

COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF FUNDERS  
BUILDING  
CONNECTIONS  
STRENGTHENING  
PHILANTHROPY

**PHILANTHROPY COLORADO**

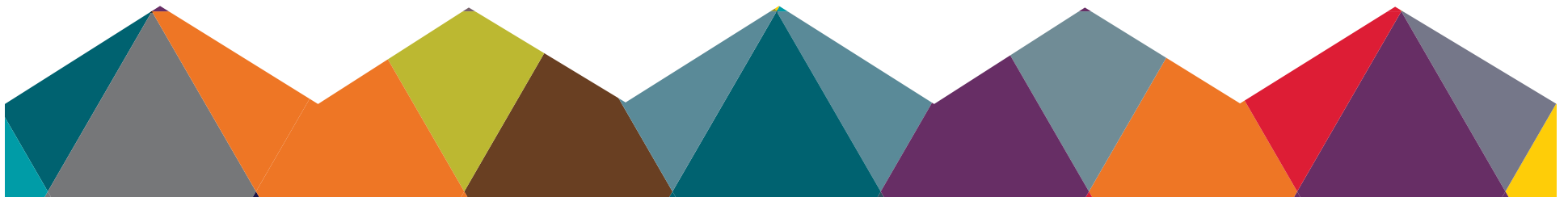
**S T R O N G E R**

**C O N N E C T I O N S .**

**S T R O N G E R**

**C O M M U N I T I E S .**

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



Philanthropy Colorado, formerly the Colorado Association of Funders, announced a new name in 2019 to better reflect its membership and mission.

As we continued to evolve and grow over almost a half-century, we found we needed an identity that better represented our statewide network's generous spirit. Our name change also aimed to clarify and inspire and also be more inclusive of the various types of givers striving to address key challenges facing Coloradans.

In advance of the change, our board approved opening our membership to an increasingly diverse spectrum of organizations and individuals focused on improving the lives of Coloradans. In addition to private, family and community foundations, corporate funders, federated funds and workplace giving programs and government agencies, we now welcome donor-advised funds and individual philanthropists. And, like many of our colleagues across the country, we've created a new associate member category for philanthropy advisors and consultants, attorneys and accountants serving the field.

Founded almost a half-century ago by a small group of charitable foundations, Philanthropy Colorado serves as a "big tent" for the field – offering training, education, peer networks and advocacy for an increasingly diverse spectrum of organizations and individuals making significant charitable contributions to improve the lives of Coloradans.

In adopting our new name, we joined with a growing number of organizations in our national network, United Philanthropy Forum, which itself changed its name in recent years. The Forum's members include national philanthropy-serving organizations, as well as regional networks that have rebranded as Philanthropy New York, Philanthropy Delaware, Philanthropy Massachusetts, Philanthropy Ohio, and Philanthropy West Virginia, among many others.

Our field recognizes the power of working together on a unified front to advance our causes and make progress on health, education and other critical issues. Our new identity aims to align us with our colleagues and it gives us a stronger brand under which to serve as a leader and partner in building connections and collaborations on behalf of the philanthropic sector, the broader nonprofit community and the people of Colorado.

We hope you'll agree that our new name, Philanthropy Colorado, clearly positions our organization to guide our statewide sector into the future.

With our new name comes a new tagline, **'Stronger connections. Stronger communities.'** and a refreshed mission statement: **'To strengthen Colorado communities by bringing people, information and resources together.'**

**Joanne Kelley** Chief Executive Officer

**Amy Latham** Board Chair and Vice President of Philanthropy at The Colorado Health Foundation





## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

### WHY WE CHANGED OURS

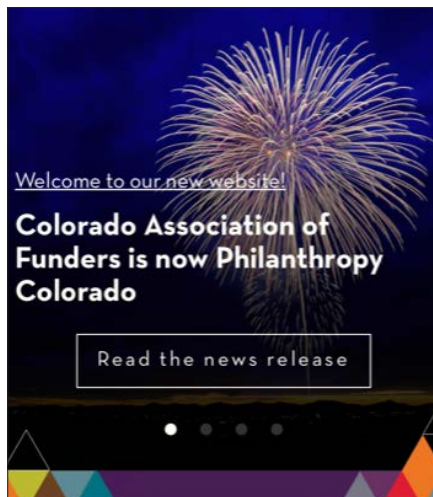
After careful deliberation and in consultation with many of our colleagues here and across the country, we concluded we needed a name that

