



Center for the Arts 2024 Annual Report

crestedbuttearts.org | 606 Sixth St. Crested Butte, CO

CENTER

A message

Dear Friends,

This fall, something special happened at the Center.

It was a quiet, cold, shoulder-season evening in Crested Butte—normally the kind of night you'd stay in. But in the Steddy Theater, practically the whole town had shown up. Toddlers, teens, and parents packed the room for Taylor Nation, a Taylor Swift tribute show and a fundraiser for the Crested Butte Community School PTA. Sequins and glitter were everywhere. A group of 12-year-old girls in the front row screamed, sang every lyric, and traded friendship bracelets like they were seeing the real deal.

It was electric. And it wasn't just a concert—it was a moment. One of those “only in Crested Butte” moments where the arts bring people together and turn the ordinary into the unforgettable.

That's what we do at the Center.



We create space for everyone. A space to laugh, connect, learn something new... or just let loose. In 2024, our team helped make nearly 300 different events happen. Our building was in use 327 days. We partnered with nearly 40 local nonprofits. We welcomed the seasoned artists, the total beginners, the curious kids, and the dedicated supporters who have our back. And we did it all with the grounded, welcoming, sparkly spirit that makes the Center what it is.

Our mission is simple: the Center is here to provide uniquely Crested Butte experiences in a welcoming and engaging space. In other words, we're here to help you make memories with your family, your neighbors, and your community.

We're grateful for every artist, guest, volunteer, donor, and partner who helped make 2024 such a standout year. We can't wait to keep the momentum going in 2025 and beyond.

With heartfelt thanks,



Jillian Liebl
Executive Director



Bill Carter
Board President



In 2024..

The Center provided
nearly 70,000
arts experiences



Community partners
held almost 70 events at the Center,
ranging from fundraisers to dance parties

About us



Our Goal

The Center strives to enrich and engage our community by fostering artistic expression and cultural experiences in the Gunnison Valley. Our vibrant facility, diverse programs, and community outreach provide common ground and a gathering space for residents and visitors alike to experience arts and culture together.

2024 Board of Directors

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Our Mission

Enriching our community through arts and cultural experiences for everyone.



Your favorite Mondays

In 2024, we rolled out picnic blankets, popped open camp chairs, and cranked up the good vibes for the 32nd season of Alpenglow, free live music in Town Park every Monday night all summer long.

Alpenglow is more than a concert series. It's a Crested Butte ritual. Locals, visitors, extended families, and dance-floor regulars all come together to soak up the music, the mountains, and each other.

With nine summer evenings of music under the open sky each year, Alpenglow is a summer highlight—and a major community effort. Each year, we raise over \$100,000 to cover artist fees, travel, staffing, and everything else it takes to keep this party going.

A 32-year tradition, Alpenglow is free for everyone and keeps the summer vibes flowing, but it only works because everyone pitches in.

Special thanks to our 2024 Alpenglow underwriters, including:

Ginny and Randy Bailey,
Benchmark Mortgage,
Bluebird Real Estate,
Gunnison Valley Health
Foundation, Blake Hawk, Julie
and Andy McNeill, Friends of
David Miclette, Bill Peatross,
Gail and Kip Richards, SHM
Architects, SRSI, and Jim and
Beth Stormont.

Looking back

In 2024, the Center hosted over 285 concerts and events, 40 rehearsals, and 1,255 dance classes for a total of nearly **70,000 arts experiences**. From live music and community gatherings to art shows and cultural celebrations, every moment reflected our deep commitment to fostering creativity, connection, and joy. Together, we celebrated the spirit of the arts and the vibrant mountain community we call home. Here's to an inspiring year—and an even more exciting one ahead!



40 hours
of after school dance and arts classes per
week during the school year



109 free
events



285
concerts and events hosted

Looking forward

Meet Natalie Pfister Riha: Crafting a welcoming, wildly creative Center for all.



Natalie Pfister Riha knows how to throw a party, but more importantly, she knows how to build a community.

