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**Bonfils-Stanton Foundation Announces New Trustee
AND Fourth Quarter Grants**

*Prominent Colorado foundation awards over \$900,000 in local grants
to enrich the community through the arts*

DENVER, May 4, 2016 – At its fourth quarter meeting, the [Bonfils-Stanton Foundation](http://www.bonfils-stanton.org) Board of Trustees elected a new Community Trustee – Maruca Salazar and awarded 12 grants totaling \$903,000 to cultural organizations including Central City Opera, The Children’s Museum, Mexican Cultural Center and Denver Botanic Gardens.

Trustee Election:

“We are honored to have Maruca join our board,” said J. Landis Martin, Chairman of the Board, Bonfils-Stanton Foundation. “At The Foundation we believe that our work is helping to shape the arts community in Denver and we look forward to the experience and input that she will bring to the table.”



Maruca Salazar, Executive Director of Museo de las Americas since 2009, was born in Veracruz, Mexico, but she has lived in Denver for more than thirty-five years. She has a bachelor's degree in fine arts and literature from the Universidad Veracruzana and a master's degree in multicultural education from the University of Colorado in Denver. From 1979 to 2001, she taught art at Horace Mann and Lake middle schools, both in west Denver. She then became the arts coordinator for Denver Public Schools, administering a multimillion-dollar program aimed at art teachers.

Ms. Salazar is also a practicing artist with signature work that involves small installations in boxes that relate to both Mexican altars and [Joseph Cornell](#) sculptures. Her work has been presented in many venues, including the Museo — most notably, in the exhibition *Never Leaving Aztlan*.

Her awards and honors include: Mayor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts (2007), Rex Morgan Volunteer Award from SCFD (2008), Women of Distinction Girls Scout of America (2014) and was appointed Board Member of the Friends of the National Museum of the American Latino (2014). Ms. Salazar currently serves on the Denver Commission of Cultural Affairs and she previously served on Denver’s Cultural Council for six years.

Grant Decisions:

The Bonfils-Stanton Foundation is a private, non-profit Colorado-based organization with a long history of funding a variety of arts and cultural institutions through substantial grants that support, enrich and elevate Coloradans exposure to arts and non-profit organizations. Since its inception in 1962, The Foundation has been helping to cultivate unique experiences for audiences while also recognizing and supporting leaders in our community who are making a difference and inspiring others to follow in their lead.

“The Bonfils-Stanton Foundation has a long history of providing significant grants to Denver’s art community,” said Gary Steuer, president and CEO of The Bonfils-Stanton Foundation “These grants help smaller and emerging organizations grow and thrive and established organizations continue to advance and innovate. We look forward to continuing our mission as we recognize and support the best that the Denver region has to offer, and believe the grants being made this quarter continue this distinguished heritage of service..”

Of particular note in this group of grants are: 1) a 50% increase in support for the Children’s Museum of Denver, targeted to their new arts learning and artist-in residence program; 2) a \$500,000 capital grant to the Denver Botanic Gardens to support the cost of an art gallery space in their new arts and education building; 3) capital support of \$50,000 to Central City Opera to support critical restoration of the historic Teller House; and 4) first-time support of the Mexican Cultural Center.

The complete list of fourth quarter grant award recipients include:

Buntport Theater Company - (\$20,000) for general operating support

Central City Opera House Association - (\$125,000) for general operating support and to assist with restoration of the historic Teller House

The Children's Museum of Denver - (\$30,000) to support arts engagement programming

Colorado Nonprofit Association - (\$15,000) to strengthen the leadership capacity of Colorado's nonprofit sector

Denver Botanic Gardens – (\$500,000) to support Phase 4 of the Flourish Campaign which creates the Center for Science, Art and Education

Denver Young Artists Orchestra - (\$20,000) for general operating support

eTown – (\$15,000) to help produce one Denver-based Live Radio Taping in a series of five 25th Anniversary Roadshows

Mexican Cultural Center – (\$20,000) for general operating support

Museo de las Americas - (\$30,000) for general operating support and for the development of a new program called Off-Center

Phamaly Theatre Company - (\$20,000) for general operating support

University of Denver - (\$8,000) to support the Institute for Leaders in Development at University College (second year of three-year award)

Wonderbound - (\$100,000) for general operating and fundamental infrastructure development support

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About the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation

At Bonfils-Stanton Foundation, we believe that extraordinary arts and leadership are key to building a vibrant Colorado. Every day, we strategically invest in imagination and innovation, because cultivating the creative spark is vital to making our community an exciting place where people want to live, work and thrive. The Foundation’s grantmaking focuses on the arts and their power to animate places, inspire people, and nurture the creativity that fuels intellectual economy. Since its founding, the Foundation has distributed over \$63 million in charitable contributions.

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