

## Creative District Leadership Convening, CU Boulder Oct. 17-18, 2018

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### Conference Organizers

#### **Christy Costello**

**Program Manager, [christine.costello@state.co.us](mailto:christine.costello@state.co.us)**

#### **Colorado Creative Industries (CCI)**

**CCI is the state arts agency located within the Office of Economic Development.**

Christy manages the Colorado Creative District program, annual Creative Industries Summit and serves as accessibility coordinator. Her background includes museum collections management, non-profit fundraising and event management. Costello teaches courses for the DU University College Arts Management graduate program. She is an alumnus of the Colorado Creative Industries Change Leader program, Colorado Business Committee for the Arts (CBCA) Leadership Arts and serves on the CBCA Leadership Arts Alumni network committee.

**Project work relevant to Colorado communities:** All of Christy's work discussed above is relevant to Colorado communities. <https://coloradocreativeindustries.org>  
<https://coloradocreativeindustries.org/opportunities/creative-districts/>

#### **Lisa Schwartz**

**Community Outreach Program Manager, [lisa.h.schwartz@colorado.edu](mailto:lisa.h.schwartz@colorado.edu)**

#### **Office for Outreach and Engagement, CU Boulder**

Lisa Schwartz is an outreach professional, educator, social scientist and design-based researcher. Her current work focuses on Engaged Arts and Humanities and Community Development and Design initiatives, including a new program for engaged graduate student scholars in the arts and humanities, a collaborative effort with Boulder County Arts Alliance on an inclusiveness and equity series and collaboration with Colorado Creative Industries. In the past, as an educator and postdoctoral researcher, she worked for over two decades, primarily with marginalized communities in the US West and Southwest, on STEM/STEAM, new digital literacies and multiliteracies research in formal, informal outdoor and digital spaces. She takes a network and ecological approach to support the movement of expertise and interest across multiple contexts. A focus on equity and inclusion in collaboration, as a design principle and goal for shared outcomes, guides her work.

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**Project work relevant to Colorado communities:** My work with the Creative District Leadership convening and other work with CCI. Statewide lecture and workshop support, support for expanding projects and making connections between the university and communities beyond the front range. <https://www.colorado.edu/outreach/ooe/lisa-h-schwartz>  
<https://www.colorado.edu/outreach/ooe/strategic-initiatives/engaged-arts-and-humanities-initiative>  
<https://www.bouldercountyarts.org/workshops/inclusivity-and-equity>

## Creative District Attendees

Liz	Black	40 West Arts District
Bill	Marino	40 West Arts District
Kevin	Yoshida	40 West Arts District
Becca	Spiro	Breckenridge Arts District
Amy	Kimberly	Carbondale Creative District
Rachael	Manning	Carbondale Creative District
Christy	Costello	Colorado Creative Industries
Marilyn	Leuszler	Corazon de Trinidad Creative District
Erin	Ogletree	Corazon de Trinidad Creative District
Mel	Yemma	Crested Butte Creative District
Grace	Noel	Denver's Art District on Santa Fe
Andrea	Wilkins	Denver's Art District on Santa Fe
Claire	Swinford	Downtown CO Springs Creative District
Beryl	Durazo	Downtown Longmont Creative District
Kimberlee	McKee	Downtown Longmont Creative District
Vito	Montone	Downtown Longmont Creative District
Olga	Garcia	Golden Triangle Arts District
Brandon	Stam	Grand Junction Creative District
Steph	Wall	Grand Lake Creative District
Pam	Bricker	Greeley Creative District
Jason	Evenson	Greeley Creative District
Anne	Beach	Mancos Creative District
Susie	Kaldis	Paonia Creative District
John	Clark	Ridgway Creative District
Diedra	Silbert	Ridgway Creative District
Amanda	Kriss	RiNo Art District
Alye	Sharp	RiNo Art District
Patrick	O'Brien	Salida SteamPlant Event Center
Michael	Varnum	Salida SteamPlant Event Center
Kim	Keith	Steamboat Springs Creative District
Elodie	Jacobsen	Telluride Arts District
Kate	Jones	Telluride Arts District

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## Oct. 17 Space Place and Diversity in the Arts Panel Presenters

**Moderator: Danielle Rivera**

**Assistant Professor, [danielle.rivera@colorado.edu](mailto:danielle.rivera@colorado.edu)**

**Environmental Design, CU Boulder**

Dr. Danielle Zoe Rivera is an urban designer and urban planner. Her research engages issues of urban informality and decolonization through both design and policy. At ENV D, she teaches courses on physical planning, community engagement, social equity, and urban design & planning theories. Rivera holds a Ph.D. in Urban Planning from the University of Michigan, a Master of Architecture from the University of Pennsylvania, and a Bachelor of Architecture from The Pennsylvania State University.

