



CELEBRATING & SUSTAINING LITTLETON'S ARTS & CULTURE

The City of Littleton, containing more than 21,000 households within 13 square miles, is home to 20+ unique educational arts and culture organizations.

With a Smithsonian Affiliate museum, public library, performing arts center, and a thirty-acre botanical garden and events venue, Littleton is truly fortunate to have arts and culture assets that are not typically found in a town of fewer than 50,000 people. These assets regularly contribute to the quality of life of locals and visitors – and are worthy of supporting.

These organizations also contribute to Littleton's economy – from the jobs they create and the ticket sales they generate, to the tourists they attract who spend money at hotels, restaurants, and shops.

At a national level, arts and culture is the third largest value-adding sector to the U.S. gross domestic product only behind the health care and retail sectors, according to the National Endowment for the Arts. And in Colorado, the arts and culture sector added more than \$16 million to the state's economy before the pandemic.

But these organizations – which are critical to creating one-of-a-kind enriching and educational experiences – have struggled to bounce back from the economic devastation triggered by the pandemic that started over two years ago.

"We believe that the immediate availability of excellent performing and visual arts significantly enriches cultural, social, and educational life. As the hub of arts and entertainment for the city, Town Hall Arts Center anchors Downtown Littleton's historic and vibrant Main Street. Each year, we account for more than 25,000 visits downtown and contribute more than \$500,000 directly to the area's economy."



J.D. McCrumb

Vice Chair, Littleton Arts and Culture Commission
Immediate Past President, Town Hall Arts Center

LOCAL ARTS & CULTURE ORGANIZATIONS

A Paris Street Market

Colorado Gallery of Arts at ACC

Arapahoe Philharmonic

Bemis Public Library

Carson Nature Center and South Platte Park

Centennial Academy of Fine Arts (Littleton Public Schools)

Friends of Littleton Library and Museum

Historic Downtown Littleton Merchants Association

Historic Littleton Inc.

Hudson Gardens and Events Center

Littleton Arts and Culture Commission

Littleton Ballet Academy

Littleton Community Music Association

Littleton Fine Arts Board

Littleton Fine Arts Guild

Littleton International Ballet School

Littleton Museum

South Suburban Public Art Committee

The Depot Art Gallery

Town Hall Arts Center

Voices West

Western Welcome Week

This special publication, distributed to all Littleton households, is intended to highlight the important work of these organizations and generate a sense of pride among its citizens. It's unusual that a small suburban city the size of Littleton has such a vast network of arts and culture organizations, programs, and events. This is something to be celebrated – and everyone has a role to play in helping sustain this infrastructure that adds to the vibrancy of the city.



Photo courtesy: City of Littleton

Getting To Know Your FRIENDS in High Places

“The Friends-sponsored entertainment and educational options attract visitors from all over the Denver metro area – visitors often stick around to shop and dine, contributing to the Littleton economy. And local families are able to take advantage of all the free programs and save their money for necessities.”

If you've been to an event at the Littleton Museum or the Bemis Public Library, chances are you've interacted with an official “Friend.” This is the name given to the corps of volunteer members of the nonprofit organization, The Friends of the Littleton Library and Museum (FOLM), which was established to provide financial and volunteer support for much of the free and low-cost programming and events available to people of all ages.

Annual events include the Littleton Craft Fair; Harvest Festival; Summer Concerts; Used Book Sale; and more. These events take place at either the library or the museum, which is located on 40 acres adjacent to Ketring Lake and houses three galleries, an interactive children's gallery, a research center, and two 19th Century living history farm sites.

Learn more at friendslittleton.org



Kelly Anton
Co-President,
Friends of the Littleton
Library and Museum

Turning Tiny Dancers Into Top Talent



Photo courtesy: Stefan Krusze

The Littleton Youth Ballet, a nonprofit dance company, provides its 86 young dancers – ranging in age from eight to 19 – a caring and respectful environment to gain quality performance experience. But that's not all. The Ballet fosters confidence and empowerment that helps these youth reach their fullest potential in dance and other areas of life.

The Ballet also encourages and promotes dance with dynamic, full-length productions and diverse outreach programs throughout the Denver area. All of their dancers are students at the award-winning Littleton Ballet Academy – which has a 12,000 square-foot facility with five studios located east of downtown. Many of the Academy's upper-level students have won awards and scholarships in ballet competitions and have been accepted and/or received scholarships and stipends to nationally-recognized ballet schools across the nation.