better represented our membership and our work. Aside from the cumbersome nature of our previous name, we'd heard plenty of feedback that the word "funders" often creates confusion in our advocacy and outreach efforts with public officials, business leaders and others not in our immediate circles.

We've been able to build strong connections, but have lacked a strong brand for our thriving network.

We have been mistakenly referred to out loud on the House floor at our State Capitol as the "Colorado Association of FOUNDERS" and by one business that misheard our name as the "Colorado Association of THUNDER." Perhaps our favorite: our own public 990 filing document name only has enough room to list us as "Colorado Association of FUN." Even our own members differ on how they refer to us – by either saying our initials "C-A-F" or by referring to us as "calP" for short.

The word "philanthropy" directly translates into "love of humankind" and is defined as welfare of others.



We said goodbye to our previous tagline, "Building Connections. Strengthening Philanthropy." We also said farewell to our long-time name, pictured here at Denver International Airport on a digital sign provided as a public service announcement several years ago.

Our logo now includes our new name but has the same familiar colors, look and feel of our previous rebranding of 2011.

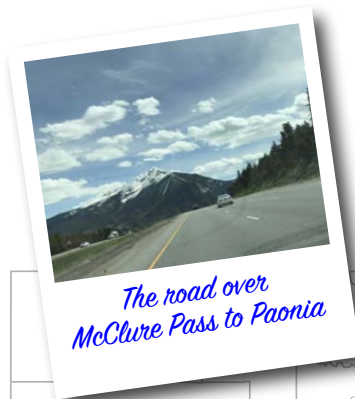
We received an American Graphic Design Award from *Graphic Design USA* for our **2018 Annual Report**. From over 12,000 entries, our Annual Report was selected as a winner. *Graphic Design USA* has been the magazine for creative professionals since 1963. Its awards program has long honored the power of design to shape commerce, culture, and causes in all media. Finally, a huge thank you to our long-time graphic designer, Abbie Kozik, for her work in designing our annual reports over the years.



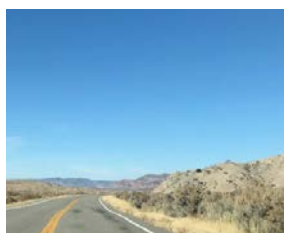
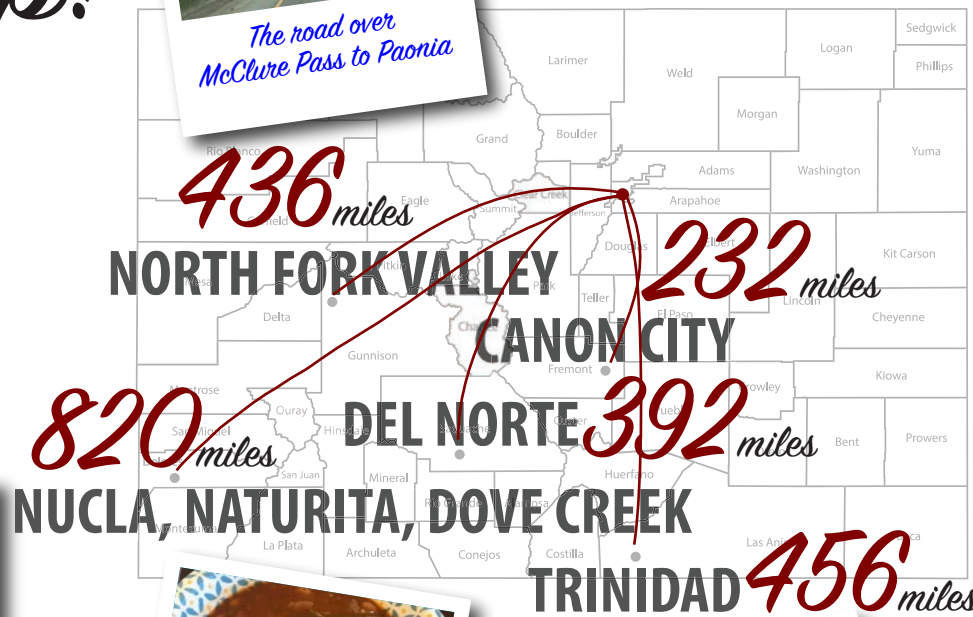
# Road Trip!