**Project work relevant to the panel:** My planning studio students engage issues of culture, social justice, and gentrification in the River North (RiNo) Art District in Denver.

Twitter: [danielle\\_zoe](#) . Website: [www.urblab.org](http://www.urblab.org)

**Panelists:**

**Jasmine Baetz**

**Artist, MFA student, [jasmine.baetz@colorado.edu](mailto:jasmine.baetz@colorado.edu)**

**Ceramics, Art and Art History, CU Boulder**

Jasmine Baetz is a Canadian-American artist, educator, and MFA student in the department of Art and Art History at CU Boulder.

**Project work relevant to the panel:** Nascent public art project to mark the important history of CU Boulder's EOP programs, the Chicano Student Movement, and Los Seis de Boulder

**Héctor, Ramírez**

**Amy Kimberly**

**Executive Director, [amy@carbondalearts.com](mailto:amy@carbondalearts.com)**

**Carbondale Arts/Carbondale Creative District**

Amy Kimberly has been in the business of the arts for over 30 years. This includes creating Nightgrass, the late night shows at Telluride Bluegrass Festival, Director of Telluride Arts, The Telluride AIDS Benefit, KDNK Community Radio and Carbondale Arts. As Director of the AIDS Benefit, Amy expanded the program into Swaziland Africa. In her current role of Director of Carbondale Arts, Amy lead the town to creative district certification.

**Project work relevant to the panel:** The Carbondale Creative District continues to work on inclusion and access to art for all, affordable housing for creatives and economic development., The Latino Folk Art Garden, part of the Rio Grande ARTway creative placemaking project, is designed and created by our Latino community. While it is still in process, its goal is to give voice to our Latino community and to capture the history of Latinos in the Roaring Fork. This history has never been documented.

<http://www.carbondalecreativedistrict.com/artway/>

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**Santiago Jaramillo**  
**Board VP, Artist and Business Owner**  
**BuCu West (Business and Cultural District & West Community Economic Development Corporation)**

Santiago Jaramillo is a third generation Westwood resident in Denver, artist, cofounder of D3 Arts, VP of BuCu West, cofounder of The Empress Artist Collective and Art Gallery, Aztec Dancer and leader of my family dance group, community activist, Fatherhood rights advocate, soon to be owner of a sober-living facility for recovering addicts.

**Hector Ramirez**  
**Assistant Director, [Hector.Ramirez@colorado.edu](mailto:Hector.Ramirez@colorado.edu)**  
**CU Boulder Upward Bound, CU Boulder**

**Project Director for Indigenous Peoples Mural**

Héctor Ramírez is the Assistant Director of the CU Upward Bound program, which serves around 100 Native American high school students from across 5 different states annually, providing them with the tools and support they need for achieving their vision for postsecondary success. A first-generation Xicano writer and educator, Héctor received his MFA in Creative Writing from CU Boulder in 2018, and he hopes to (eventually) become the first PhD in his family.

**Project work relevant to the panel:** Héctor is particularly interested in the ways that muralism can shape a community's imagination and sense of itself, and also spark new and unexpected activist/artistic work. In addition to helping the Indigenous Peoples Mural expand in its reach and impact, Héctor is currently editing a novel manuscript that deals directly with the murals of Boyle Heights, Los Angeles. , Twitter: @HRamirez10,

**Helanius J. Wilkins**  
**Assistant Professor of Dance/Choreographer/Performance Artist**  
**[helanius.wilkins@colorado.edu](mailto:helanius.wilkins@colorado.edu)**  
**Theatre and Dance, CU Boulder**

Helanius J. Wilkins, a Louisiana native, is an award-winning choreographer, performance artist, scholar, and educator. He is based in Boulder, CO where he is an Assistant Professor of Dance in the Department of Theatre & Dance at the University of Colorado Boulder. He founded and directed EDGEWORKS Dance Theater, Washington, D.C.'s premiere all-male company of predominantly African-American men that existed for 13 years (2001 – 2014). His honors include the 2008 Pola Nirenska Award for Contemporary Achievement in Dance, and the 2002 and 2006 Kennedy Center Local Dance Commissioning Project Award. In addition to performing, he enjoys creating, presenting, and receiving commissions for choreography throughout the U.S. and abroad.