“Whether you are participating in the arts by creating beautiful art, performing in dance, music, or theater, or going to see live performances, the arts make us feel more connected to others and nurtures our souls. Without the arts, Littleton would not be the wonderful city it is!”



Alison Jaramillo
CoDirector
Littleton Ballet Academy /
Littleton Youth Ballet

Learn more at littletonyouthballet.org & littletonballetacademy.org

A Downtown Hub for History, Culture, and Live Theater



Photo courtesy: City of Littleton

Littleton is home to one of the most unique, historical performing arts centers in the state. The Town Hall Arts Center, a nonprofit performing arts organization, operates out of a space that was built in 1920 as Littleton's Town Hall. For decades it served as the hub for political and civic life in Downtown Littleton. But today it enriches the cultural, social, and educational life of the community through professionally-produced live theater, concerts, events, and year-round educational programs for children and adults.

Don't miss a chance to see one of the five shows during its upcoming season, which begins this fall.

Shows include: Xanadu; Newsies; I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change; La Caux Au Follies; and Memphis.

Learn more at townhallartscenter.org

"We are big supporters of the Town Hall Arts Center and have been season ticket holders for six years. All three of our children participated in the education programs there, which helped them build skills and confidence and encouraged and supported them to be involved in their school musicals – both acting and in backstage work."



Monica Fuglei
Littleton Parent
and Arts Patron
and Supporter



With support from the Arts and Culture Commission, the City of Littleton launched an educational campaign this summer to encourage its 45,000 residents to be active patrons, supporters, and contributors to local arts, culture, and events.

ACT (which stands for arts, culture, and tourism) Littleton is a call-to-action and will start to appear in places across the city. It demonstrates a willingness to participate in the success of the vast local network of organizations adding to the quality of life – which is critical to Littleton citizens.

For many years running, 90 percent or more of residents report a high quality of life in Littleton – which is higher than national and Front Range averages. Additionally, 90 percent feel that Littleton is an excellent or good place to live and to raise children and that their neighborhoods are also excellent or good places to live.

And it's no secret that a vibrant local arts and culture scene only enriches the lives of its populace. So, will you take the pledge?

Take The Pledge To ACT!

- ✓ Attend at least one local event
- ✓ See at least one local live performance
- ✓ Visit at least one local venue or facility
- ✓ Invite family, friends, or neighbors to join me
- ✓ Share news about local organizations with my network

— Learn more at —

littletongov.org/act-littleton

Opportunity to Support & Sustain ACT Organizations

Funding for arts and culture has always been volatile. The pandemic exacerbated the problem by forcing organizations to shut down and operate with reduced capacity. And now, inflation is impacting every part of their business from maintenance and staffing costs to supplies.

Given the constant unpredictability of funding for local arts, culture, and tourism events, education, and programs, the Littleton City Council is considering whether to place a question on the ballot this November for a Lodger's Tax that would establish a fund to support and sustain this important sector.

Littleton is one of only a few municipalities in the metro area with hotels and short-term rentals, but no Lodger's Tax.

This new tax would be paid by guests of local hotels, motels, and short-term rentals and will generate – depending on the tax rate that will be decided later this summer – between \$700,000 to \$1,000,000 to support major cultural assets, fund local arts and cultural organizations through grants, and to promote tourism to Littleton.

Members of the city council are conducting due diligence, which included a public poll, this summer. Results from the research and their ongoing conversations with stakeholders and the community will inform their decision at an August 16 public hearing.

Visit www.littletongov.org/act-littleton to get the latest on this discussion.



"We are a low-cost organization, but there is great potential to provide more education programs and promote the historic buildings and districts, which contribute significantly to Littleton's reputation, which is a primary reason people come to Littleton's downtown."

Rick Cronenberger
Historic Littleton Inc.



"We have been experiencing a lot of volatility in ticket sales and individual donations. This has made planning very difficult, and we have to be ready to change on a dime."

Corinne Denny
Executive Director
Arapahoe Philharmonic



"Fee increases will be necessary as everyone is experiencing the inflation taking place in the world at the moment. Salaries and supply costs have increased and therefore the impact to our organization and the people we serve will be affected by having to pay more for our services."

Darcie La Scala
Program and Facility Manager
South Suburban Parks and Recreation