



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bonfils-Stanton Foundation announces new board leadership and awards \$1.3 million in grants to arts organizations

Denver, CO (February 17, 2021) – Denver-based arts funder Bonfils-Stanton Foundation is delighted to announce the appointment of **Elaine D. Torres**, Community Affairs Director at CBS4, KCNC-TV, as its new Chair of the Board along with **Kent A. Rice** as Vice Chair. And recently elected to the Foundation’s Board of Trustees is **Cleo Parker Robinson**, Founder and Artistic Director of Cleo Parker Robinson Dance, who will be serving as Community Trustee.

“We are so pleased to have Elaine as our new Chair, and Kent succeeding her as Vice Chair,” says Bonfils-Stanton Foundation President & CEO, Gary Steuer. “Elaine is the first BIPOC Chair of the Board in the nearly 60-year history of the Foundation, and I know she will be a dedicated and effective leader of the Board. To also have Kent as Vice Chair strengthens our governance and leadership even more.”

Elaine D. Torres joined the Board in July 2017. She is the Community Affairs Director at CBS4, KCNC-TV where she oversees the station’s community partnerships through special events, community initiatives, and other signature station events. She is also responsible for station sponsorships, charitable giving, and community outreach. Prior to joining CBS4, Elaine was the Public Affairs Coordinator for the Rocky Mountain News.

“I’m honored to serve as Chair of the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation Board of Trustees, and I’m excited to continue to work with my fellow board members and the dedicated Foundation staff to advance the arts and inspire creative leadership in Denver,” says Elaine Torres.

Kent A. Rice has more than 30 years as a chief executive in domestic and international arenas, working in publicly traded corporations, for the public sector and with nonprofits. Most recently, Kent served eight years as Executive Director of Denver Arts & Venues. He was elected to the Foundation’s Board in January 2019.

“It’s very exciting for me to be collaborating with such an amazing team as we continue to provide support and funding to our community’s creative sector during a very challenging time,” says Kent Rice.

Cleo Parker Robinson joined the Foundation’s Board as Community Trustee in October 2020. However, her longtime connection with the Foundation first began in 1985 when she was awarded the Arts and Humanities Award (now known as the Artist Award). Cleo founded her namesake dance company in 1970 which encompasses the renowned Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble, Cleo II (her second dance company), a Youth Ensemble, a year-round academy, an international summer institute, a 240-seat theatre, and an extensive outreach program serving communities throughout Denver and the Front Range.

Bonfils-Stanton Foundation has been making headlines with its quick response to emergency grants for arts organizations during the COVID-19 pandemic – and now they have recently made \$1.3 million worth of grants to local arts organizations.



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General Operating Support Grants Include:

Baroque Chamber Orchestra of Colorado	\$15,000
Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Theatre	\$50,000
Colorado Ballet	\$60,000
Colorado Business Committee for the Arts	\$10,000
Colorado Children's Chorale	\$40,000
Colorado Symphony Association	\$80,000
Denver Architectural Foundation (three-year grant)	\$60,000
Mizel Arts and Culture Center	\$20,000
Opera Colorado	\$60,000
PlatteForum	\$25,000
RedLine	\$25,000
St. Martin's Chamber Choir	\$15,000
Stories on Stage	\$10,000
Su Teatro	\$35,000
Swallow Hill Music Association (three-year grant)	\$90,000
Wonderbound	\$80,000

Program/Project/Capital Support Grants Include:

Athena Project

\$10,000 to support #ArtFindsYou programming

Augustana Arts

\$15,000 to support the Stratus Chamber Orchestra's 2020-2021 Season and free summer concert series

Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Theatre

\$150,000 to support the Campaign for the Future (payment two of three-year \$500,000 pledge)

Colorado Black Arts Movement

\$4,000 to support the development of a business plan for CBAM in conjunction with operations as part of the Montbello FreshLo Hub

Colorado Business Committee for the Arts

\$4,000 to support the Arts Through It All campaign

Denver Film Society

\$30,000 to support Mini-Festivals and the Denver Film Festival Mini-Festival Sections

The Denver Foundation

\$4,000 matching grant (in collaboration with the Leadership & Equity objective area) to support Dazzle's Bread & Jam initiative, a community-led solution addressing the economic effects of COVID-19 on Metro Denver musicians



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Denver Young Artists Orchestra

\$20,000 to support the Alliance for Music Education Equity (AMEE) initiative

Emerson Collective

\$4,000 to support programming efforts of the *Carne y Arena* exhibit in Colorado

Friends of Chamber Music

\$20,000 to support virtual content development

History Colorado

\$4,000 to support a commemorative community mural project and related programs to honor Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

KGNU (for No Credits Productions)

\$10,000 to support Destination Freedom Black Radio Days

Lighthouse Writers Workshop, Inc.

\$250,000 to support the Building a Home for the Literary Arts capital campaign

Newman Center for the Performing Arts

\$25,000 to support the Community Connections initiative

Philanthropy Colorado

\$10,000 to support the arts funders affinity group in calendar years 2020 and 2021

Rocky Mountain Public Media

\$100,000 to help support the capital cost of a radio translator for THE DROP

University of Colorado Denver/ Comcast Media and Technology Center

\$25,000 for a collaborative project to design and implement a virtual artist walk of the River North neighborhoods

FOR THE MEDIA: Gary Steuer, Elaine Torres, Kent Rice and Cleo Parker Robinson are available for interviews. We can also gladly set up an interview with a grantee to discuss the recent grants. Contact Erica Boniface at Erica@ColoradoMediaNetwork.com or call **303-717-8246** to schedule today.

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