



NEWS RELEASE

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Arts-based Community Development Investment for Breckenridge Breckenridge Creative Arts one of 60 National Endowment for the Arts Our Town Projects Selected Nationwide

BRECKENRIDGE, CO (May 9, 2018) – National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Chairman Jane Chu announced 60 awards totaling \$4.1 million supporting projects across the nation through the NEA’s Our Town program. **Breckenridge Creative Arts** (BCA) is one of the recommended organizations for a grant of **\$100,000** to support **“Ecoventions Breckenridge”**, a project conducted in partnership with the Town of Breckenridge that employs the arts to impact a series of ecological goals relating to watershed health and wildfire prevention.

“The variety and quality of these Our Town projects speaks to the wealth of creativity and diversity in our country,” said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. “Through the work of organizations such as Breckenridge Creative Arts, NEA funding invests in local communities, helping people celebrate the arts wherever they are.”

“We are grateful that the NEA has chosen to support our project, and humbled by this recognition,” said Robb Woulfe, president and CEO of BCA. “This work will allow for education and awareness-raising not only around issues that concern our natural environment, but also places where the arts and community issues can intersect for mutual benefit. We look forward to using creativity as a catalyst for change and a force for social good.”

Beginning in spring 2019, BCA’s project will feature three site-specific public commissions, each created by an environmental artist or team of artists during a residency at the Breckenridge Arts District. The installations will target local topics of ecological and public safety concern including watersheds degraded by historic mining activities, and the beetle kill pine-amplified threat of wildfires.

The centerpiece of the project is a watershed sculpture by San Francisco-based artists **Daniel McCormick and Mary O'Brien**, designed to restore equilibrium to an adversely impacted ecosystem. The artists use local natural materials such as willow or beetle kill pine to weave large basket forms that are live staked onto the site, where they grow into silt traps, erosion control implements, and fish habitat, eventually disappearing to become part of the land and waters they serve to improve.

Additionally, “Ecoventions Breckenridge” will be bolstered by two supporting projects—an indoor and outdoor installation that raises awareness about the threat of wildfires by Rotterdam-based Sicilian artist **Giuseppe Licari**; and a solar-powered video installation that accumulates data from diverse information sources by New York-based artists **Leila Nadir and Cary Peppermint** of EcoArtTech.

“The watershed sculpture in particular is unique in that goes beyond art for art’s sake,” said Woulfe. “It combines the talents of artists with Town planning expertise and that of ecological restoration experts to tackle an environmental problem affecting our community.”

For a complete list of projects recommended for Our Town grant support, please visit the NEA web site at www.arts.gov.

Established in 2014, Breckenridge Creative Arts (BCA)—or BreckCreate for short—was developed by the Town of Breckenridge to support and promote arts, culture and creative experiences throughout Breckenridge. This multidisciplinary nonprofit organization is responsible for the successful management of a series of programs, properties and partnerships that collectively animate and populate a cultural corridor in the heart of downtown Breckenridge. From quality performing and visual arts to the development of one of the region’s newest arts districts, Breckenridge Creative Arts is a transformative force for Breckenridge and the greater Summit County community. For more information, visit breckcreate.org.

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