**Project work relevant to the panel:** Recent project, "Laissez Les Bons Temps Rouler" - a Louisiana-style social dance procession honoring resistance and resilience.  
[www.helaniusj.com](http://www.helaniusj.com) Instagram heljawil,

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## Oct. 18 Morning Program Presenters

**William P. Marino**, entrepreneur, community organizer, writer, and public servant, is a founder of The Creativity Lab. In addition, he leads the Lakewood-West Colfax Business Improvement District and is a champion for 40 West Arts District in Lakewood, Colorado. Prior to creating The Lab and spearheading the BID and 40 West Arts initiatives, Marino built and sold three companies in the publishing and technology sectors, served as a two-term planning commissioner, and chaired numerous task forces on economic development, community planning, and land use. As a lifelong student of creativity and quantum physics, he seeks unifying solutions through a process he calls “purposeful friction”—a collision of contrasting views combined with a collaborative convergence of creative and critical thinking, which despite inevitable uncertainty, unleashes the potential for ground-breaking outcomes. Marino, recipient of the Colorado Business Committee for the Arts John Madden Leadership Award in 2015, earned his BA degree in language arts from the University of Central Florida, attended the University of South Florida for graduate studies in linguistics and Seton Hall University's Masters of Strategic Communications and Leadership Program. A published author and frequent speaker on entrepreneurship, business strategies, and community engagement, Marino sits on the boards of 40 West Arts, Metro West Housing Solutions, West Colfax Community Association, and a number of start-up companies.

<http://www.creativitylabcolorado.org/people/>

**Kevin Kazuhiro Yoshida**, entrepreneur, architect, and designer, joined with Marino to co-found The Creativity Lab. Yoshida, a Denver native who received his architectural degree from the University of Southern California, returned to practice architecture in Colorado in 1994. He has owned and led design firms since 1996 and is currently founder and CEO of Ideate Design. He has earned a reputation as an insightful designer who upholds both ethics and aesthetics. Yoshida leads with a belief that the rigor of design thinking and the design process can transcend and redefine the problem at hand in order to reveal solutions that are transformative and revolutionary. He is focused on developing relationships with people and organizations that share the core values of questioning, challenging, and disrupting the status quo. Yoshida's current work integrates artfulness and regenerative design to make incremental improvements in the fabric of urban revitalization to become more environmentally and socially responsible. His current design methodology is a dynamic fusion of sketching and computer visualizations and is being applied to a variety of project scopes and scales, from urban design to infill housing to 24-hour place-making to strategic planning. As an active advocate for his community, Yoshida serves as the Board President of the Lakewood-West Colfax Business Improvement District and is on the Board of Directors for 40 West Arts District.

<http://www.creativitylabcolorado.org/people/>

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## Oct. 18 Lunchtime Presenters

### **Abraham Proffitt**

**Undergraduate, [abeprof@gmail.com](mailto:abeprof@gmail.com)**

**Environmental Design, Growing Up Boulder, CU Boulder**

Abraham Proffitt is a senior ENVD student emphasizing in planning at the University of Colorado, Boulder. His interests include: walk & bike planning, regional planning, social equity and transit issues, creative districts, community engagement, child-friendly cities, and urban food systems.

**Project work relevant to Colorado communities:** I am working with Growing Up Boulder to develop a Child-Friendly City Map and an Early Childhood Development Transportation Master Plan that encourages kids to explore their city through child-friendly designs. We are currently working with several preschool and elementary students to come up with plans, designs, and ideas for walk-able neighborhoods throughout Boulder. I am also working on a walk/bike infrastructure research project that examines disparities in accessibility between low- and high-income residential neighborhoods in Denver. <http://www.growingupboulder.org>

### **Leandre Mills**

**Undergraduate, [lemi4353@colorado.edu](mailto:lemi4353@colorado.edu)**

**Environmental Studies, Environmental Design, and Growing Up Boulder, CU Boulder**

Leandre Mills is a 4th year student in the ENVS and ENVD departments and is currently interning with Growing Up Boulder

**Project work relevant to Colorado communities:** Boulder's Child Friendly City Map and Alpine Balsam Project <http://www.growingupboulder.org>

## Oct. 18 Lightning Talk Presenters

### **Jasmine Baetz**

**MFA student, [jasmine.baetz@colorado.edu](mailto:jasmine.baetz@colorado.edu)**

**Ceramics, Art and Art History, CU Boulder**

Jasmine Baetz is a Canadian-American artist, educator, and MFA student in the department of Art and Art History at CU Boulder.

**Project work relevant to Colorado communities:** Working on a public art project for CU Boulder campus to acknowledge the lesser-known histories of our campus.

### **Amelia Brackett**

**PhD student, [amelia.brackett@colorado.edu](mailto:amelia.brackett@colorado.edu)**

**History Department, CU Boulder**

Amelia Brackett works to connect academic and public history for public education and environmental protection. Her dissertation research at the University of Colorado, Boulder explores places where wildlife and humans share space such as the mountain towns of Colorado. Other recent projects include the story of neighborhood activism in the face of postwar deindustrialization in Chicago, the history of apple trees as an economic resource and a source of identity for the Boulder Apple Tree Project, and historic preservation for the City of Louisville, CO. You can find her on Twitter @histmia.

