

Investing in Colorado nonprofit leaders: How A Denver foundation is transforming organizations from within

Bonfils-Stanton Foundation Announces 2020 Class of Livingston Fellows

DENVER, CO (November 11, 2019) – Going from success to significance isn't something that happens overnight – especially when resources are scarce. That's why Denver nonprofit Bonfils-Stanton Foundation makes significant investments in promising Colorado nonprofit leaders through their Livingston Fellowship Program. The Fellowship helps propel leaders to the next level – both professionally and personally.

How exactly does the program help enhance leaders' abilities and skills? The Livingston Fellowship Program annually provides grants of \$35,000 to five nonprofit organizations to support the professional development of outstanding executives. The goal is to provide each Livingston Fellow with a custom, personalized leadership development plan; this can include opportunities to pursue formal and informal study, undertake research or writing projects, visit best practice sites, work with executive coaches, spend time with mentors, and/or engage in other activities of their choosing that would enhance their ability to provide leadership that is bold, visionary, and that makes a significant impact in their field or community.

As part of the Foundation's continuing efforts to ensure equity in all aspects of our work, beginning with the Class of 2020 Livingston Fellows, the Foundation is pleased to provide small fellowship support grants to the fellow's organization. These grants, awarded on a sliding scale based on organizational budget size, are designed to assist smaller organizations which have access to fewer resources. Additionally, after observing that leaders of smaller organizations and leaders of color had fewer professional development resources and could benefit from an additional investment in their leadership, and wanting to ensure that all Fellows have access to the same leadership opportunities as when the Program started, the Foundation also increased the fellowship award from \$25,000 to \$35,000, the first increase since the Program's inception.

"For over 15 years now, Bonfils-Stanton Foundation has been committed to helping nonprofit organizations thrive and grow – and that starts from within," says CEO and President, Gary Steuer. "It can be challenging for nonprofit leaders to innovate if they don't get out of their comfort zones and I have watched the Livingston Fellowship Program really encourage these leaders to learn and grow. In the end, this opportunity not only helps them in their personal lives, but also trickles down to their organizations as a whole. We are also excited that this class of Fellows echoes our commitment to equity with the cohort entirely comprised of people of color or historically marginalized groups."

Since 2005, the Fellows have attended elite academic programs, met prominent leaders in their fields, have traveled around the globe and have championed important causes from homelessness

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to mental health and the arts. Individually and collectively they have made – and continue to make – a profound difference.

“The Fellowship exemplifies the Foundation’s unique approach. The personal value of knowing that each of the staff are there and available when advice, perspective, or support is needed can’t be overstated,” says 2011 Livingston Fellow and Artistic Director for Wonderbound, Garrett Ammon.

The wait is over. It’s time to meet the 2020 Bonfils-Stanton Foundation Livingston Fellows.

- **David Dadone**, *Executive Director & Chief Curator*, Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art
- **Jose Esparza**, *Executive Director*, West Community Economic Development Corp (BuCu West) Denver
- **Stephanie “Steph” Frances**, *Founder & Executive Director*, Prodigy Ventures, Inc.
- **Hassan Latif**, *Executive Director*, Second Chance Center
- **Claudia Moran-Pichardo**, *Executive Director*, Museo de las Americas

FOR THE MEDIA: The 2020 Class of Livingston Fellows have many wonderful stories to tell your readers and viewers. We are happy to set up the interviews, gather images and b-roll, and help tell their stories. Contact Erica Boniface at 303-717-8246 or email at Erica@ColoradoMediaNetwork.com.

JOHNSTON R. LIVINGSTON FELLOWS CLASS OF 2020



David Dadone
Executive Director & Chief Curator
Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art

Since becoming Executive Director and Chief Curator of the Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art (BMoCA) in 2010, David Dadone has led the Museum to embrace a commitment to participatory, experiential exhibitions that dynamically engage visitors with contemporary art. He has also overseen significant expansion of BMoCA’s community outreach through the creation of several successful art education programs. BMoCA presents innovative works produced by regional, national, and international artists and curates off-site exhibitions at the University of Colorado Boulder. During David’s

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tenure the organization has been recognized for providing “unique, cutting-edge and multidisciplinary contemporary art to the community and leadership in community collaboration.” Highlights of BMoCA’s exhibitions under David’s leadership include: *Henrique Oliveira*, an exhibition of paintings and a large-scale, site-specific installation by the Brazilian artist; and *Biodome: An Experiment in Diversity*, an exhibition featuring specially commissioned projects by Gustavo Artigas (Mexico), Roberto Juarez (New York) and Laleh Mehran and Chris Coleman (Iran-US) that give visual representation to the topic of diversity in Boulder. Prior to his position at BMoCA, he served as Deputy Director of Museo de las Americas in Denver, where he helped develop groundbreaking exhibitions such as *Muniz: Remastered* (2007-2008).

David’s community leadership includes appointment as a commissioner to the Jefferson County Cultural Council and a grant review panel member for the National Endowment for the Arts and the Boulder County Community Foundation. Past community service includes CAST3 for the Reauthorization of SCFD, founding of Boulder Arts Week, board member of Invisible Museum, and he served on the Public Arts Committee for the Denver Office of Cultural Affairs.

He holds an MBA in Leadership from University of Colorado Denver, he attended the Getty Leadership Institute for Museum Leaders at the Claremont University in Claremont, California and received degrees in Art Theory/Criticism from Metropolitan State University of Denver and Business/Accounting from the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina.



