

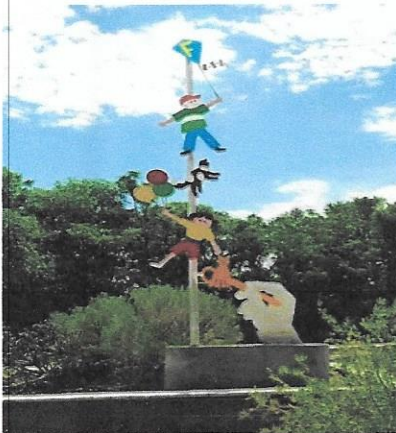


Annual Report for 2020 January 2021

The year of 2020 brought many challenges as we struggled with the closures and restrictions due to COVID. There were also successes with the help and support of foundations, government agencies, and corporate sponsors, as well as numerous generous individuals. We were closed from March 15 through August, resulting in the cancellations of classes, concerts and events. Some of those were held on-line.

Major corporate and grant support for projects

- A donation from Newmont Venture Mining for costs of Paint the Town. This money was used for the "Spirit of the West" awards.
- A grant from the Robert Hoag Rawlings Foundation for musicians
- A grant from Fremont County Tourism Committee for advertising for Paint the Town
- A grant from the Colorado Garden Foundation for upgrades to the gardens.
- A grant from the Laura Jane Mussar Foundation for operating expenses.
- Four grants through the CARES Act helped cover costs and lost revenue during the times we were closed.
- Holcim Enterprises donated the materials and labor for the new sculpture base.



New Public Art



Events

- Twelve art shows were held; Four of them were virtual as the building was closed March through August. We learned a lot about creating virtual shows on our website!
- Monthly concerts were held when possible, with music from choral, to jazz, to Celtic, bluegrass, and country. Concerts canceled this year were rescheduled for 2021 when possible.
- We sponsored the Head Start art exhibit in February with an open house for parents.
- We collaborated with the local history archives to present a five part series on the history of the suffragette movement.
- A two month long public art event involved community members creating an 80 foot long mosaic mural celebrating the arts.
- With the help of numerous volunteers, the building was decorated for the holidays.
- We collaborated with Fremont Center for the Arts in the "Local Color" show, featuring all of the Fremont County galleries. The exhibit was hosted in the Bell Tower and in county galleries.



- *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.
- Weddings, memorial services, church services are held at the building on a regular basis. Community gatherings and meetings are held in the building.

Public Art

- A billboard promoting the arts continues to be displayed.
- A 20 foot sculpture designed by Rudl Mergelman was installed in the North garden. The sculpture, titled "Never tell a child he's not an artist", is visible from Pioneer Park.
- An 80 foot long mosaic mural was created with the participation of nearly 40 community members and artists. "Something's in the Air" features multiple sections, each adopted by a different person. Peg Piltingsrud designed the central section and oversaw the project.

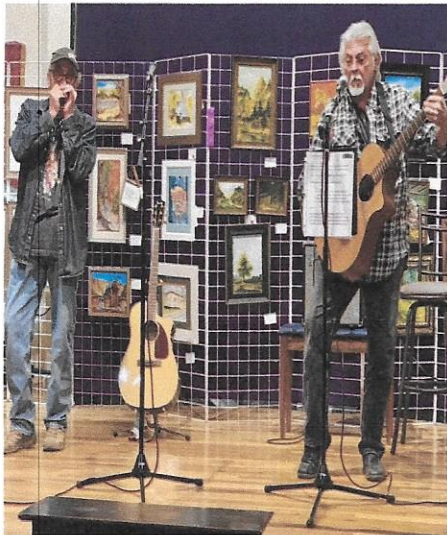
Physical improvements

- An automatic watering system was installed in the North garden, funded by the Colorado Garden Association.
- A 90% efficient furnace was installed for the annex.
- The annex was re-roofed in January with a 2019 grant from the REA Foundation, the Quick Foundation, and the funds generated from our Art and Antique auction. Roofing is finished!!!
- We accepted the donation of a large floor loom and several smaller looms. One of the studios on the 2nd floor is now a cooperative weaving space.