A Crested Butte native with deep roots in food, wine, and hospitality, Natalie officially stepped into the role of Program Director in February 2025 after organizing a wildly successful Wine and Food Festival and debuting fresh new events like the Winter Wine Series and the Cookbook Club in 2024. Known for her grounded leadership and stylish flair, she brings a sharp eye for detail, a deep respect for local culture, and a personal commitment to inclusivity.

“The arts are for everyone—and the Center should be the beating heart of that idea in this valley.”

Natalie's programming vision centers around one core belief: The Center should feel like home for everyone. That means more multi-generational events, stronger local collaborations, and a playful, creative spirit that doesn't take itself too seriously. Whether it's a family movie night, a DJ set that brings together teens and dance moms, or a workshop where local chefs and artists collide, Natalie's goal is to create “unexpected, unforgettable” experiences that reflect the rhythm of life in Crested Butte.

She's also focused on lowering barriers—financial, social, or cultural—to make sure all parts of our community feel welcome. Her programming strategy prioritizes accessible pricing, community-driven partnerships, and events that bring full-time and part-time residents together.

As Natalie puts it, “The arts are for everyone—and the Center should be the beating heart of that idea in this valley.”

With Natalie at the helm of our programming, expect the unexpected, and expect to feel at home while you're here.



Our history

1987

A passionate group of local residents transformed the old county maintenance garage into a 6,000-square-foot Center for the Arts with an intimate, 200-seat theater.



1992

The inaugural Alpenglow free summer concert series was hosted at the Depot.

2013

The Center began hosting the Crested Butte Wine + Food Festival, a summer staple in the valley since 2008.



2017

The Center officially broke ground on a new community arts facility, which had been a dream over 20 years in the making.

2019

In December, the new 30,000-square-foot, \$20 million Center for the Arts was officially opened. The facility includes a 300-seat theater, two multi-use classrooms, two dance studios, and a gallery.



Financial highlights

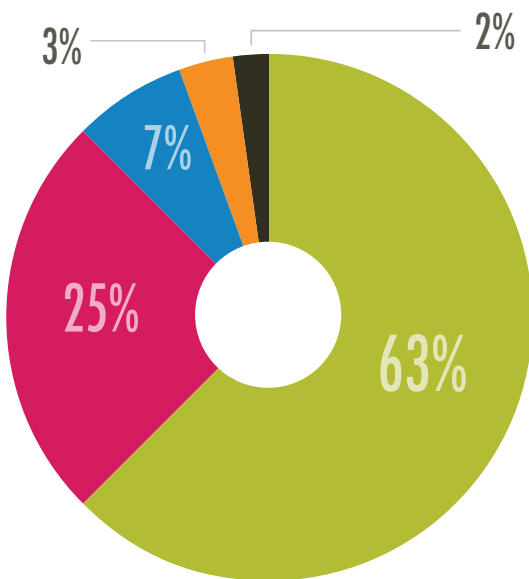
November 1, 2023 - October 31, 2024

Total
Revenue

\$3,238,673

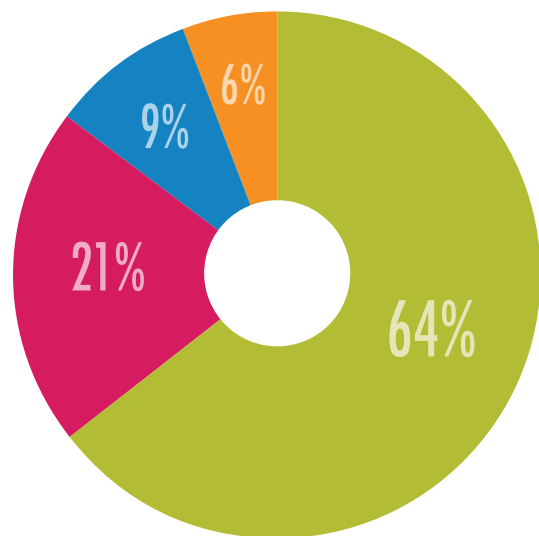
Total
Expenditures

\$3,192,909



Revenue Breakdown

- Contributions – \$2,031,450
- Ticket + Bar Sales – \$806,040
- Rental Fees – \$224,078
- Other – \$108,886
- Grants – \$68,219



Expenditure Breakdown

- Programming – \$2,056,264
- Administrative + General – \$665,548
- Building Maintenance – \$287,851
- Fundraising – \$183,246

What you give is what you see. Contributions match programming costs almost exactly.

