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## **Opera Colorado Selected as a Grantee of Bloomberg Philanthropies’ Arts Innovation Management Program**

*Opera Colorado will participate in \$43 million program*

**Denver (September 5, 2018)** — Opera Colorado today announced that it is a grantee recipient of Bloomberg Philanthropies’ Arts Innovation and Management (AIM) program. The invitation-only program seeks to strengthen the organizational capacity and programming of small and mid-size cultural organizations within Atlanta, Austin, Baltimore, Denver, New Orleans, Pittsburgh and Washington, D.C. Through the \$43 million multi-year initiative, Bloomberg Philanthropies will provide unrestricted general operating support as well as arts management training in areas that include fundraising, strategic planning, marketing and board development.

“We’re thrilled to be among so many outstanding Denver arts institutions selected as grantees, and honored to be recognized in this way,” said Opera Colorado General & Artistic Director Greg Carpenter. “This grant and the support provided by Bloomberg Philanthropies’ AIM program will help us continue and expand the work Opera Colorado is doing—including in developing new audiences for our art form, making opera accessible to the greater Denver area and presenting new works that resonate within our communities.”

AIM targets arts non-profits because of the vital role that they play in building communities, driving local economies and supporting artists. “The arts inspire people, provide jobs, and strengthen communities,” said Michael R. Bloomberg, founder of Bloomberg Philanthropies. “This program is aimed at helping some of the country’s most exciting cultural organizations reach new audiences and expand their impact.”

Bloomberg Philanthropies will develop curricula and conduct seminars for the program in partnership with leading experts, including the DeVos Institute of Arts Management at the University of Maryland, led by Institute Chairman Michael M. Kaiser and President Brett Egan. AIM organizations will engage in activities that strengthen their long-term health and goals, and will receive one-on-one consultations and implementation support for organization leaders and their boards.

All organizations invited to participate in the 2018 expansion of the AIM program are non-profits that have been in existence for at least two years. Participating organizations will be required to secure 20% of their AIM grant in matching dollars; reach 100% board participation in fundraising; and maintain up-to-date information in DataArts, an online management tool that assists arts organizations across the country in collecting, learning from, and using data effectively. The grants will be unrestricted to allow recipients to utilize the funds to address their greatest needs.

Since 2011, AIM has helped more than 500 small and mid-sized organizations in all creative disciplines, including theater, visual arts, music, film, literature and dance. Participating organizations reported significant improvements in board development, fundraising and overall income over the two-year program. Watch this video for an overview of the Arts Innovation and Management program: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4KJy8DgjRDg&feature=youtu.be>.

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#### **ABOUT OPERA COLORADO**

Opera Colorado has served as a cornerstone of Denver's cultural community since 1981. In addition to its mainstage performances at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House each season, the company affirms its commitment to the future of the art form by annually presenting new works; with its nationally recognized Artist in Residence Program that trains the next generation of opera artists; and by each year reaching more than 45,000 students and adults through its many education and community engagement programs. The 2018-19 season features Verdi's *La Traviata* (November 2018) and Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* (May 2019) at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House, and a sold-out double-bill of the one-act operas *After Life* and *Josephine* by Tom Cipullo at the Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art (February/March 2019). For more information, visit [www.operacolorado.org](http://www.operacolorado.org).

#### **ABOUT BLOOMBERG PHILANTHROPIES**

Bloomberg Philanthropies works in over 480 cities in more than 120 countries around the world to ensure better, longer lives for the greatest number of people. The organization focuses on five key areas for creating lasting change: Arts, Education, Environment, Government Innovation, and Public Health. Bloomberg Philanthropies encompasses all of Michael R. Bloomberg's charitable activities, including his foundation and his personal giving. In 2017, Bloomberg Philanthropies distributed \$702 million. For more information, please visit [www.bloomberg.org](http://www.bloomberg.org) or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and Twitter.