

Annual Report for 2024 January 2025

The year of 2025 brought continued growth and change. We are grateful for the help and support of foundations, government agencies, and corporate sponsors, as well as numerous generous individuals. We continued to look for innovative ways to reach the community with art and music.

Major corporate and grant support for projects

- A grant from the City of Florence for Summer and Fall programs
- A grant from the Fremont Community Foundation for children's programs
- A grant from Fremont County Tourism Council for advertising for Paint the Town.
- A grant from Southern Colorado Community Foundation for ongoing children's programs.
- A grant from the Royal Gorge Association of Realtors to sponsor the Shakespeare in the Park event.
- F.E.W. chose the Bell Tower's children's programs as the recipient for their 2024 fundraising event.

Events

- Eleven art shows were held in 2024, allowing local artists to display and sell their work.
- Head Start pre-school held their annual art show for parents in February, with two shows for different ages.
- Monthly concerts were held, with music including jazz, Celtic, bluegrass, and country.
- "Courtyard Art" a project in collaboration with the Florence Farmers Market, offered low-cost introductory courses in our front courtyard during the Thursday Farmers' Market. The program ran for nine weeks in 2024, attracting all ages. Art, story-telling, music, yoga, and dance were included in the mini-classes. Started during COVID as an outreach program, this was the final year for the offering.
- Open Mic is held every Wednesday, and Open Paint every Monday evening.
- A free Shakespeare performance was brought by the Bell Tower to Pioneer Park, with students from a local college entertaining the public. Attendance at the 2024 event increased 100% over 2023.
- "Dine out for the Bell Tower" was held at the Village Inn, raising money for operating costs.
- A strategic planning session was held to determine long-term

New Public Art

Open to all area
2D & 3D Artists

Submit original work
completed within the
past 3 yrs.



Art Entries
Submitted By 4pm
September 10th, 2024

Exhibit displays
September 11th to
October 15, 2024

Public Reception Friday
September 13, 2024
5-6:30pm

**Cowboy, Western
and Southwestern
Art Show & Sale**




Bell Tower Cultural Center/ Florence Arts Council
 201 E. 2nd St. Florence Colorado 81226 - florenceartscouncil@yahoo.com
 Web: florenceartscouncil.com - 719.794.2038 - Facebook: belltowerculturalcenter

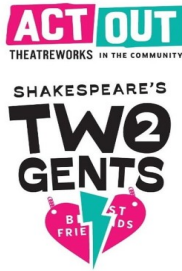


goals, and committees were formed to follow up on those plans.

Free Performance!

**Florence
Pioneer Park
Pavilion**
3rd Street &
Pikes Peak Avenue

**10:00 am
Saturday,
July 6, 2024**



Bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy 75 minutes of Shakespearean fun! This free for all performance is outdoors!

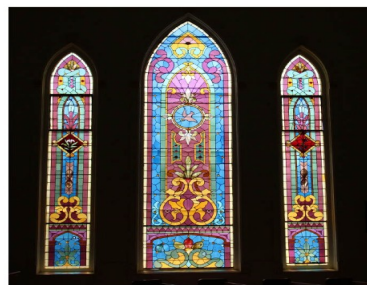
SPONSORED BY:

Royal Gorge Association of Realtors



Bell Tower Cultural Center/Florence Arts Council

Web: florenceartsCouncil.com ~ 719.784.2038 ~ Facebook: belltowerculturalcenter



Event website: Cañon City 1st Baptist Church 107 N Seventh St. 81612 L.G. Tiffany Studios

WINDOW GLOW DRIVING TOUR
December 24, 2024 5pm-10pm

Take the family out to see the lights with added stops to see the magnificent, lighted stained-glass windows of Florence and Cañon City churches and homes.

Sites and information available at the Bell Tower, on Facebook, or by emailing windowglowbeverly@gmail.com

Sponsored by The Florence Arts Council/Bell Tower Cultural Center, 201 E. 2nd Florence

Bell Tower Cultural Center 2024 Concert Series

EIDOLON



Saturday June 15, 2024 7pm

TICKETS: Members \$8 ~ Non-Members \$10

201 E. 2nd Street, Florence Colorado

florenceartsCouncil.com ~ 7197842038 ~ facebook: belltowerculturalcenter

- With the help of numerous volunteers, the building was decorated for the holidays. Local high school students set up and took down the outdoor lighting display.
- Elementary students painted and helped set up “Gingerbread Men” at the main intersection downtown for the holidays.
- *Paint the Town*, our annual plein aire competition, was held in October, with a month long exhibit following the competition. A record amount of cash awards were given in 2024.
- Weddings, memorial services, and church services are held at the building on a regular basis. Community gatherings and meetings are held in the building. The Community Choir meets weekly and the Royal Gorge Artist Association meets monthly.

Public Art

- A billboard promoting the arts continues to be displayed.
- We continue our mosaic mural projects, with a beautiful mosaic mural inside the Bell Tower in the stairwell to the community room. Peg Piltingsrud designed the central section and oversaw the month-long project, with the help of Pamm Maxwell. Another large mosaic is planned for 2025 on Florence Museum property.
- A donation by Bruce Bell of a large sculpture was painted and placed in the front courtyard. The “Artist at Work” was painted by Sandy Dale and Gary Grindle

Physical improvements

- A committee has been formed to explore the possibility of installing an elevator to reach the lower level meeting room.
- Our free standing raised garden beds were utilized for the summer community garden project, which operated again in 2024.