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**Project work relevant to Colorado communities:** The Boulder Apple Tree Project surveys apple trees in Boulder county and provides ecological and historical data to the Boulder community. The aims of the Boulder Apple Tree Project are to map where these "apples of old" are in Boulder, to identify historic -- and potentially rare -- cultivars, and to preserve this diversity for future generations. We are committed to involving students, as we believe that research experiences are much more powerful when learning is locally-relevant, when it is multidisciplinary, and when it is experiential. We are also committed to involving the Boulder community, as we believe in collaborative learning that fosters a strong sense of place.

<https://www.colorado.edu/sudinglab/boulder-apple-tree-project>

**Pam Bricker**

**Greeley Creative District Secretary, [pam@greeleydowntown.com](mailto:pam@greeleydowntown.com)**

**Greeley Creative District**

Pam is the Executive Director of the Greeley Downtown Development Authority and one of the founding members of the Greeley Creative District. She also owns a flower shop in downtown Greeley

**Project work relevant to Colorado communities:** Our Creative district focus on diversity-- access and inclusion.

[greeleycreativedistrict.org](http://greeleycreativedistrict.org)

**Patrick Chandler**

**PhD student, [patrick.chandler@colorado.edu](mailto:patrick.chandler@colorado.edu)**

**Environmental Studies, CU Boulder**

Patrick Chandler has ten years' experience working in and developing environmental education, stewardship and science programs. His current focus is researching the impact of bringing together art and science to raise awareness of environmental issues. Before coming to CU, he was education director at the Washed Ashore Project- [www.washedashore.org](http://www.washedashore.org)

**Project work relevant to Colorado communities:** I'm writing an arts/science curriculum that will be piloted in Jefferson County Schools and working on a data sonification project that will be piloted at the Colorado School for the Deaf.

[www.washedashore.org](http://www.washedashore.org)

**Eliana Colunga**

**Associate Professor, [colunga@colorado.edu](mailto:colunga@colorado.edu)**

**Psychology & Neuroscience, CU Boulder**

Dr. Eliana Colunga is an Associate Professor in the department of Psychology and Neuroscience and the Computer Science Department, and a faculty fellow with the Institute of Cognitive Science at the University of Colorado Boulder. Her research studies interactions between language and cognition using cross-linguistic, developmental and computational modeling methods. Her research on building computational models of early word learning has been funded by the John Merck scholars foundation and by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development of the National Institute of Health. Colunga received a PhD in Computer Science and Cognitive Science from Indiana University and an MS in Artificial Intelligence and BS in Computer Science from the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, Mexico.

**Project work relevant to Colorado communities:** have two active projects relevant to Colorado communities. Communities Code: Engaging Underrepresented Youth in Creative

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Computing aims to create high quality computing experiences for young people and to strengthen their social support by engaging their peers in after school programs, inviting their families to learn alongside them, and supporting their teachers through professional development. The project is entering its 4th year and has served over 4,000 K-12 students, educators, and members of the public. The second project, which is just in its beginning phase, seeks to co-design and implement -- together with parents of children ages 0-3 in a low-income community -- an effective, culturally-sensitive parent-based early education program.

### **Sandra Firmin**

**Director, [sandra.firmin@colorado.edu](mailto:sandra.firmin@colorado.edu)**

#### **CU Art Museum, CU Boulder**

Sandra Q. Firmin assumed the position of director of the CU Art Museum in April 2014. Prior to that, she spent over a decade as curator of the University at Buffalo Art Galleries, where she curated numerous critically acclaimed contemporary art exhibitions. She co-curated the traveling exhibition *Kim Jones: A Retrospective* (with Julie Joyce), accompanied by the catalogue “*Mudman: The Odyssey of Kim Jones*” (MIT Press, 2006). In 2010, Firmin organized *Artpark: 1974–1984*, an exhibition and publication (Princeton Architectural Press, 2010) chronicling the seminal years of an innovative residency program located in Lewiston, New York. Firmin holds a master’s degree from Bard College’s Center for Curatorial Studies (2002) and is currently enrolled in the CU Boulder Leadership Certificate program.

**Project work relevant to Colorado communities:** The CU Art Museum recently acquired the Sharkive, which comprises over 2,700 prints and related materials from 40 years of collaborative work in lithography, monotype and woodcut. *Shark’s Lithography* (now *Shark’s Ink*) opened in 1976 in Boulder, Colorado, and moved to Lyons, Colorado, in 1998. Since then, master printer Bud Shark has collaborated with many of the nation’s most distinguished artists to produce and publish hundreds of innovative prints. \

Our goals for the Sharkive are: 1. to make it widely available to students, scholars and the broader community for interdisciplinary, object-based research and learning in the museum’s study rooms and through exhibitions and publications; 2. preserve and make accessible *Shark Ink’s* innovative legacy, and as a cornerstone of Colorado’s cultural heritage, for posterity; and 3. position the CU Art Museum as an important destination for the study of the contemporary visual arts and printmaking from the 16th century to the present.