Our Rural Funders Learning Network saw Denver in the rear-view mirror A LOT in 2019, logging a combined 2,336 miles\* on five-different visits off the beaten path.

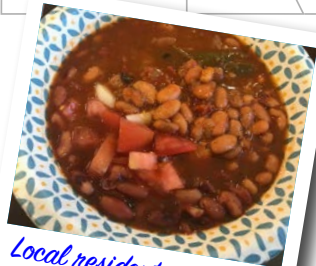
\*Round-trip mileage from Denver's Capitol building



*The road over McClure Pass to Paonia*



*The road from Naturita to Dove Creek (as away as you can get from Denver)*



*Local residents serve up Dove Creek's famous pinto beans for lunch*



*Getting down to business (+ eco devo) in Trinidad*



*DOLA leader Rick Garcia, one of our many gov't partners*



*Met the mayor then hopped on trolley for Trinidad tour*



*Nucla's plan to build trails + become next mountain biking mecca*

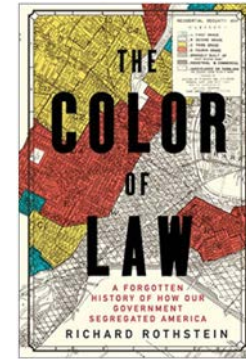
R U R A L  
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## The Color of Law

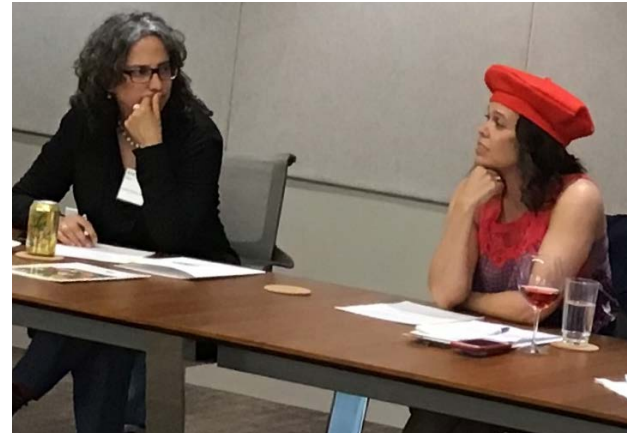
We brought Author Richard Rothstein to Colorado for a talk with members on his acclaimed book, *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America*. A distinguished fellow at the Economic Policy Institute, Rothstein's book has been celebrated by conservatives and liberals alike for its "exacting precision" into how segregation in America stems from explicit government policies at the local,

state and federal levels. Rothstein explored how this continues to have a profound impact on black communities and on many of the issues and challenges philanthropy seeks to address. The book landed back near the top of the *New York Times* bestseller list in 2020 as the reckoning for racial justice gathered momentum in the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd and others.



## Building a Culture of Learning (from failure!)

We continued to experiment with new program formats, engaging in some truth telling as an important tool for learning from failure – something that philanthropy rarely celebrates. We invited members to share the good, the bad and the ugly about initiatives, projects or strategies that fell short of intended results.



Janet Lopez of Rose Community Foundation (right) and Amy Latham at Colorado Health Foundation told stories that involved embracing their humility as grantmakers while also affirming the need for philanthropy to take some risks. Ana Soler (left) at Gates Family Foundation facilitated the conversation, which involved wine, red berets and an open mic for candid sharing.

