
National Western
Stock Show



MARCH
Connect & Collaborate:
Slow Down, Gifted Kid!



MARCH
Robin Cole
Art Exhibition

320+
ALUMS
ENGAGED WITH
BOETTCHER
THROUGH EVENT
ATTENDANCE,
BOARD SERVICE,
AND
VOLUNTEERISM.

APRIL
New Alumni
Rockies Game



MAY
Spring Service Day at
Food Bank of the Rockies



MAY
New York
Alumni Reception



JUNE
Boston
Alumni Reception



JULY
Boettcher Connect
Mentorship Program
Kickoff

59
OF 73 SCHOLAR
CLASSES ENGAGED
WITH US THIS YEAR
(1952-2024)



SEPTEMBER
Washington, D.C.
Alumni Reception



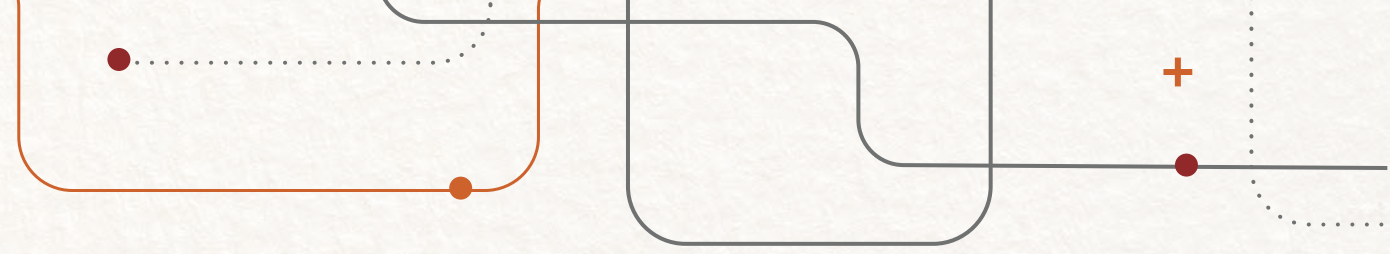
AUGUST
Grand Junction
Alumni Reception



AUGUST
Boettcher Alums at
Scholars Experience



OCTOBER
Beers &
Bluebooks



Community Connections Grants support initiatives and infrastructure projects that foster stronger connections between individuals and organizations. In 2024, we awarded \$2.2 million to 39 organizations. These grants offer one-time funding for projects that build community. Since 1937, the Boettcher Foundation has provided more than **\$438 million** in grants historically.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS GRANTS



Colorado Mesa University
Grand Junction

The largest venue of its kind between Denver and Salt Lake City, the Moss Performing Arts Center will serve the university's theatre arts program and provide a world-class venue to attract performers and artists to the Western Slope.



Food Bank of the Rockies
Aurora

This expanded facility, replacing the organization's Denver warehouse, will help meet the critical need for fresh and nutritious food supplied to local food pantries across Colorado and Wyoming.



Colorado Education Initiative
Statewide

The Rural Superintendent Academy is a professional development program that supports district administrators and superintendents of all experience levels to grow in their leadership.



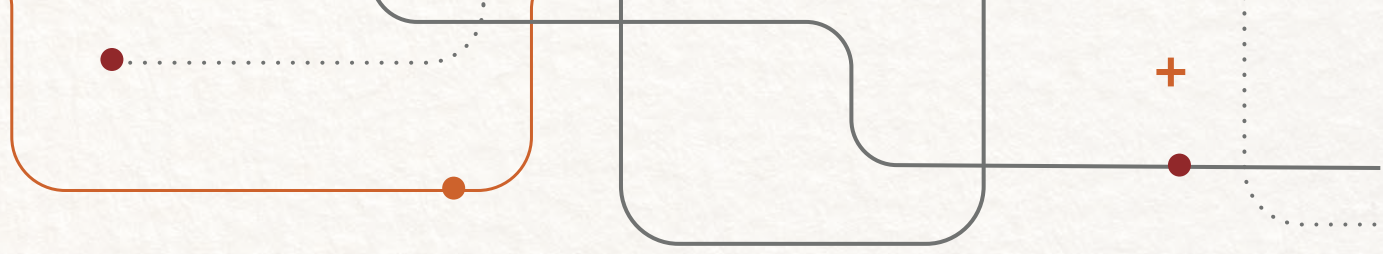
The Buena Vista Public Library
Buena Vista

This renovation project will expand the library to include a new meeting room, and additional space, addressing the libraries current limitations and supporting additional community engagement efforts.



Impact Investing
Artspace Projects, Inc.
Loveland Feed & Grain

In partnership with the Loveland Housing Authority, Artspace renovated a historic downtown mill into nine units of creative workforce housing and 4,000 square feet of community space. We made a low-interest bridge loan to Artspace to support the final renovations on the project while tax-credit financing is finalized.



Grantee Stories



Blue Jacket Pride & Boundless Opportunities



For nearly a century, Colorado FFA has cultivated youth leaders in agriculture. Through its gap year program, members like Scholars Sydney Cure (2022) and Aidan Datteri (2024) mentor peers and address various community challenges as state officers.

The organization's impact extends beyond students themselves — Colorado FFA is shaping communities, preserving the state's agricultural heritage, and empowering the next generation of innovators in ag.



The Pueblo Riverwalk: A Legacy and Future of Community Building



Once a site of tragedy, the Pueblo Riverwalk now stands as a symbol of community resilience and unity. With a major expansion project underway, this 32-acre destination is set to enhance its role as a hub for Southern Colorado recreation and connection.

Explore how new features like a boathouse and educational programs are enriching the Riverwalk experience and fostering pride among residents of Pueblo County and beyond.



Rural Communities Rally to End Child Care Deserts



Rural communities across Colorado are taking innovative steps to address child care shortages. In Grand Junction, Community Hospital spearheaded efforts to create Adventure Academy, an on-site child care facility that opened in September 2023.

The center serves both hospital employees and the wider community, offering 100 spots for children aged six weeks to 6-years-old. This initiative exemplifies how rural areas are rallying to solve child care challenges so that families can thrive in their communities.



A Creative Community Growing from the Inside Out



The Mancos Creative District is shaping the town's future by embracing its unique character and fostering community growth.

Formed in 2015, the Mancos Creative District has had a significant impact on the local economy, making the town a regional destination for creative events.

The district recently embarked on an ambitious project to purchase and renovate the historic Mancos Opera House, aiming to transform it into a vibrant community space.

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MICHELLE M. LUCERO, Chair-Elect
DAVID MILLER
GREGORY L. MOORE, Chair
RICO MUNN, JD
LINDSEY PAULSON, MD
RICK PEDERSON
LISA ZÚÑIGA RAMÍREZ, CFA
PAMELA SHOCKLEY-ZALABAK, PhD, Secretary
JASON WHEELER, Treasurer



Boettcher Trustees



Tony Frank and **Pam Shockley-Zalabak** have served a combined 18 years on the Board of Trustees. We are grateful for their passion and numerous contributions to our work. Scan the QR code to hear more about their service.



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