<https://www.colorado.edu/cuartmuseum/>

### **Fernanda Iwasaki**

**PhD Candidate, [fernanda.iwasaki@colorado.edu](mailto:fernanda.iwasaki@colorado.edu)**

#### **Spanish and Portuguese Department, CU Boulder**

Fernanda Iwasaki is an international PhD student at CU Boulder, where she studies contemporary Latin American literature. Her research focuses on the short-story genre and the power of storytelling for fighting oppression or offering nontraditional perspectives of reality. Iwasaki is originally from Lima, Peru and was raised in Spain. Besides her training as a researcher and educator, Iwasaki also holds a BFA in Theater and works as a creative writer. During the past two years, Iwasaki has collaborated with Motus Theater, in a project called *Salsa Lotería*, and with the Colorado Shakespeare Festival for the Shakespeare & Violence Prevention program. Since April 2018, she is also collaborating with the Office for Outreach and Engagement as an Engaged Arts and Humanities (EAH) Scholar.

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**Project work relevant to Colorado communities:** I have partnered with Columbine Elementary School to offer a weekly creative workshop to 5th-grade Latino students. The workshop will last 11 weeks and by the end, each student will have transformed their parents into superheroes and will have produced a comic or an illustrated short story around their magical super powers. This is a workshop where students will be asked to draw, write and share family stories. A small group of undergraduate CU students minoring or majoring in Spanish will also be part of this creative process and will have the opportunity to practice their conversation skills in Spanish while supporting the children in the creation of their characters and stories.

[www.mariafernandaiwasaki.com](http://www.mariafernandaiwasaki.com)

### **Marda Kirn**

**Executive Director, [info.ecoarts@gmail.com](mailto:info.ecoarts@gmail.com)**

#### **EcoArts Connections**

Marda Kirn is the founding director of EcoArts Connections (EAC), which brings the arts together with science, social justice, and Indigenous ways of knowing to inspire people of all ages to live more sustainably – environmentally, economically, socially/culturally, and personally - while finding new roles for the arts in the face of global change. EAC commissions, produces, presents, and consults on collaborative activities including performances, exhibits, convenings, youth programs, and other events held in both traditional and non-traditional venues.

**Project work relevant to Colorado communities:** Youth arts programs inspired by sustainability and nature themes primarily with/for under-served Latinx youth at Angevine Middle School (Club Mestizo), Boulder Ridge Mobile Home Park (Lafayette-ECO:Exploring Culture and Opportunities), San Lazaro Mobile Home Park (Boulder-OASIS), and with/for students of all ethnicities/races in 5 Boulder Valley School District middle and high schools (Green Suits); and A2A (Awareness to Action): a sustainability-arts-science gathering and leadership training bringing together leaders from different fields to work together re mitigating and adapting to global change.

[www.colorado.edu/cedar/projects/designbuild/treexoffice](http://www.colorado.edu/cedar/projects/designbuild/treexoffice)

### **Marcel de Lange**

**Assistant Clinical Professor working with students and the community**

[marcel.delange@colorado.edu](mailto:marcel.delange@colorado.edu)

#### **Program in Environmental Design, CU Boulder**

Marcel is an Assistant Clinical Professor in the program of Environmental Design. Marcel operates with students on the interface of innovative design + building, community engagement and (digital) design and fabrication.

**Project work relevant to Colorado communities:** We are working with Eco Arts connection on the OASIS project (art+community+awareness for underprivileged LatinoX community) and we are currently working on the University Hill community + Art engagement project. In addition, we are working on low-income manufactured housing for citizens of Colorado.

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### **Molly McDermott**

**PhD Student, [molly.mcdermott@colorado.edu](mailto:molly.mcdermott@colorado.edu)**

**Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Center for the Study of Origins, CU Boulder**

Molly McDermott is interested in how new species form, and the influence of ecology on mating behavior. As a PhD student in Ecology & Evolutionary Biology at CU Boulder she studies interactions between migration and sexual selection among Barn Swallow subspecies. Her master's research focused on the impacts of climate change on arctic songbird nestling diet. As an amateur musician, she is interested in the intersections of science and art, and in communicating scientific information via creative disciplines.

**Project work relevant to Colorado communities:** McDermott studies barn swallows, a culturally important yet declining songbird, on privately-owned barns and ranches in Boulder County. In collaboration with sculptor Aaron Treher, I study swallow visitation rates to a creative new structure built to provide swallow habitat.

