For more than 20 years, I've had the privilege of being involved with numerous initiatives and committees that aim to promote diversity, inclusivity, and equity throughout Boulder County. In particular - through the Latino Task Force of Boulder County - I've worked to change the view of our Latino community to that of a community asset, and to work toward creating greater economic, educational, political, and cultural opportunities for everyone who calls Boulder County home.

Today, I'm honored to serve as the new Chair of the Community Foundation's Board of Trustees, bringing to bear my own knowledge and experience to propel the important work of our Community Foundation across a range of issue areas.

At a time when federal budget cuts threaten programs and initiatives that support our socially and economically disadvantaged neighbors - and that jeopardize health and human services, education, scientific research, the environment, the arts and more - it's especially important for Boulder County residents to come together, to prevent any potential negative impacts right here at home.

Read Carmen's full blog

Join Us On Tour

The Community Foundation Boulder County is embarking on a "Listening Tour" with CEO Jeff Hirota. The tour consists of small gatherings - no more than 15 people per session - and will be an opportunity for you to share your priorities and concerns for the county with Jeff and the foundation. We intend to take what we learn and incorporate it into our strategic thinking, as the foundation and our countywide community embark on a new chapter together.

If you haven't already signed up for a session in your community, please see our tour schedule and register today. Events are listed in alphabetical order by municipality and will take place through August.

We look forward to talking with you!
Community Action Development Corporation
“We work to empower people to save assets, to buy a first home, to get an education, and more.”
-Elberto Mendoza, Division Manager, Boulder County Community Action Programs

Asian-Pacific Association of Longmont (A-PAL)
“We all have so much to learn and gain from one another. My vision for A-PAL is to bridge cultural gaps, and to promote cultural understanding and appreciation in our diverse community.”
-Rita Liu, A-PAL Founder

Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence (SPAM)
“We’re in a fabulous position to champion change - and not wait for the next shoe to drop. And I think our clients are counting on us.”
-Anne Tapp, Executive Director

Women’s Wilderness
“When women and girls ‘get jazzed’ about the wilderness, the connection to nature and the earth will remain a source of inner strength for them, for life, and inspire them to become environmental stewards.”
-Emily Isaacs, Executive Director

Boulder County Aids Project
“We go full circle, including prevention and risk reduction, emotional support and counseling, and lots of education.”
-Ana Hopperstad, Executive Director

Transgender Youth Education & Support of Colorado (TYES)
“There wasn’t a sense of community among parents of transgender children, and there weren’t resources to draw upon. So TYES was founded as a way to make connections among parents, and among their trans kids.”
-Reaca Pearl, TYES Leadership Team

Boulder County Arts Alliance
“When you end up with a community that lacks diversity, cultural offerings are less diverse, too, and it’s a much less interesting place to be. There’s also a moral imperative to be inclusive, to reach out to underrepresented communities, and to support authentic artistic offerings.”
-Charlotte LaSasso, Executive Director

Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra
“Our focus is to highlight what’s unique about living here. We endeavor to reflect our community’s creativity and values, and a sense of place that echoes our connection to the environment, the natural world - as well as an emphasis on new age elements and spirituality.”
-Michael Butterman, Music Director
Hispanic Education Foundation

“What's special about HEF is that we look at the whole student. A lot of our scholarship applicants have high GPAs, but some don't.”

~Matthew Zavala, 2003 scholarship recipient and HEF board president

Engaged Latino Parents Advancing Student Outcomes (ELPASO)

“There are so many examples of success - not only for Latino children, many more of whom are continuing on to college, but also for parents, some of whom are continuing their education as well.”

~Veronica Sangabriel Rodriguez, School Readiness Coordinator

Pledge 1% Pitch Contest Winner: El Centro Amistad

“Promotoras have been 100% voluntary work. Winning this contest gives us the opportunity to expand and economically compensate their work. We can continue our work and break the barriers of inequity!”

~Elena Aranda, Director of Wellness, Health, and Education

Donating to your Community Foundation makes a local impact you can see. Get inspired. Donate here.

On Our Blog: Donor & Planned Giving Spotlights

Donor-Advised Fundholders: Community Pride Led to Giving

“Both of my parents were really good, industrious people. Both of them were really proud of this community, and they wanted to find a way to contribute - a way to give back.”

