ATTACHMENT 1 - Brown Sugar Nutcracker

2023 Community Project Grant - Individual Applicants

Berg Wilson

Ms. Amanda Berg Wilson 1340 Toedtli Drive Boulder, CO 80305-6628 0: 773-368-0614 M: 773-368-0614

Ms. Amanda Berg Wilson

1340 Toedtli Drive Boulder, CO 80305-6628 amandabergwilson@yahoo.com 0: 773-368-0614 M: 773-368-0614

Application Form

Grant information and confirmation

Si prefiere leer esta información en español, por favor haga clic aquí. Se puede responder a la solicitud en español. Un miembro del personal de la Oficina de Artes y Cultura traducirá sus respuestas para que sean revisadas.

For this application in other languages please contact the Office of Arts + Culture Program Manager Lauren Click at <u>clickl@bouldercolorado.gov</u>.

DESCRIPTION: Community Project Grants encourage innovation and exploration in order to achieve progress on the Community Priorities from Boulder's Community Cultural Plan.

PURPOSE: The Community Cultural Plan identifies a set of "Community Priorities" derived directly from the hopes and aspirations of Boulder's residents:

- Support the resiliency and sustainability of cultural organizations to enhance their ability to benefit the community.
- Create a supportive environment for artists and creative professionals, while fostering innovative thinking and leadership among them.
- Prioritize the civic dialogue about the ability of culture to positively contribute to the economy, social offerings, the environment, and the authentic expression of diversity.
- Develop Boulder's creative identity in becoming an innovative world leader in cultural matters and projects that identity to the region and the world.
- Focus on the expression of culture and creativity in the public realm through public art, the urban landscape, culture in the neighborhoods, and serendipitous encounters with the arts.
- Amplify the vibrancy of Boulder's cultural destinations: the lively mix of museums, performance venues, events, districts, studios, maker spaces, and other facilities that make Boulder an enticing place to visit, live, play, and work. Fill in the gaps and address issues of access and affordability.

These complex issues are the most important initiatives we can work on as a cultural community in the coming years. The purpose of the Community Projects Grant is to encourage innovation and exploration in order to achieve progress on these Community Priorities.

Awards: Individuals \$25,000 @ maximum \$5,000 each

Details: The award amount of \$5,000 for individuals. Smaller requests will be accepted.

Cycle: Annually.

TIMELINE

- Wednesday, March 15 at 11:59 p.m. Deadline for applications
- March 15 to March 22 Review by staff for eligibility and revision by applicants if necessary
- March 22 to April 5 Preliminary review and score by panel (15 days)

- April 5 to April 12 Score processing by staff
- April 12 Preliminary scores and comments sent to applicants via email
- April 12 to April 19 Applicants prepare and send written responses to the panel's questions. The written response should be emailed to Lauren Click at clickl@bouldercolorado.gov by Wednesday April 19, 2023, at 11:59pm.
- April 19 to 26 Response processing by staff
- April 26 Responses sent to panel
- April 26 to May 10 Final review and score by panel (15 days)
- May 10 to 19 Processing of final scores
- May 19 Final scores sent to applicants via email
- May 24, 2023 Arts Commission meeting. Discussion and final decisions on grants

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- General eligibility. Meets all http://boulderarts.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/General-Eligibility-Requirements-only.pdfgeneral eligibility requirements.
- **Open to all.** Anyone may apply once the <u>general eligibility requirements</u> are met, including individuals, artists, non-profit organizations, organizations with pending non-profit status, fiscally sponsored organizations and for-profit organizations with a community focus.
- Service area and programming. Projects must have a significant component of public programming that takes place within the city limits of Boulder. This programming must meet the criteria described in the <u>Chapter 14-1-2 of the City of Boulder Revised Code</u>. For organizations, the applicant must demonstrate that they are headquartered in the city limits of Boulder. For individuals, the applicant must demonstrate that they reside at a permanent household address in the city limits of Boulder. Applicants may also demonstrate that they are partnered with a Boulder-based artist or organization. Examples of documentation to demonstrate being headquartered or residing in Boulder may include a utility bill, phone bill, pay stub, renter's or mortgage bill, lease, insurance policy, or other official document. P.O. Boxes are not acceptable. The term "city limits of Boulder" is defined in the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan. For additional information on the planning area and Comprehensive Plan <u>visit this link</u>. As a shorthand, office staff use addresses with the zip code starting with 803— to determine if it is in the acceptable area.
- Projects must take place after the grant funding decision and be completed by June 30, 2024.