[mollymcdermott.net](http://mollymcdermott.net)

### **Grace Noel**

**Art District on Santa Fe**

**Artist, Owner [hello@gracenoel.art](mailto:hello@gracenoel.art)**

Grace Noel is an artist and native Chicana of Colorado. Born year of the Earth Dragon her vision is the magical side of reality. Grace's artwork is mixed media from painting and printmaking and it is adventurous, unique, and narrative. Grace has a BFA in painting, drawing, and printmaking. Her artwork can be viewed at the Denver Art Society: 734 Santa Fe Dr, Denver CO, where she also has her studio (Since 2013). The Denver Art Society is a skills-based education nonprofit and artist cooperative. She now sits on the Board of Directors for the Art District on Santa Fe.

**Project work relevant to Colorado communities:** We are all made of sunshine, Sunshine makes the plants grow, the water flow, and the wind blow. Now it's time to go on a magical journey through the rainbow. My current series explores the twelve signs of the Chinese zodiac. Each painting starts as a drawing burned into wood panel, watercolor, then oil paint matches the flow of the woodgrain, encaustic paint (beeswax, resin, pigment), finally glitter and gold. <https://gracenoel.art/>

### **Ricarose Roque**

**Leader, Family Creative Learning; Professor, [ricarose@colorado.edu](mailto:ricarose@colorado.edu)**

**Information Science, CU Boulder**

Ricarose Roque is an assistant professor in the Information Science department at CU Boulder with a courtesy appointment in Computer Science and Education. She directs the Creative Communities research group and leads the Family Creative Learning project.

**Project work relevant to Colorado communities:** Family Creative Learning is a workshop series that engages children and their parents to learn together — as designers and inventors — through the use of creative technologies. We designed the workshops to build on families' relationships and cultural backgrounds and to strengthen their social support and expertise around computing. Currently, the team has been collaborating with Boulder and Denver public libraries as well as BVSD elementary schools.

<http://familycreativelearning.org/> <https://www.creativecommunities.group/>

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**Sam Schanfarber**

**Program Coordinator, [samuel.schanfarber@colorado.edu](mailto:samuel.schanfarber@colorado.edu)**

**Deming Center for Entrepreneurship, CU Boulder**

Sam Schanfarber manages the Leeds' Certificate in Entrepreneurship program, as well as coordinates the Demystifying Entrepreneurship and Startup 2 ScaleUp Rural Colorado Workshop series. He has a background in Boulder startups, including being the first hire at the first nonprofit to participate in Techstars Boulder.

**Project work relevant to Colorado communities:** Leeds School of Business faculty are elevating the conversation around entrepreneurship and innovation while spurring economic development throughout rural Colorado. Through two different workshops, Demystifying Entrepreneurship and Startup 2 ScaleUp, Leeds aims to help entrepreneurs get their businesses get off the ground, as well as scale existing businesses and spur job creation.

[Deming.colorado.edu](http://Deming.colorado.edu)

**Michael Seman**

**Director of Creative Industries Research and Policy, [michael.seman@ucdenver.edu](mailto:michael.seman@ucdenver.edu)**

**University of Colorado Denver, College of Arts & Media**

Michael Seman is the Director of Creative Industries Research and Policy at the University of Colorado Denver College of Arts & Media. He earned a doctorate in urban planning and public policy in 2014 and his work primarily examines the intersection of the creative economy, entrepreneurship, and economic development on the urban landscape. Dr. Seman's co-edited volume concerning the production and consumption of music in the digital age was published by Routledge in 2016 and his work can also be found in many academic journals.

**Project work relevant to Colorado communities:** Dr. Seman recently co-authored the 2018 Denver Music Strategy and completed an analysis of Colorado's music industry for Colorado Creative Industries.

[www.twitter.com/michaelseman](http://www.twitter.com/michaelseman)

**Jennifer Shelby**

**PhD Candidate, [jennifer.shelby@colorado.edu](mailto:jennifer.shelby@colorado.edu)**

**Environmental Studies/Environmental Design, CU Boulder**

Jennifer Shelby is originally from Boise, Idaho, living there until she moved to Colorado to study at the University of Colorado, Boulder. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics with a minor in visual art in 2012 from Boise State University. As an undergraduate she was introduced to community issues at both local and global scales, through the humanities and economics studies. In 2013, her research on the cultural and economic value of farmers markets appeared as a chapter in the "Investigate Boise" book Local, Simple, Fresh: Sustainable Food in the Boise Valley. She again wrote for the "Investigate Boise" project in 2014, Becoming Basque: Ethnic Heritage on Boise's Grove Street, this time telling the story of public private partnerships that shaped the development of the Basque Block. In 2014, Shelby received a Master's degree in community and regional planning. Throughout her graduate studies she worked with her advisor to understand the unique context of the American West and how that influences planning of communities in this region. Shelby continues to be interested in western community planning, rural identity, place-making, human-land relationships, cultural heritage, and community development.

