



# NEWS RELEASE

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Media Contacts

Robb Woulfe, Breckenridge Creative Arts  
970 453 3187 ext 1 | robb@breckcreate.org

Nancy Rebek, NRPR  
303 941 2527 | nancy@nrpr.com

## **BCA to Receive \$40,000 Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts**

BRECKENRIDGE, CO (February 7, 2018) –National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Jane Chu has approved more than \$25 million in grants as part of the NEA’s first major funding announcement for fiscal year 2018. Included in this announcement is an Art Works grant of \$40,000 to Breckenridge Creative Arts (BCA) for “Catalyst: Art, Community, Exchange,” a project that builds community through interactive, participatory public artworks in its two major arts festivals—WAVE: Light + Water + Sound in June and Breckenridge International Festival of Arts in August, in addition to a summer public art exhibition. The Art Works category is the NEA’s largest funding category and supports projects that focus on the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, public engagement with diverse and excellent art, lifelong learning in the arts, and/or the strengthening of communities through the arts.

“It is energizing to see the impact that the arts are making throughout the United States. These NEA-supported projects, such as this one to Breckenridge Creative Arts, are good examples of how the arts build stronger and more vibrant communities, improve well-being, prepare our children to succeed, and increase the quality of our lives,” said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. “At the National Endowment for the Arts, we believe that all people should have access to the joy, opportunities and connections the arts bring.”

“We are thrilled the National Endowment for the Arts recognized the value in our proposed Catalyst project,” said Robb Woulfe, president and CEO of Breckenridge Creative Arts. “The funding will allow us to grow the quantity and quality of admission-free, public art installations and performances during our signature festivals.”

More than just an excuse to host artworks by renowned artists from around the globe, Catalyst projects are selected with the goal of strengthening community through the arts, achieved by animating public spaces with artistic experiences that invite participation and interaction between people from all walks of life. Unexpected

pop-up art and large-scale, spectacle pieces create a natural draw to civic arenas, while interactive works—such as those that react when you touch them, encouraging further interaction—inspire creative play and dialog in the shared space of wonder and awe. Some Catalyst projects are created by volunteers and artists side-by-side, and all are free or low-cost, encouraging widespread participation.

Examples from past festivals include the giant, inflated rabbits of “Intrude” on the Riverwalk Center lawn during the WAVE festival, which inspired reactions from pure joy to reflections on the ecological impact of these invasive species in the artist’s native Australia; or the performance of “Ants” in Blue River Plaza during the Breckenridge International Festival of Arts, where children could take part in a work of spontaneous performance art alongside giant ants.

Upcoming Catalyst projects at the WAVE festival, May 31-June 3, 2018, include pairs of ornate, illuminated angel wings and halos from the Jerusalem-based OGE Group that guests can “try on,” transforming them into angels; and a series of interactive see-saws from a group of Canadian artists.

“Our festivals exemplify the idea that art is for everyone,” Woulfe said. “The large-scale, interactive artworks are freely accessible to all, and inviting in a way that traditional gallery exhibitions often are not. This creates unique opportunities for interaction and collaboration among diverse members of our community.”

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](http://breckcreate.org).

For more information on projects included in the NEA grant announcement, visit [arts.gov/news](http://arts.gov/news).

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