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City of Golden Awards \$350,000 in Inaugural Arts and Culture Grants

GOLDEN, Colo., Jan. 23, 2026 – The City of Golden is making its largest direct investment to date in the local creative sector, awarding **\$350,000** through the Arts and Culture Commission’s (ACC) inaugural grant program to support arts organizations, cultural institutions, and community-based creative projects serving Golden residents.

The funding supports a wide range of programs, from established cultural anchors to grassroots, project-based initiatives. It marks a major expansion of the City’s commitment to arts, culture, and quality of life.

Three longtime cultural institutions—**Miner’s Alley Playhouse, Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum, and Foothills Art Center**—received top-tier operating support in recognition of their sustained impact and leadership in Golden’s arts ecosystem.

The **Colorado Environmental Film Festival** and **Colorado Railroad Museum** were also awarded operating grants to help expand programming and reach new audiences in and around Golden.

Project-based grants supported a diverse slate of community-focused initiatives, including adult music education, trail improvements, school performance infrastructure, creative wellness programming, hands-on maker activities, and one of Golden’s most beloved public art traditions: the Shiny Sphere Search, an annual community scavenger hunt featuring hand-blown glass orbs.

“These grants reflect a clear statement that arts and culture matter in Golden,” said Nathan Richie, Director of Golden History Museum & Park and Arts, Culture and Museums Manager. “This level of investment shows that the City of Golden values creativity, community connection, and the organizations that bring people together through shared experiences.”

By funding both organizations and projects that directly serve residents, the ACC grant program aims to strengthen Golden’s creative infrastructure while ensuring public dollars deliver visible, local impact. City leaders say the program is designed to grow alongside the community, fostering a vibrant, inclusive, and resilient cultural landscape for years to come.

Other funding recipients include The Golden Concert Choir, Friends of Dinosaur Ridge, Golden Wellness, Stories Worth Telling, and the Shelton PTSA.

The Arts and Culture Commission (ACC) of the City of Golden works in conjunction with Golden History Museum & Park, the mission of which is to engage and inspire visitors by preserving and sharing Golden’s history.

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