MORE INFORMATION 2023 Grant Application Schedule 2023 Scoring System General Eligibility Requirements General Grant Guidelines & Process Grant FAQs

REVIEW PROCESS

- Deliberation. Applications are reviewed by the Boulder Arts Commission grants panel. Final funding decisions are made at public Boulder Arts Commission meetings. See schedule.
- Evaluation criteria.

- o Community priorities (Maximum 8 points)
- o Cultural offerings (Maximum 8 points)
- o Cultural equity (Maximum 8 points)
- O Proposed outcomes and evaluation strategy (Maximum 8 points)
- o Encouragement points (Maximum 4 points)
- The complete scoring system and rubric for the Community Project Grants can be found here.

GRANT AWARDS

- Notifications and dispersal of funds. Staff notifies all applicants if their Application has been successful and begins the process of securing supporting information and issuing payment for successful applicants. Grantees must contact the grant coordinator to arrange for payment. Checks are sent by mail or electronically to bank accounts designated by the applicant.
- **Communications**. All official communications and notifications will be made to the named individual applicant or person designated as the organization contact. It is this person's responsibility to communicate Boulder Arts Commission requirements of the grant award to collaborators or other participants. This includes, but is not limited to, requirements for compliance with grant agreements, identifying Boulder Arts Commission sponsorship on publicity materials, and reporting.
- Implementation. Grantees shall implement programs / projects as outlined in the grant application. Any change to the project, venue, Grantee address, schedule, or staff / team members must be reported to culturegrants@bouldercolorado.gov.
- Award amount. The Boulder Arts Commission reserves the right to adjust the amount of a grant award offered to an Applicant.
- **PERA impacts**. Retirees affiliated with the Colorado Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) will be impacted by a withholding requirement enacted by the Colorado State Legislature if awarded an arts grant. Details are available on the PERA website. See "Disclosure of Compensation."
- Vendor forms. Grantees must submit a City of Boulder vendor form and current IRS W-9 form in order to receive the grant award. The W-9 must be in the same name as the Grantee named on the grant application. Individual Grantees must also submit a Determination of Independent Contractor / Employee Status for Payment document and copy of their Driver's License. Applicants will receive the appropriate forms from payments@bouldercolorado.gov. Failure to supply a proper W-9 may invalidate the grant award.
- **IRS taxation.** Grant awards are non-transferable, taxable and are reported to the federal government.
- Agreement. When a grant award is made by the Boulder Arts Commission, the successful Applicant will be contacted by staff to sign a Grant Letter of Agreement. In that agreement, the Grantee will indicate the completion date of the project and the date a grant report will be submitted.
- Issuance of funding checks. Once the agreement is signed, staff of the Office of Arts and Culture will submit it to City Finance along with the invoice. Funds/checks are delivered within the next three weeks. Grants are initially funded at 80 percent of the grant amount awarded. The remaining 20 percent of the grant awarded is paid out upon receipt and Boulder Arts Commission approval of the grant report. Failure to submit a final grant report will result in ineligibility to apply for future grants.
- Acknowledgment of Boulder Arts Commission funding. All publicity for Boulder Arts Commission-funded projects must include the following credit line: *This project is funded (or funded in part) by a grant from*

the Boulder Arts Commission, an agency of the Boulder City Council. In lieu of the credit line, the Boulder Arts Commission Logo may be used. The Grantee must sign a release form and submit photographs and/or videos of the project that the Office and Arts and Culture may use on its website, social media, printed materials or for any other publicity purpose.