Nonprofit partner highlights



Crested Butte School of Dance's
Nutcracker [Rated CB]



Kissidugu Foundation's
Performance + Kids Camps



Public Policy Forum



KBUT's Disco Inferno



Crested Butte Film Festival



Firebird Theatre's Rocky Horror Picture Show

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AND AT BRAY STUDIOS
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The Center collaborates with nearly 40 local organizations, amplifying their work and sharing resources to help our community thrive.

CB School of Dance

Hosted nearly 1,000 dance classes at the Center in 2024 plus eight sold-out performances in the Steddy Theater.

KBUT Radio

Over 800 patrons, young and old, danced their hearts out at KBUT's annual Disco Inferno fundraiser.

The Kissidugu Foundation

Provided youth cultural arts programming, community dance classes, and a theater performance featuring world-renowned West African artists.

CB Community School PTA

An incredible community turnout for the Taylor Nation tribute concert raised \$4,000 for the PTA.

CB Nordic

Held a screening of *Kikkan*, featuring a meet-and-greet with Olympic Champion Nordic Skier Kikkan Randall, to enhance Alley Loop race weekend.

CB State of Mind

Hosted a screening of *The Paradise Paradox* with a panel discussion to support community members dealing with mental health issues.

Firebird Theatre

The Center co-produced a raucous shadowcast production of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* with this brand new community theatre company.

Gunnison Tough

CBCS high school students heard their original lyrics put to music by renowned Nashville songwriters as part of the Gunnison Tough winter concert series.

Our supporters

Thank you to our Front Row members and donors for supporting the arts in our community.

Front Row Members

The Front Row is a group of people who share a deep connection to the Center for the Arts and want to support the mission of the Center long-term. With a \$100,000 pledge paid over up to 10 years, Front Row members ensure the future vitality of arts and culture in Crested Butte.

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Mary and Richard Allen	Rick Jungers and Martha Churchill
Anonymous	Anne Lamkin Kinder
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Blake Hawk	Venise and Larry Stuart
Cathey and Don Humphreys	Bob Valentine and Steve Bolton
The Jobar Foundation of the Benisch Family	Bonnie and David Weekley

Donors

November 1,2023 - October 31,2024

\$50,000+

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Elk Avenue Food and Beverage
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\$25,000-\$49,999

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\$10,000-\$24,999

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Artists of Crested Butte
Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley
Crested Butte Avalanche Center
Crested Butte Community School
Crested Butte Community School Enrichment Program
Crested Butte Community School PTA
Crested Butte Devo
Crested Butte Film Festival
Crested Butte Land Trust
Crested Butte Nordic
Crested Butte School of Dance
Crested Butte Search and Rescue
Crested Butte Ski Patrol
Crested Butte Snowsports Foundation
Crested Butte State of Mind
Crested Butte Wildflower Festival
Firebird Theatre
Gunnison County
Gunnison Tough
Gunnison Valley Health
Gunnison Valley Musicians' Association
Gunnison Watershed School District
KBUT Radio
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Paradise Place Preschool
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Public Policy Forum of Crested Butte
Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory
Six Points
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Town of Crested Butte
Trailhead Childrens' Museum
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Wild Hare Dance

We strive to ensure the accuracy of all donor names, recognition preferences, and gift amounts. If you notice an error, please accept our sincere apologies and contact us so we can make the correction. Thank you for supporting the arts in Crested Butte! For updates, please email us at **development@crestedbuttearts.org**



Because we are a 501(c)(3) non-profit (EIN 74-2451146), your gift is tax-deductible. Gifts from Colorado taxpayers may be eligible for a 25% Enterprise Zone Tax Credit on your state income taxes.

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