~ Bev Dare, Daughter

Planned Giving: Jennie Arbogash

“We started talking about the fact that we don't have children, and that we really want the bulk of our estate to support some kind of social good. But we're working class folks, and I've worked in nonprofits my whole career. So we don't have a lot - still, we wanted to make an impact. It's really changed the focus and the energy of our lives, while we're still here.”

~ Jennie Arbogash

Donor-Advised Fundholders: Cindy Lindsay & Steve Sheafor

“To put funds aside at a time that works for us, and then have the leisure of deciding when and to whom to disperse those funds - locally, nationally and internationally - is very important to us.”

~ Cindy Lindsay & Steve Sheafor

Advocacy Updates

Update: Johnson Amendment

We previously shared that the foundation chose to support the continuation of the Johnson Amendment. This month, in response to a May 4 White House Executive Order that weakens enforcement of the amendment, we shared the following to underscore our position.

Update: Colorado Endowment Funds Tax Credit

In late-April, we shared with you the Community Foundation’s endorsement of Senate Bill 17-287: the Colorado Endowment Funds Tax Credit would have created a Colorado endowment tax credit for donations of cash, property, and securities. Since then, we’ve learned that the 2017 bill has stalled at the finish line - but the proposed legislation has been extremely well-received from a policy perspective, and we're not giving up.
Open Door Fund Request for Grant Proposals Due June 27
The Open Door Fund accomplishes its mission by working with - and providing funding - to organizations doing critical work to serve the needs of LGBTQ people and our allies. This year, the fund is interested in supporting new and emerging ideas, especially those that contribute to systemic change.

What Is Sanctuary?
By Benjamin Martinez, Grants & Programs Assistant
The topic of sanctuary has long been a consistent theme for those of us involved in community issues, especially as we face the new realities of the current sociopolitical environment.

I recently attended an event hosted by OUT Boulder County, the Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition, and A Queer Endeavor that provided a refreshing perspective on how the theme of sanctuary can apply to anyone who's feeling especially marginalized or threatened. It was powerful to see these various organizations with seemingly disparate missions coming together to recognize their common struggles.

"A Public Affair" on KGNU: Boulder County’s Arts & Cultural Community
This month’s show was a discussion about Boulder County's arts and cultural community. Guests included Bill Obermeier, Executive Director of the Dairy Center; Dr. Kathy Kucsan, arts advocate and consultant; and Joanne Kirves, Executive Director of Arts Longmont.

On the fourth Monday of every month, the Community Foundation hosts "A Public Affair" on KGNU Radio (88.5 FM). Our radio show is one of the ways in which we listen to our community, and stay informed about issues and opportunities in Boulder County. June's show will focus on healthcare issues.

Are You 70.5 Or Older?
Thanks to the permanent passage of IRA Charitable Rollover legislation, donors age 70.5 and older can transfer up to $100K from their IRAs to the Community Foundation, as a tax-free lifetime gift.

2017 Statement Of Affirmation
The Community Foundation Boulder County is committed to being a community catalyst for good, alongside donors and partners like you. We believe our community is stronger when all people - women and men, children, older adults, immigrants, people of color, GLBTQ individuals, those with varying abilities and from all faiths - are respected, welcomed, and invited to share their assets and contributions in community building.

We stand with others, in Boulder County and beyond, who courageously strive to build more inclusive communities rather than walls of division. We remain wholeheartedly committed to social justice for our most marginalized and vulnerable people and for the care of threatened environments. We believe in the power of art and music to improve our lives and community. Now, more than ever, we seek opportunities for local action and invite you to join us in our ongoing leadership work that includes grantmaking, outreach, and advocacy. We accomplish more together than we do alone.
Surveying The Field

- President's Budget Proposal Targets Foundations (May 26, Philanthropy News Digest)
- Hope and Fear: LGBTQ Funding in the Age of Trump (May 22, Inside Philanthropy)
- Understanding and Tapping Into Donor-Advised Funds (May 9, The Chronicle of Philanthropy)
- Philanthropy’s Response to Trump Misses Focus on the Most-Alienated Americans (May 2, The Chronicle of Philanthropy)

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