• **Thanking City Council.** It is suggested that all grant recipients write the Boulder City Council members to thank them for supporting the Boulder Arts Commission and the Office of Arts and Culture. Please let them know how this grant will be used, and the difference it will make to your organization. Please also invite them to attend your events and programs. Visit the City Council website page to find out more about contacting City Council members.

REQUIRED REPORTING

- **Timeframe for reporting.** The grant report is due one month after the project is completed.
- **Method**. Submit the report through the online system access through the boulderarts.org website. Log in with the same user name and password utilized to submit the application. After logging in, go to the 'Dashboard', then you'll see a 'Follow Up' section for the grant. On the far right is the 'Edit' button. That will take you to complete the final report.
- Extension requests for reporting. If circumstances delay the Grantee's ability to complete the project and/or the report, the Grantee must notify the Boulder Arts Commission before the original report deadline by submitting an email addressed to the Boulder Arts Commission at culturegrants@bouldercolorado.gov with the following information:
 - o an update on the project status,
 - o a request to change the project completion date, and
 - o new report due date.
- **Responsibility.** The Grantee is responsible for submitting a report by the due date. The Boulder Arts Commission recommends reviewing the online report form well in advance. There is no grace period for the report.
- **Consequence of Delinquent Report.** Unless an extension request is approved by the Boulder Arts Commission in advance of the due date, all individuals or organizations / businesses attached as collaborators on the project will no longer be eligible to apply for Boulder Arts Commission grants until the delinquent report has been received.

Certification*

I certify that I have read the above information and that this project meets the Boulder Arts Commission's eligibility requirements and, if a funding award is made, will continue to comply with the Boulder Arts Commission's requirements and meet with guidelines for high artistic quality, community impact, inclusiveness, funding acknowledgment and reporting.

I certify

Applicant information

Discipline*

Select your discipline. If multi-discipline, please check all that apply.

Music Dance History and heritage

Tax status*

Cultural organizations/businesses are eligible. Nonprofit status is not required for this category. Individual

Date established*

Add the date your organization was established. If not applicable write N/A. N/A

Mission statement*

If not applicable write N/A. N/A

Annual budget

If applying as an organization.

Geographic area served*

If not applicable write N/A.

N/A

For individuals: organizational affiliation

Even if an organizational affiliation is stated, awards will be made to the individual whose account is associated with this application. If no organization affiliated, please state 'none'.

None

Number of full time employees*

If not applicable write 0.

0

Number of part time employees*

If not applicable write 0.

Number of volunteers*

If not applicable write 0.

0

Project information

Project title* Brown Sugar Nutcracker

Amount requested*

The maximum award amount offered is \$5,000 for individuals. Smaller requests will be accepted. \$5,000.00

Project summary*

Provide a brief overview of the project.

BROWN SUGAR NUTCRACKER (BSN) is an adaptation of the classic holiday ballet reimagined to showcase a more inclusive array of dance styles and cultural traditions. Conceived and choreographed by Boulder performer, instructor, and choreographer Georgia Michelle; produced by Boulder theatre artist Amanda Berg Wilson; and with Boulder musician Nika Garcia as Music Director, this NUTCRACKER is a celebration of how we tell our stories through movement and music around the globe.

The inaugural BSN will be presented at The Studio Boulder December 15-16, 2023. The evening will feature selections from the piece in development, building community enthusiasm for the new tradition and its full production in 2024. It will feature a mix of professional performers and all-ages community members, cast from an audition open to all.

BROWN SUGAR NUTCRACKER opens as a family celebrates the holiday season with a party. Their guests come from many cultures and create a scene filled with laughter and jokes. Gifts are exchanged and a young girl receives a unique Brown Sugar Nutcracker. Later that night, inspired by the different cultures of the party's guests, the girl sets upon a dream adventure in a Brazilian rainforest, then to Egypt, and beyond.