## Nonprofit Finance Boot Camp

Nonprofit Finance Fund joined us for "Unpacking a Nonprofit's Financial Story for Strategic Grantmaking," incorporating an equity lens into the all-day training for foundations.

## Unicorns Unite

Sponsored by Community First Foundation, Powering Partnerships has brought together funders and nonprofits for the past several years for a keynote that highlights the stresses and joys of working in the nonprofit sector. The 2019 program featured Jessamyn Shams-Lau, co-author of *Unicorns Unite: How Nonprofits and Foundations Can Build Epic Partnerships*. A California-based foundation leader. Shams-Lau penned the whimsical book with Jane Leu and popular nonprofit blogger Vu Le.



Unicorns Unite co-author headlines Powering Partnerships; Nonprofit Finance Fund trainers deliver workshop for members.

# 2019 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

# Collaborations allow us to bring important topics to our membership and 2019 was no different.

## Climate Change

A partnership with the national Media Impact Funders network and the Environmental Grantmakers Association brought our members and other funders together at eTown in Boulder to spend the day with media makers exploring the effectiveness of media efforts focused on the environment and climate change.



Panels and conversations covered topics including: leadership, crisis communications in the digital age, and public school diversity and inclusion.

## C3 Forum

The C3 Forum – held in partnership with Community Resource Center and Colorado Nonprofit Association for the 10th consecutive year – brought together nonprofits and funders in Colorado Springs to delve into the topic of how to tackle systems change in our work to strengthen communities.



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H I G H L I G H T S



## Foundations on the Hill

Our delegation of foundation leaders traveling to Washington DC met with most Colorado members of Congress including Senators Michael Bennet and Cory Gardner, and House Representatives Jason Crow, Joe Neguse, and Ed Perlmutter to discuss legislation regarding the charitable deduction and other issues of importance to philanthropy and nonprofits.



*Our annual trip to Foundations on the Hill involved a lot of substantive conversations directly with lawmakers and key staff, while also presenting many photo opportunities and chances to grab meals together in the nation's capital.*



# ADVOCACY & POLICY



# Providing a voice for the sector throughout the year

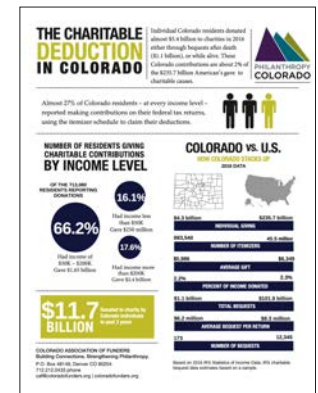
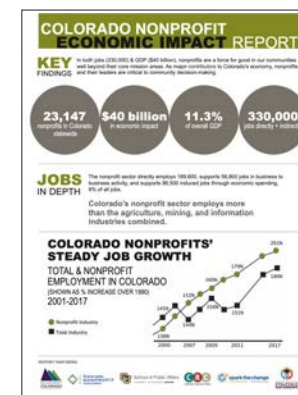
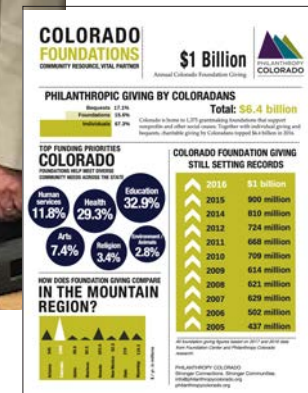


We traveled the short distance to Congresswoman Diana DeGette's Denver office to pay her a visit over the summer. From l. to r., Jaser Alsharhan (Philanthropy Colorado), Sharon Schneider (Telluray Foundation), Sue Renner (Merage Foundations), Congresswoman DeGette, Joanne Kelley (Philanthropy Colorado), Ned Calonge (The Colorado Trust).

Philanthropy Colorado and Colorado Nonprofit Association leaders Joanne Kelley and Renny Fagan moderate panel with Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold and Attorney General Phil Weiser at joint advocacy program timed to coincide with the release of jointly produced Economic Impact Study. The report, a partnership among several agencies, was placed on the desks of all State Senators and Representatives earlier in the day.