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**Project work relevant to Colorado communities:** I have been working with small communities across the state that have creative districts in various stages of development to examine the effectiveness of current evaluation methods and develop new methods. Additionally, my dissertation research focuses on the effects of creative districts on the social, economic, and spatial systems in rural western towns, using Colorado towns as case studies.

**Claire Swinford**

**Urban Engagement Manager, Downtown Partnership of Colorado Springs,**  
[claire@downtowncs.com](mailto:claire@downtowncs.com)

**Downtown Colorado Springs Creative District**

Swinford holds a BA in Journalism and French Literature from Whitworth University. Her work in arts journalism, nonprofit outreach and studio art has won her recognition as a culture advocate, including for her reportage (AAN AltWeekly Awards, 2013) and creative work (Mayor's Young Leader Award; Pikes Peak Arts Council Rising Star Award, 2016). She has served on many arts-related boards and task forces, most recently the Art of Accessibility Committee promoting cultural participation by people with disabilities.

**Project work relevant to Colorado communities:** As Urban Engagement Manager, my goal is to stimulate the economic and cultural life of Downtown Colorado Springs by initiating and managing experiences that activate the urban environment through public art, tactical urbanism and special events that further brand awareness of the city center (think guest lecturers, cultural tours, and festivals in public parks). I also serve as liaison for Downtown CS' role as a state-certified Creative District, helping to secure resources for arts-related programming, including public art exhibits, promotion of local art and artists, and initiatives for affordable housing and studio space.

[@claireswinford on Instagram & Twitter](#)

**Aaron Treher**

**Lecturer, [Aaron.Treher@colorado.edu](mailto:Aaron.Treher@colorado.edu)**

**Department of Art and Art History, CU Boulder**

Aaron Treher is an artist and educator based out of Boulder, Colorado. In August of 2018 he received his Master of Fine Arts in Art Practices from the Department of Art and Art History at CU Boulder. His artwork explores building traditions that support people and animal populations simultaneously. Treher is primarily focused on barn swallows, a migratory bird species that nests exclusively on human structures.

**Project work relevant to Colorado communities:** Recently, Treher collaborated with Molly McDermott, a PhD student in Ecology & Evolutionary Biology at CU Boulder. Together they created an experimental structure designed to serve a colony barn swallows at a private ranch in Lyons, Colorado. Their work allowed for the observation and study of the way that barn swallows and humans coexist.

Creative District Leadership Convening, CU Boulder Oct. 17-18, 2018

## Additional CU Boulder Attendees from Across Campus

### **Deidre Jaeger**

**Graduate Student, [deidre.jaeger@colorado.edu](mailto:deidre.jaeger@colorado.edu)**

**Ecology and Evolutionary Biology / CIRES, CU Boulder**

Deidre Jaeger is a 3rd year PhD student interested in urban ecology

**Project work relevant to Colorado communities:** I am working on several urban plant projects 1) Boulder Apple Tree Project to identify historical cultivars and investigate interactions between the trees and their environment. We are working on developing teaching and research orchards. 2) Local air temperature effects after removal of Emerald Ash Borer Infected-tree canopy

### **Amy Dunbar-Wallis**

**Research associate, [amy.dunbarwallis@colorado.edu](mailto:amy.dunbarwallis@colorado.edu)**

**Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (EBIO), CU Boulder**

Amy Dunbar-Wallis is a research associate in the Smith Lab working on evolution of flower color in *Lochroma* and Project coordinator for the Boulder Apple Tree Project.

**Project work relevant to Colorado communities:**

The Boulder Apple Tree Project is connecting property owners, community members, students, and researchers with the goal of cataloging and preserving the diversity and history of apple trees in our area. <https://www.colorado.edu/sudinglab/boulder-apple-tree-project>

### **Sarah Fahmy**

**MA Student, [sarah.fahmy@colorado.edu](mailto:sarah.fahmy@colorado.edu)**

**Theatre and Dance, CU Boulder**

Sarah Fahmy is currently pursuing her Master of Arts in Theatre and Performance Studies at the University of Colorado Boulder. A native of Alexandria Egypt, Fahmy is interested in the post-colonial performativity of Egyptian women's political voices. As a researcher and applied theatre facilitator, she investigates interdisciplinary theatre and sustainability mechanisms to encourage women's vocal empowerment for social change and sustainable development.

