



The Dolores J & Robert A Bochaty Foundation

Change your Future through Education

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THEATRE > Theater

Performing Shakespeare will impart skills and confidence, but we needed to be brought into the 21st Century. Augusto Boal asked, "What if you could expand the idea of practiced theatre with written lines into your own words, experiences and character growth? What if trusted guides listened to your heart about mean and unfair things you've experienced and help you process them differently? What if in this safe place you learned to trust, cope, communicate, and respond differently, toward a better future?"

Mirror Image Arts focuses Restorative Theatre© on disrupting the school to prison pipeline. (www.mirrorimagearts.org) Their Theatre in Education program coaches all parties: artists, teachers, school and prison administrators to build social-emotional skills like self-awareness, trust, empathy, compassion, and responsible decision making.

Read more about Augusto Boal

<https://library.brown.edu/create/wecannotremainsilent/biographies/martinha-arruda/>

After funding an initial youth program with MIA, we paired them with a veteran of Theatre of the Oppressed, Center for Applied Theatre (www.centerforappliedtheatre.org), to present a week long collaborative conference in Denver which included public sessions for other local practitioners and specific collaborative workshops between MIA and CAT. It was extremely rewarding to see the exchange of techniques and storytelling where both groups could share and benefit from each other's expertise and experience. We are looking for additional organizations around the country who would like to learn and utilize these techniques. It is truly transformational for individuals, families, and communities.

MUSIC > Music

Another 21st Century reality is that our public schools are eliminating Art & Music classes in many K-12 schools. There is prolific research that proves music helps children learn to use both sides of their brain and body in harmony (pun intended). It did seem useless to provide

scholarships for instrument lesson when the most basic of music education is lacking during the school day.

Education Through Music (www.ETM-Colorado.org) is an amazing organization emanating from New York City that has expanded into a very few cities such as Denver. ETM now provides the entire K-6 music program for 5 Denver/Aurora schools. As a turnkey operation they provide the teacher, curriculum, instruments, materials, and programming which includes solo and group performance experiences.



Teachers are struggling. "It's a different world today. I hardly get to teach." When I visited a music class of kindergartners led by Diego, an ETM teacher from South America, I saw music taught as his father taught him and the kids loved it! On this day they were transitioning from rhythm curriculum to melody. As Diego introduced new terms and matching sounds, the kids were engaged and

enthralled. They sang, clapped, and stomped. They didn't fidget or interrupt or act out in any way. Diego had the magic formula mixing instruction, multimedia, activity, and interaction that kept them moving with him where he wanted to take them. It was/is inspiring.

In addition, BF has donated a variety of written music and instruments to ETM's Center for Talent Development, from digital pianos and snare drums to flutes, ukuleles and recorders. We've donated other instruments, via Golden Music who restores them, to public school students throughout the area for private practice and development. We believe that access to instruments and music training is equally important to a child's education as computers, lab equipment, and STEM curriculum.

GRANTS4U

Many of you may be following our scholarship students. We are currently providing tuition support for a budding accountant, a nurse in training, a future dentist, and a geneticist who is himself Autistic. Although we only pay a small portion of their fulltime costs, we have committed

to continue with these 4 students throughout their college and graduate programs in an effort to offer a bit of stability to a very challenging and stressful time.

This year we also awarded a course-specific grant to a young lady in southern Colorado who is finishing her Master's in Organizational Leadership. Having written successful grants for several nonprofits she decided to up her game, becoming a full-time grant writer. Practice and training go together. She is currently writing grants for a few of the organizations we support to provide low-cost grant writing for them and experience/portfolio work for her. We intend for this relationship to continue after she graduates in May.

SCIENCE > Science

When is Science greater than just Science? (Notice the > symbol we've used in this year's newsletter.) The Earth Science Foundation (www.letsdig.org) is a prime example.

Tom Hebert reinvented himself late in life as an archeologist. With his great love of science, history, Native American culture and the outdoors he is turning his enthusiasm into an incredible reinvention opportunity for youth (and their parents), military and war veterans, tribal peoples and their lands, and honestly anyone who wants to tag along. His mission is to introduce them all to the skills and career potential of Earth Sciences such as archeology, paleontology, geospatial surveying and a variety of companion sciences. But more than that happens once they come home from a dig. Participants are themselves reinvented toward a new perspective of our world, what it means to us and how we share our planet with each other and the next generation. Tom's enthusiasm is infectious.

Tom has developed incredible partnerships with Native American Nations in Northern North America to share their land for respectful archeology expeditions. It is a formula to be followed and duplicated. As part of those partnerships, Tom and his students are helping to revamp and establish local museums such as Musselshell Valley Historical Museum in RoundUp, MT. These types of projects mean more jobs, training, and economic opportunity for all in the area.

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<https://www.ktvq.com/community/out-and-about/roundup-museum-filling-with-fossils-and-starting-expansion>



Next Year and beyond . . .

As you might have noticed we believe partnerships, synergy, and consistency are valuable tools in foundation work. While not every program continues, when they do, we continue with them. In 2024, we will again support organizations you've read about in past newsletters.

Marketplace for Kids goes on the road presenting STEM careers to middle schoolers in North Dakota. Shows expose young people to sustainable careers near home. MPK is expanding into Wisconsin and Montana with their eyes on Idaho and Wyoming. They are also teaming up with The Earth Sciences Foundation to mutually grow the reach of both organizations. (www.marketplaceforkids.org)

Firefly Autism As a leading provider of ABA therapy for those on the Autism Spectrum. Firefly is extending their services to young adults, many of whom have aged out of the system. Firefly's dedicated staff and renovated building changes lives for those with Autism and their families. (www.fireflyautism.org)

ESL in-home Learners provides free internet training in English as a Second Language and US Citizenship. (www.eslinhome.org)

New potential in 2024: College Prep and Literacy in Boone County, MO and Columbus, NE. Also, Ag scholarships through NWSS Trust and Farmers National are all on our radar.

As you may imagine we are excitedly working on next year's grants and programs. Winter is a great time to plan. We are starting to develop youth programming with Colorado Jazz Repertory Orchestra.

(www.coloradojazz.org) CJRO = great performances, seasoned musicians, and a strong recording library, but now it's time to pass it on. We are looking to build awareness, appreciation and music talent along various educational conduits: DU, UNC, and area public schools.

Another new partner we hope to collaborate with is 3rd Law, a NYC quality Dance company in Boulder. As they've expanded into DanceforPD, an on-going program which brings much needed movement, socialization, and hope to Parkinson's patients and those suffering from other movement disorders, a new mission of education has emerged. In the coming year we hope to extend that educational opportunity deeper into dance culture by opening up training for youth via a new Jazz Musical. (www.3rdlaw.org)