



ANNUAL REPORT
June 2022—June 2023

Cultural Community Programs

Cultural Services Department

Background

The Cultural Community Program works to equitably integrate arts and culture into the Fort Collins community, especially in locations not typically programmed and beyond conventional cultural facilities. The Program is part of the City of Fort Collins' Cultural Service Department, and both staff and programming have been funded from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars since 2022. In May 2022, the contractual role of Cultural Community Programs Manager was filled by Nick Heimann, fulfilling an objective in the 2019 FoCo Creates Arts and Culture Master Plan (Plan).

The Program is activated in various ways to achieve the outcome of integrating art and culture into the community:

Pop-up performances: hiring and often co-creating with local artists to design and implement pop-up art performances and engagements held in unconventional public places such as trails, parks, and within neighborhoods.

Plugging in: supporting externally coordinated events with strong alignment to the Program by funding arts and cultural components.

Co-creation: deferring decision-making and vision to local artists to produce initiatives driven by local creatives. While co-creation has led to the production of unique projects, the approach also underpins essentially all Program initiatives.

Approach

The Plan outlines a vision for equitable, inclusive, and diverse arts and cultural programming across the Fort Collins community. The following goals have become fundamental principles for the Program to adhere to in order to accomplish various objectives outlined in the Plan:

- Ensure equitable opportunities for diverse artists to reach and engage with diverse and often underserved community segments.
- Fund and support the Fort Collins creative sector as a whole.
- Create and integrate a diverse, proactive suite of programming into the community that highlights all art forms and disciplines, designed in ways that facilitate learning, capacity building, and engagement when feasible.
- Promote collaboration and co-creation with partners internal and external to the City as well as across and within artistic disciplines.



Progress to Date

The following metrics outline Program achievements from June 2022 through June 2023:

108

Number of engagements

33

Internal and external partnerships

249

Artists hired (including individuals part of a group), a vast majority of which self-identify as a member of a typically marginalized social, socioeconomic, or racial and ethnic group

4,700+

Public participation and engagement, active and passive

Year One Highlights

Each Cultural Community Program engagement is unique and offers the possibility of serendipitous, meaningful moments between the Fort Collins community and local artists. A few examples are highlighted here:

Pop-up Performances

Multiple series of pop-up engagements have occurred between April and June 2023.

Spring 2023 featured a series of performing arts pop-ups including musical theater, contemporary dance, and live music titled **Dancing in Our Sorrow and Joy**. In May, five musicians and four literary artists popped up at select transit stations in a series titled **Let's Ride: an arts-bound transit experience**. During **Rainbow Rhythms**, eight local LGBTQ-identifying musicians were hired to perform for one hour each while being driven around the community in a cargo bike lent from the Fort Collins Bicycle Co-op.



Co-creation

Through co-creation, the Program defers decision-making to community members and local creatives to leverage their interests and expertise in planning and implementing a variety of programming.

In collaboration with Fort Collins' Poet Laureate and a team of literary artists, a collaborative community poetry project, titled **Our Animal Body**, included a 10-foot sculpture used to receive community responses to select prompts, two community events to create the community poem, and a physical "zine" distributed to coffee shops, Free Little Libraries, and other accessible locations.

A youth-led team collaborated on the first LGBTQ-identifying youth "prom" called **Magical Masquerade**, which was hosted at the Museum of Discovery to start Pride Month in June 2023.

Plugging in

The Program continued to support external initiatives by hiring local creatives to augment planned events.

2023 began by continuing a partnership with **Boys and Girls Clubs** in Fort Collins, which included near-weekly programming with two local clubs and three unique artists facilitating themed engagements. **Black History Month** featured significant support to various Black and African American organizations and events. In April, the Program partnered with Colorado State University (CSU) to implement a t-shirt screen printing pop-up series aligned to **Asian Pacific and Desi American Heritage Month**, including a meet and greet at City Hall with the facilitating artist.



Throughout the fall, winter, and spring, a partnership with **CSU's Dance Department** brought 15 student-led dance performances to various community locations including Columbine Health, The Matthews House, and a partnership with Poudre Library District's all-electric mobile library.

Harmony Village Mobile Home Park and **CARE Housing** communities were also included in programming between Fall 2022 and Spring 2023, including a magician, live music, and hip-hop dancing demonstrations.

Partnerships

The following list includes all partners engaged with since December 1, 2023:

Community Partners

Boys and Girls Clubs

- Fort Collins Club
- Harmony Club
- Wellington Club (in concert)

CARE Housing

CSU Annual Flower Trial Gardens

CSU Asian Pacific American Cultural Center

CSU Black/African American Cultural Center

- United Men of Color
- United Women of Color
- GPS Program

CSU Dance Department

CSU LEAP Program

CSU Pride Resource Center

EcoThrift and Funktional

Fort Collins Bicycle Co-op

Fort Collins Musicians Association

Full Expression! A Dance Collective

Harmony Village Mobile Home Park

Interfaith Solidarity and Accompaniment Coalition (ISAAC)

Juneteenth community event organizers

La Familia

Old Town North

Poudre Library District

Race Amity Day community event organizers

Summitstone Health Partners

The Matthews House

United Way

Wolverine Farm Press

City of Fort Collins Partners

Art in Public Places

Equity Office

FC Moves

FCTV

Historic Preservation

Museum of Discovery

Neighborhood Services

Parks

Recreation

Transfort



For additional information:

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