Classes and Programs

- Art classes for adults and children operated all year, reaching over 100 people in the community.
- We have several ongoing classes including mah jong, "Open Mic Night", and "Open Painting" night.
- We ran our seventh children's summer art camp, which operated for four weeks. Again, we dove into new territory and offered the summer lessons on-line.
- Planned Art-Trek excursions to the Denver Art Museum are on hold until 2021.
- 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 2020 was over 3,400 hours



Bell Tower Cultural Center

2020 Concert Series

Award Winning Singer, Songwriter & Novelist

JON CHANDLER



Local Cowboy Poets:

**Tina Willis
Will Cherry
Lisa Quinlan**

~ and special guest appearance by ~

**VESS QUINLAN,
American Cowboy Poet**

Saturday October 10, 2020 7pm

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

201 E. 2nd Street, Florence Colorado

719.784.2038 ~ florenceartscouncil@yahoo.com

web: florenceartscouncil.com ~ facebook.com/belltowerculturalcenter



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 2020 our goals are:

- Arrange for acoustic improvements in the performance hall
- Continue to improve our use of social media and online sites to advertise our events and our facility.

Major donors and Grantors for 2020

Gold donors \$1,000 per year or more

Bruce and Suzie Bell

Steve and Becky Andrews

Silver donors \$250-999 per year

Larry and Beryl Baker

Diane DelDuca

Larry Lasha

John and Willie Miller

Michael and Lynn Oliver

Tom and Peg Piltingsrud

Bob and Sue Wood

Major corporate and foundation donors for 2020

Laura Jane Musser Foundation; \$10,000 for operating expenses

Robert Hoag Rawlings Foundation; \$3,000 for music and art programs

Colorado Endowment for the Humanities; \$3,120 for operating expenses

Colorado Cares (Creative Industries); \$5,300 for operating from Cares Act

Colorado Garden Foundation; \$4,323 for garden upgrades

Fremont County; \$3,087 from Cares Act

Florence City ; \$5,000 from Cares Act

Federal Economic Impact Disaster Grant; \$2,000

Fremont County Tourism Council, \$1,100 for Paint the Town

Holcim Industries; \$3,000 labor and materials for sculpture installation

Newmont Venture Mining Company; \$550 for Paint the Town prizes

Canon City Daily Record; ongoing ad support

Florence Citizen; ongoing ad support

The Crusader; ongoing ad support

Kroger Industries

Amazon Smile

Patron Members \$500

Coleen Bobinac

Marcy and Wes Dorman

Donor members: \$100 to \$499

Bruce and Suzie Bell

Joe and Sharon Whelan

Individual members: 125

Special thanks to our volunteers and other contributors:

T.J. Aitkin, Becky and Steve Andrews, Sylvia Andrews, Artists' Gallery, Big D's Market, Terri Baker, Bruce and Suzie Bell, Mark Clinard, John and Barbara Clark, Mary Jo Cline, Colon Orchard, Jim and Jeannene Cox, Sandy Dale, Merri Daley, Ferril and Erin Davison, Diane DelDuca, Lori Ann Dickerman, Janna and John Dixon, Joen Elliot, Jan Fead, Barb Folger, Randy Ford, Fremont Center for the Arts, Carol Gordon, David Hooker, Janet Hopper for 103 Vintage Market, Carol King, The Lavendar Farm, Beverly Little, Scott McMillin, Jim Maxon, John and Pam Maxwell, Rudl and Darlene Mergelman, David Manship, John and Dawn Mosher, John Noble, Michael Oliver, Kieth and Elsie Orr, John and Judy Patterson, Arlene Pennington, Doris Petro, Bill and Emily Phillips, Carol Pfaffly, Tom and Peg Piltingsrud, Suzie Popkess, Lisa Quinlan with Hang Em High framing, Rocky Mountain Bank, Royal Gorge Bridge Company, Jim and Beth Red Hawk, Brianna Rizzi, John Schleyer, The Shopper, Mark and Joan Sindler, Barb Smith, Marsha and Dennis Snell, Paula Svincek, Holli Thompson, Jeannie Truitt, Debra Veeder, Sharon Whelan, Jean Whitmore, Pat Wiles, Millie Wintz, Bob Wood, Valerie Wulf,