**Project work relevant to Colorado communities:** I am the VP of External Affairs of the United Government of Graduate Students. Through working within and beyond the CU Boulder community, I work on cultivating and enhancing graduate experiences on campus. I am currently serving on the executive committee for the campus' Strategic Facilities Visioning Committee. Most recently I helped found the Colorado Federation of Graduate Students--the first of its kind in the country--this organization unites graduate governments across the state, aiming to establish a unified platform for advocacy.

I co-facilitate a young women's vocal empowerment program for local Boulder girls between the ages of 11-16, with my advisor, Professor Beth Osnes. We have directly impacted Boulder High School and Casey Middle School by addressing various issues of societal concern for the girls.

I'm a member of Performers Without Borders, and Performance As Resource; two groups housed in the theatre and dance department that aim to support, advocate and engage with artistic practices within the community. I'm also a member of Inside the Greenhouse, an interdisciplinary arts-science-sustainability group that emphasizes creative climate communication.

Creative District Leadership Convening, CU Boulder Oct. 17-18, 2018

**Ondine Geary**

**Production, Outreach & Engagement Liaison, [ondine.geary@colorado.edu](mailto:ondine.geary@colorado.edu)**

**Theatre & Dance, CU Boulder**

Originally from Memphis, TN, Ondine Geary has been a part of the CU Boulder community since 2013. She recently completed her MFA in Dance and is so delighted to rejoin the Theatre & Dance department as Production, Outreach & Engagement Liaison. Geary is also a lecturer in the Department of Critical Media Practices, as well as an active artist and performer who eagerly collaborates across disciplines.

**Project work relevant to Colorado communities:** The Theatre & Dance department have several relevant outreach and engagement projects.

<https://www.colorado.edu/theatredance/about-us>

[www.ondine.dance](http://www.ondine.dance)

**Shelly Miller**

**Professor, [shelly.miller@colorado.edu](mailto:shelly.miller@colorado.edu)**

**Mechanical Engineering, Environmental Engineering, CU Boulder**

Shelly Miller is dedicated to improving public health, studying urban air pollution indoors and outside, participating in projects in N. Denver enabling citizens to understand environmental stressors in their local communities.

**Project work relevant to Colorado communities:** Wellbeing, noise and air quality impacts of C70 construction in Denver

@shellymboulder; shellym80304.com

**K. Woodzick**

**PhD Student, [K.woodzick@colorado.edu](mailto:K.woodzick@colorado.edu)**

**Theatre and Performance Studies, CU Boulder**

K. Woodzick holds a BA in Theatre/Dance, MFA in Contemporary Performance and is a current PhD Student in Theatre and Performance Studies. They are an actor, director, producer, educator and LGBTQ+ advocate, specializing in non-binary representation.

**Project work relevant to Colorado communities:** I'll be performing in Denver Center for the Performing Arts Off-Center Bite Sized night of microplays at Book Bar this fall and I an ongoing body of applied theatre/practice as research work with The Non-Binary Monologues Project, centering on making the theatre industry and training programs more inclusive of gender diversity.

[www.woodzick.com](http://www.woodzick.com)

Creative District Leadership Convening, CU Boulder Oct. 17-18, 2018

## Additional Attendees from the Office for Outreach and Engagement

### **Jenny Briggs**

**Community Outreach Program Manager**

[jenny.briggs@colorado.edu](mailto:jenny.briggs@colorado.edu)

**Office for Outreach and Engagement, CU Boulder**

Jenny Briggs joined the OOE this January, transitioning from a research position with the US Geological Survey. Her background is in Ecology and Conservation, and she has worked collaboratively with many agencies, stakeholder groups, universities, and other organizations on topics related to fire- and forest science and management. She currently leads initiatives for our office that encompass Environmental Science, Sustainability, and Climate, as well as facilitating project development between university and campus partners across other disciplines and topics.

**Project work relevant to Colorado communities:** Several current projects focus on aspects of environmental change that affect communities, such as wildfire, ecosystem management, and changing climate patterns.

### **David Meens**

**Director** [David.meens@colorado.edu](mailto:David.meens@colorado.edu)

**Office for Outreach and Engagement, CU Boulder**

David is a fourth-generation Coloradan and the son of committed public school teachers who grew up on the state's Western Slope. He received his bachelor's, master's and doctorate from the University of Colorado system. As director, David provides leadership and support for outreach and engagement activities that connect the university with communities throughout Colorado and beyond. In his current work, David builds upon his experience developing curriculum and coordinating service-learning offerings, and teaching undergraduate courses as an instructor for INVST Community Studies and in CU Boulder's School of Education and Department of Philosophy. His ongoing scholarly work deals with theoretical and methodological issues related to university-community engagement and education policy.

**Project work relevant to Colorado communities** I direct the OOE, which involves relationship and network development along with funding related to a variety of projects rooted in CU Boulder scholarship across the state of CO

<https://www.colorado.edu/outreach/ooe/david-meens>