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El Pomar Foundation's Colorado Assistance Fund distributes an additional \$553,000 in 2021

Colorado Springs, Colo.—October 28, 2021— El Pomar announced today that through an additional allocation of Colorado Assistance Fund (CAF) grants, the Trustees have approved another \$552,950 over the past few months to nonprofits around Colorado. Since June of 2021, El Pomar Foundation has distributed 99 more grants primarily in rural regions through CAF, which is activated in times of urgent need. The purpose of this most recent CAF distribution was to support cultural community events, festivals and venues that contribute to building connection and reigniting economic vitality.

This most recent phase of CAF funding was in addition to three phases activated in March, April and November of 2020, which totaled \$3.1 million to 245 nonprofit organizations and municipal agencies, primarily supporting emergency needs such as food distribution and access, housing assistance and other human services. This 2021 CAF funding for cultural programming has now brought the total since the beginning of the pandemic to \$3,652,950.

Ken Fucik of Colorful Creatives shared with El Pomar the experience it had bringing the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Company to Grand Lake. “The event played to a packed house and was truly an amazing successful evening for us. The dancers performed and worked with the students at our elementary schools, and the dress rehearsal was attended by high school students. It was well worth it, seeing the fun the kids had.”

Executive Director of the Rocky Mountain Women’s Film Festival Linda Broker said, “We are forging forward with a hybrid event this year, in person November 12-14 at the Pikes Peak Center and virtual the following weekend. We are very excited to be downtown and look forward to partnering with local restaurants and businesses in the area.”

Grant requests for these cultural programs were solicited through El Pomar’s Regional Council members, Colorado’s Creative District representatives, chambers of commerce and visitors’ bureaus. The focus of these grants was to support specific programming that safely gathers individuals around arts and culture, contributes to the character and distinctiveness of communities and drives economic vitality and recovery for their regions.

To view a full listing of El Pomar’s funds and grant making areas, please visit our website at <https://www.elpomar.org/grant-making/>.

El Pomar Foundation is one of the largest and oldest private foundations in Colorado. El Pomar contributes approximately \$22 million annually through grants and Community Stewardship programs to support Colorado nonprofit organizations involved in health, human services, education, arts and humanities, and civic and community initiatives. Spencer and Julie Penrose founded El Pomar in 1937 with the mission to enhance, encourage and promote the current and future well-being of the people of Colorado.

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