Jose Esparza
Executive Director
BuCu West

As Executive Director of BuCu West since 2013, Jose’s work in community-based economic development is holistic and ultimately aimed at bringing together people of different backgrounds, fostering relationships and helping the owners and residents of the Morrison Road Corridor to recognize a common interest in creating great places to live and breaking down barriers. Prior to joining BuCu West, he was a Project Manager at Almacen Group in Boulder, Graduate Intern at LiveWell Westwood (now Westwood Unidos) and Intern with the City Manager’s office in Sturgis, Michigan.

Jose received a Masters of Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Colorado, Denver, and a Bachelor’s of Science in Architecture from the University of Michigan Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning. He currently serves on the Mayor’s Multi-modal Advisory Committee and on the Board of Directors for Elevation Land Trust and the Colorado Enterprise Fund. Previous service within the community includes board member for Social Venture Partners, appointment to the Mayor’s Pedestrian Advisory Committee and participation with the West Denver Renaissance Collaborative.

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Steph Frances
Founder and Executive Director
Prodigy Ventures Inc.

As the Founder & Executive Director of Prodigy Ventures, Steph brings twelve years of experience in youth career development. Her expertise lies in activating talent in youth on the margins and creating dynamic cultures that engage youth in their intrinsic motivation to learn. Founded in 2015, Prodigy Ventures operates a social enterprise and apprenticeship for disconnected young adults in Denver. Steph has led Prodigy's enterprise to double-digit year-over-year sales growth and built an apprenticeship model for disconnected youth with an 85% completion rate. Prodigy has received numerous accolades including Best New Coffeehouse in Denver.

Steph was recently the Keynote Speaker at the 2019 Kentucky Apprenticeship Summit, represented Prodigy at the Global Homeboy Network Gathering, the Aspen Institute's Opportunity Youth Forum, and National Youth Employment Coalition. She is also a chapter author in the Modern Apprenticeship reader published by the Urban Institute. Steph holds a Master's in Nonprofit Management from Regis University and was a Denver Business Journal 2018 Outstanding Women in Business finalist.

Prior to her work with Prodigy, Steph was Manager of Youth Career Development at Goodwill Industries of Denver and a Job Developer at Ken Menno & Associates. She is a licensed foster parent through Lutheran Family Services and is the process of becoming a Court Appointed Special Advocate for Children at Voices for Children of Boulder County.



Hassan A. Latif
Executive Director
Second Chance Center, Inc.

Hassan A. Latif founded Second Chance Center (SCC), a community re-entry agency dedicated to the successful transition of people returning from incarceration in 2012. SCC has grown to become the preeminent reentry agency in Colorado, maintaining a recidivism rate of under 9 % for participants involved in SCC programs.

Aside from directing the daily activities pertaining to the delivery of client services and the achievement of agency objectives, he conducts mentoring and reentry trainings for government and nonprofit service providers nationally, facilitates transition planning sessions in Colorado Department of Corrections facilities statewide and authored the book *"Never Going Back: 7 Steps to Staying Out of Prison"* (PAPatterson Press 2012) and the curriculum based on same.

Hassan serves on Governor Polis's Executive Clemency Advisory Board and Community Corrections Advisory Council as well as the Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition's (CCJRC) Board of Directors as Vice President. Likewise, he holds a seat on the Colorado Commission on Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) Reentry Reform and Mental Health Disorders in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems Task Forces and is the Colorado Association of Addictions Professionals 2018 "Excellence in Leadership" award recipient.

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Prior to establishing SCC, Hassan was a Program Manager and Certified Addiction Counselor with It Takes a Village, Inc. He holds an array of training and certifications related to addiction, therapy, and change management.



Claudia Moran-Pichardo
Executive Director
Museo de las Americas

Claudia Moran-Pichardo was born and raised in Guadalajara, Mexico and moved to Denver in 2002. She participated in various archeological projects in northeastern Mexico sponsored by Mexican and American universities. Claudia holds a Master's Degree in Museum Administration from the University of Colorado Boulder as well as a Bachelor's in Archaeology from the *Escuela Nacional de Antropología e Historia* in Mexico City. Once established in Denver, she decided to get involved with the Latinx community and found a great opportunity at Museo de las Americas in 2006.

Given her formal education in archeology and expertise in ancient Rock Art, Claudia has developed a passion for artistic expressions. She recognizes the power art holds to shed light on the traditions that shaped the life of ancient civilizations as well as contemporary societies. Her passion for art along with her aspiration to support Latinx communities has kept her at Museo de las Americas, where she has served in many capacities, including Director of Education, Director of Operations and most recently as the organization's Executive Director. Her 13-year experience at Museo de las Americas has significantly shaped her philosophy on the role of museums and firmly believes in Museo's mission of providing vital art exhibitions and programming with cultural enrichment for the local and regional communities. Her tenure at Museo has also prepared her to take on opportunities where Latinx arts and culture can inspire and educate audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

Claudia's community involvement began collaborating with non-profit organizations dedicated to women's rights and human rights for indigenous communities of Mexico. Currently she is involved with the Circle of Latina Leadership, Change Leadership Institute of Colorado Creative Industries, Latinas Give Circle and The Denver Foundation's Executive Directors of Color Institute. She has also participated in the National Association of Latino Arts & Culture Leadership Institute and she was a Denver Business Journal 40 Under 40 nominee.

Learn more about [Bonfils-Stanton Foundation's Livingston Fellowship](#).

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