

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

## OUR HISTORY

The Grand Valley Creative Alliance, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, was established in 2018. Centered in Mesa County, Colorado, the mission of the GVCA is to cultivate and promote the creative community through collaboration, education, events, and programming.

The establishment of the Grand Valley Creative Alliance was a goal listed in the 2017-2021 Grand Junction Cultural Strategic Plan. The Grand Valley Creative Alliance Task Force was created in 2017 to shepherd both the creation of the GVCA and the application for Creative District status for Grand Junction. Both goals were accomplished – Grand Junction received certification as a Creative District in 2018, and the GVCA was incorporated that same year.

We seated a board of directors, established bylaws, received 501(c)3 status, and began looking for ways to support creative industries in the Grand Valley.

Like all other creative entities, the GVCA has been negatively impacted by the COVID19 pandemic. We had had our first Art After Hours event in February 2020; shortly thereafter, COVID19 changed all our lives. We have nonetheless found ways to bring creatives together during these times.

GRAND VALLEY CREATIVE ALLIANCE  
PO BOX 851  
GRAND JUNCTION, CO 81502  
gvcreates.org



GRAND VALLEY CREATIVE ALLIANCE

Bringing Creatives Together

## 2021 IN REVIEW

In addition to the initiatives listed below, GVCA acted as fiscal agent for the Grand Junction Creative District to secure funding for a mural project downtown. We participated in Take Part in the Arts (GJ Commission on Arts and Culture event), got our website (gvcreates.org) up and running, and provided funding for the Grand Valley Open Studio Tour and the Teen Program at The Art Center.

Community Arts Partners (CAP) is a group of creative organizations which come together to collaborate on events that affect the community. We have held Arts and Culture Forums for Grand Junction City Council candidates in April and for D51 School board candidates in October. We are working together to identify other advocacy opportunities.

Community Arts Network (CAN) is open to all creatives in the Grand Valley. We held our inaugural event on August 31. We have suspended this group until the pandemic is no longer a threat.

Community-Based Arts Education (CBAE) is a collaboration between GVCA and Mesa County School District 51. We helped secure funding from the Western Colorado Community Foundation for the Chipeta Elementary School Ceramics program. We are working with art educators at Chipeta Elementary School to teach every child to make something out of clay. This artwork will be fired in Chipeta's ceramic kiln. When complete, there will be an exhibit of the work so that the community can celebrate together.

In September we hired Bryan Wade as administrator.

In November, GVCA was asked to take a leadership role in the Grand Valley Open Studio Tour, held annually in October.

At the end of the year, the Board held a Visioning Session in which we identified our goals for 2022.

## LOOKING AHEAD

### Our goals for 2022 include:

- Capacity Building and Fundraising – including board expansion.
- Identify property for a maker space – we established a MakerSpace Committee of engaged community members who are working together to make this a reality.

### Programming

- Community Arts Network (CAN) – the community of creatives throughout the Grand Valley. We hope to have regular meetings where creatives can connect with one another.
- Community Arts Partners (CAP) – a group of arts organizations around the valley focused on advocacy for the arts.
- Grand Valley Open Studio Tour – an annual event held in the fall which highlights various artists throughout the Grand Valley and their home studios.
- Community-Based Arts Education (CBAE) – Chipeta Elementary School Ceramics Project completion and exhibit.
- Identify other projects we can assist with.
- Identify administrative services that can be provided to the greater creative community.