Classes and Programs

- Art classes for adults and children operated all year, reaching over 200 people in the community.
- We have several ongoing weekly classes including mah jong, “Open Mic Night”, and “Open Paint” night.
- We ran our annual children's summer art camp, which operated in June for students between the ages of 7 and 18.
- An expanded “Cowboy Poetry” event was held in September.
- For the 4th year in a row we utilized the raised beds for community gardens. Vegetables and herbs were given away weekly to the community throughout the summer.
- Courtyard Art was offered in the summer months.
- Friday art classes for children were offered in December, and may be expanded in 2025
- We continued to offer low-cost studio space to artisans. Currently they are occupied by a graphic artist, musicians, and an oil painter.
- Through the use of volunteers, we were able to staff the building, keeping it open five days a week. Our volunteer hour total for 2024 was 4,158 hours, an increase over 2023.
- The pottery co-op has increased members, and there is an increase in pottery classes.



QUICK DRAW 1-3, RECEPTION 5-7 SAT. OCT. 19TH
 Juried Exhibition and Sale Oct. 19 to Nov. 26, 2024
 Bell Tower Cultural Center, Florence, CO
 201 E. Second St, Florence, CO 719-784-2038

Watch 40 Artists Painting In and Around Florence!

We Thank our Sponsors and Patrons!

Bruce Bell, Jeffrey L. & Connie L. Mueller, Larry Oddo-The Winery, Brendan Pardue, Tom & Peg Piltingsrud, Barbara Smith, Sue Turnquist, Rocky Mountain Bank and Trust, Colorado Creative Industries, Fremont County Tourism Council, Emergent Campus, & the Florence Arts Council



**Bell Tower Cultural Center
 2024 Concert Series**



Wayne Wilkinson is a headliner guitarist that performs and tours across the country and internationally known for his high octave melodic playing. Over his four-decade-plus career, Wayne has shared the stage with iconic jazz musicians, world class performers, and a President of the United States playing at the White House, Carnegie Hall and at major jazz and music festivals with the premier Air Force Jazz Ensembles, The Altimers of Note in Washington, D.C. and the Falconaires in Colorado Springs, Colorado
 waynewilkinson.com

Saturday December 21, 2024 7pm

TICKETS: Members \$8 ~ Non-Members \$10

201 E. 2nd Street, Florence Colorado

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Long-term Goals

According to the Historic Society, “preservation” focuses on the maintenance and repair of existing historic materials, and retention of a property's form as it has evolved over time. “Rehabilitation” acknowledges the need to alter or add to an historic property to meet continuing or changing uses while retaining the property's historic character. The Arts Council is working within these definitions as needed repairs and upgrades are made. For 2025 our goals are:

- The visual committee is looking at improvements for hanging art in the performance hall.
- A committee was formed to explore the possibility of installing an elevator for the building, and securing funding for the project.
- A strategic plan for the next 5 years was made regarding funding, programs, and staffing.

Major donors and Grantors for 2023

Gold donors \$1,000 per year or more

Bruce Bell

Brendan Pardue

Silver donors \$250-999 per year

Steve and Becky Andrews

Bernice Barnes

Jeffrey and Connie Mueller

Lynn and Michael Oliver

Brendan Pardue

Tom and Peg Piltingsrud

Lynn and Kathy Seidling

Barbara Smith

Sue Turnquist

Major corporate and foundation donors for 2023

Southern Colorado Community Foundation, \$3,000

City of Florence, \$2,500

Fremont County Tourism Council, \$1,000

Fremont Community Foundation, \$500

Royal Gorge Association of Realtors, \$500

Winery at the Holy Cross Abbey, \$450

Emergent Campus, \$250

Rocky Mountain Bank and Trust, \$250

Canon City Daily Record; ongoing ad support

The Crusader; ongoing ad support

Kroger Industries

Patron Members \$500

Steve and Becky Andrews

Coleen Bobinac

Donor members: \$100 to \$499

Bernice Barnes

Florence Merchants Association

John and Sylvia Noble

Marsha Snell

Individual members: 125

Special thanks to our volunteers and other contributors:

Becky and Steve Andrews, Sylvia Andrews, Big D's Market, Terri Baker, Bruce Bell, Canon City Daily Record, Sharon Chanley, Mark Clinard, Barbara Clark, Mary Jo Cline, Colon Orchard, Jim and Jeannene Cox, Sandy Dale, Rod and Erin Davidson, Diane DelDuca, Jerry Denny, Janna and John Dixon, Joen Elliot, James and Katie Eubank, Randy Ford, Fremont Center for the Arts, Carol Gordon, Gary Grindle, Denise Hood, Janet Hopper for 103 Vintage Market, Carol King, Beverly Little, Johnny Macias, Scott McMillin, John and Pamm Maxwell, Rudl and Darlene Mergelman, David Manship, Joanne Mohr and the Farmer's Market, Russ Mueller, John Noble, Michael and Lynn Oliver, Arlene Pennington, Bill and Emily Phillips, Tom and Peg Piltingsrud, Suzie Popkess, Lisa Quinlan with Hang Em High framing, Rocky Mountain Bank, Jim and Beth Red Hawk, John Schleyer, The Shopper, Mark and Joan Sindler, Barbara Smith, Marsha and Dennis Snell, Holliday Thompson, Sue Turnquist, Jean Whitmore, Pat Wiles, Millie Wintz, and Bob Wood.