Sen. Cory Gardner looks through our new Economic Impact Study in his Washington DC office. Philanthropy Colorado also produces annual snapshots of foundation and charitable giving trends to help illustrate the sector's reach and importance to communities throughout the state.



## ADVOCACY & POLICY



## Day at the Capitol

We partnered with Colorado Nonprofit Association to host “Day at the Capitol,” an opportunity for nonprofit and foundation professionals to come together to network, connect with state legislators, visit the galleries of the Colorado Senate and House, and learn about key policy issues in the 2019 legislative session.



## 2020 Census

Our efforts to spread the word about the census continued with outreach to legislators, statements of support and a briefing with panelists from Together We Count Colorado, the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, and the Latino Community Foundation of Colorado. Experts discussed the importance of a fair and accurate census, and how philanthropy can support efforts to engage with Colorado's hard-to-count communities.



## Alliance for Justice Training

In partnership with the Gill Foundation, we brought Abby Levine with Alliance for Justice back to Colorado for a refresher on how philanthropic organizations can meaningfully (and legally!) participate in advocacy and policy work.



# ADVOCACY & POLICY

## Leadership Forum

Newly inaugurated Gov. Jared Polis joined our CEOs at the first Leadership Forum of 2019. Co-chairs Karen McNeil-Miller (Colorado Health Foundation) and Tom Gougeon (Gates Family Foundation) facilitated a conversation about shared priorities, with 35 foundation leaders participating.



## Arts & Culture Funders

Led by Gary Steuer (Bonfils-Stanton), left, and Bryce Merrill (Bohemian Foundation), right, the growing group of arts and culture funders in this peer network continue to meet quarterly. The gatherings include tours of cultural organizations, guest presenters from local funder groups and in-depth conversations about various topics of importance to the network. The 2019 itinerary included separate visits to Ft. Collins and Boulder, two meetings in Denver, and a joint event with Colorado Business Committee for the Arts.



P E E R  
G R O U P S



## 2019 Board and Staff Retreat

After unanimously approving our name change and new branding, the board spent the remainder of an all-day retreat digging into equity, diversity and inclusion issues. Nita Mosby Tyler, founder of The Equity Project, led the training and conversations with the full board and staff. The board later agreed to launch a strategic planning process with an equity lens to explore the future work of the organization.



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS





*(Left) Board members break for lunch at our 2019 retreat. From left to right: Virginia Romano, Gary Steuer, Alece Montez, Katie Kramer, Tariana Navas-Nieves.*

**Amy Latham, *Chair*** | Vice President, Philanthropy, The Colorado Health Foundation

**Gary Steuer, *Vice Chair*** | President and CEO, Bonfils-Stanton Foundation

**Abel Wurmnest, *Treasurer*** | Executive Director, Anschutz Family Foundation

**Alece Montez, *Secretary*** | Director of Programs, Orton Family Foundation

**Mark D. Andersen, *Immediate Past Chair*** | Executive Director, Yampa Valley Community Foundation

**Ned Calonge** | President & CEO, The Colorado Trust

**Heather Carroll** | President, Joseph Henry Edmondson Foundation

**Devanie Helman** | Associate Vice President, El Pomar Foundation

**Jeff Hirota** | CEO, Community Foundation Boulder County

**Katie Kramer** | President & CEO, Boettcher Foundation

**Tariana Navas-Nieves** | Director of Cultural Affairs, Denver Arts & Venues

**Virginia Romano** | Executive Director, Vera and Joseph Dresner Foundation

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



*(Left) Philanthropy Colorado's Information Technology Roundtable, one of the many peer groups we support or facilitate, met in Colorado Springs for an extensive discussion on cybersecurity.*

**Arts & Culture Funders Group** | Bryce Merrill (Bohemian Foundation) and Gary Steuer (Bonfils Stanton Foundation)

**Early Childhood Funders Network** | Colleen Church (Caring for Colorado Foundation)

**Early Childhood Mental Health Funders Network** | Colleen Church (Caring for Colorado Foundation)

**Executive Admin Group** | Cindy Kennedy (Adolph Coors Foundation) and Monica Woods (Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation)

