

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



### **El Pomar Foundation Presents Pikes Peak Heritage Series Event: Equity and Inclusion in the Outdoors**

**Colorado Springs, CO— August 18, 2021** — Pikes Peak Heritage Series, a program of El Pomar Foundation, in partnership with Pikes Peak Community Foundation, was honored last night to present “Equity and Inclusion in the Outdoors.” This panel discussion convened community leaders from local and statewide nonprofits and businesses to discuss their past and current work in ensuring equitable outcomes for all Coloradans who wish to make use of our wild spaces and outdoor recreation. The free event took place from 4-6:00pm on August 17 at Hillside Community Center, and featured an informative and eye-opening program on the future of creating greater access for all people to our public lands.

Speakers included Patricia Cameron, Backpackers; Crystal Egli, Inclusive Journeys; Mitsu Iwusaki, American Alpine Club; and Jackie Miller, Great Outdoors Colorado. The panel discussion was moderated by Mina Liebert, Director of Community Impact for Pikes Peak Community Foundation.

El Pomar’s Pikes Peak Heritage Series program was established in 2015 as an extension of founders Spencer and Julie Penrose’s focus on the natural beauty and proximity of the outdoor spaces in this region. The program celebrates and raises awareness of the natural assets by hosting events that encourage collaboration between champions of regional outdoor recreation. These events, such as last night’s “Equity and Inclusion in the Outdoors,” convene people working in the field, major stakeholders, policymakers, and others, to share ideas, thoughts, and insights that can hopefully translate into support for the sector.

“El Pomar is proud to be a convener, in partnership with regional outdoor management and promotion organizations, to encourage collaborative progress amongst the various organizations that manage and/or promote the industry,” said El Pomar Associate Vice President of Grants and Director of Pikes Peak Heritage Series, Erica Oakley-Courage. “It’s an effort to facilitate a ‘rising tides lift all boats’ effect, supporting organizations individually and collectively to increase overall awareness for the benefit of all users and stakeholders.”

Past Heritage Series programs have focused on “Celebration of the Pikes Peak Multi-Use Plan,” “Prescriptions for a Healthier Colorado Springs,” “Links to Quality of Life and Economic Vitality,” “Pikes Peak Forest Health Symposium,” and “Mountains Matter to Millennials,” to name a few. More information is available at <https://www.elpomar.org/programs/pikes-peak-heritage-series/>

#### **About El Pomar Foundation**

*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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