**Community Foundations CEO Peer Group** | Eric Hozempa (Longmont Community Foundation) and Lindy Eichenbaum Lent (Rose Community Foundation)

**Human Resources/Operations Group** | Maria Hannon (The Colorado Health Foundation) and Emma Schwarz (Rose Community Foundation)

**Impact Investing Forum** | Sue Dorsey (Gates Family Foundation), Ben Bynum (The Colorado Health Foundation), and Kate Lyda (The Denver Foundation)

**IT Roundtable** | Saurabh Gupta (Gyan-i) and Dave Miller (El Pomar Foundation)

**The Leadership Forum** | Karen McNeil-Miller (The Colorado Health Foundation) and Tom Gougeon (Gates Family Foundation)

**Rural Funders Learning Network** | Tony Lewis (Donnell-Kay Foundation) and Paul Major (Telluride Foundation)

**Small Funders Peer Group** | Kristi Petrie (AJL Foundation) and Ali Mayer (Mayer-Phillips Foundation)

P E E R  
G R O U P S  
C H A I R S &  
C O - C H A I R S



**Foundations on the Hill Delegation** | Heather Carroll (Joseph Henry Edmondson Foundation), Amy Latham (The Colorado Health Foundation), Megan Ledin (Grand Foundation), and Katie Kramer (Boettcher Foundation)

**Policy Committee Co-Chairs** | Megan Ledin (Grand Foundation) and Alece Montez (Orton Family Foundation)

**C(3) Forum** | Shelby Bobst (Pikes Peak Community Foundation), Colleen Church (Caring for Colorado Foundation), Cari Davis (Colorado Springs Health Foundation), Mina Leibert (Pikes Peak Community Foundation), Mia Ramirez (The Colorado Trust), and Cathy Robbins (El Pomar Foundation)

**Building a Culture of Learning** | Amy Latham (The Colorado Health Foundation), Janet Lopez (Rose Community Foundation), and Ana Soler (Gates Family Foundation)  
**Sillerman Center Presentation on Equity in Education** | Janet Lopez (Rose Community Foundation) and Abigail Schaller (Gates Family Foundation)

**Powering Partnerships Luncheon** | Kelly Dunkin (Community First Foundation) and Jeff Hirota (Community Foundation Boulder County)

**Program Brainstorm Volunteers** | Monica Abrahams (Caring for Colorado Foundation), Raymael Blackwell (Community First Foundation), Mary Coleman (Voqal), Kelly Dunkin (Community First Foundation), Jeff Hirota (Community Foundation Boulder County), Janet Lopez (Rose Community Foundation), Jennifer Moe (Donor Alliance Foundation), Kristi Petrie (AJL Foundation), and Denise Whinnen (Gill Foundation)



*(Left) Members collaborate with us to plan and moderate programs on wide array of topics and issues throughout the year.*



# VOLUNTEER LEADERS & PROGRAM PANELISTS



Thank you to the members who provided leadership gifts and additional contributions in 2019

The Colorado Trust  
The Colorado Health Foundation  
Donnell-Kay Foundation  
Anschutz Family Foundation  
Aspen Community Foundation  
Caring for Colorado Foundation  
Community First Foundation  
Gates Family Foundation

Telluride Foundation  
Bonfils-Stanton Foundation  
Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation  
The Denver Foundation  
Vera and Joseph Dresner Foundation  
Joseph Henry Edmondson Foundation  
The LARRK Foundation

## Our 2019 Team

**Joanne Kelley** | CEO

**Amy Swiatek** | Director of Rural and Statewide Networks

**Jaser Alsharhan** | Senior Program Associate

**Anna Metropulos** | Program Associate

Contact us: [info@philanthropycolorado.org](mailto:info@philanthropycolorado.org)

Visit: [philanthropycolorado.org](http://philanthropycolorado.org)



*(Left to right) Jaser Alsharhan, Amy Swiatek, and Anna Metropulos*



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