Project calendar*

Projects must take place after the grant deadline and be completed by June 30, 2024. Winter 2022: Concept development meetings

Spring 2023: Funding applications submitted; sponsors and partnerships secured

Summer 2023: All funding secured; professional guest performers and designers contracted; marketing plan finalized; auditions announced

Fall 2023: Open auditions for community cast members; marketing campaign launched; rehearsals begin

December 15-16, 2023: Brown Sugar Nutcracker at the Studio Boulder

December 17, 2023-January 15, 2024: Post-project interviews/analysis

Project location*

Where do your projects take place? The Studio Boulder

Collaboration*

Describe your and/or your organization's most significant interactions with other organizations and efforts. If this is a solo project with no partners beyond the applicant, respond with "None."

Georgia Michelle approached Amanda Berg Wilson in 2022 seeking collaborators to produce BROWN SUGAR NUTCRACKER. Amanda's early career included performing in Houston Ballet's NUTCRACKER, and this formative experience plus Georgia's vision spurred her to help create access to the tradition for more diverse audiences. She joined as producer to realize Georgia's vision in an inaugural, independent production. The two then enlisted Nika Garcia as Music Director due to her expertise in world jazz.

Art in Public Places

By checking this box, I consider this project to include an art in public places component (for example, a public sculpture, mural, projection, or performance in the public realm). I have contacted publicart@bouldercolorado.gov and received feedback from staff which inform my understanding of project review, permitting, and timing considerations.

Project completion date*

This is the last day of any public event related to the project. Project must be completed by June 30, 2024. 12/16/2023

Date grant report is due*

One month after the project completion date. 01/16/2024

Panel evaluation

Bulleted responses are encouraged in these sections.

Community Priorities. The City of Boulder's Community Cultural Plan is a visioning and strategic document that describes how the people of Boulder will align efforts, with the support of the municipal government, to achieve our collective vision: *Together, we will craft Boulder's social, physical, and cultural environment to include creativity as an essential ingredient for the wellbeing, prosperity, and joy of everyone in the community.* The Community Priorities are six points that summarize the community's most common responses in answer to the question, "What is your vision for Boulder's culture and creative economy?" Reference: Cultural Plan and Community Priorities.

Community Priorities*

Examples of ways to demonstrate impact on the Community Priorities may include descriptions of how your project or organization:

- Supports artists and creative professionals by providing professional development programming.
- Contributes to Boulder's creative identity and creates a vibrant cultural destination through high artistic merit and excellence in the practice of a medium or discipline.
- Engages the community in civic dialogue about the arts through interactive outreach in the neighborhoods.
- Adds creativity in the public realm by engaging underserved populations in art making for their community.

In what way will this project contribute to one or several of the Community Priorities described in the Community Cultural Plan? Does the project contribute to one priority thoroughly?

BROWN SUGAR NUTCRACKER prioritizes the civic dialogue about the ability of culture to positively contribute to social offerings: Georgia had an experience, when living in another city, of auditioning for and performing in a production of THE NUTCRACKER with her whole family. This opportunity led to a joyful family time in which she and her family members had the opportunity to work on something together, and with other members of her community. She wants to bring this opportunity to Boulder, so that performers of all ages can experience this joy and social engagement with their community through the arts. Amanda's daughter participated in the Nutcracker for one year when she was at Boulder Ballet, but due to her height, was unable to participate the next year. Amanda is excited to offer a Nutcracker that is more inclusive of a variety of body types.

BROWN SUGAR NUTCRACKER prioritizes the authentic expression of diversity: By featuring dance styles and traditions of diverse cultures, BSN is not merely putting non-white bodies into European dance styles, but integrating the dance styles of non-white cultures.

BSN will create a supportive environment for artists by opening up the holiday tradition of the NUTCRACKER and featuring a wide array of races, ages, body-types, and dance backgrounds so that performers who are not ballet dancers can access the experience. It engages non-white, under-represented performers in the opportunity to share their traditions with one another and a larger audience.

Cultural offerings*

In what way does your project fill a gap in the variety of cultural offerings in Boulder? What is exciting or new about your project?

BROWN SUGAR NUTCRACKER will be the first of its kind in Boulder, a non-white NUTCRACKER open to all ages and types of dancers. Extensive outreach will be made to publicize the audition opportunity throughout the community, not only at the Dairy Arts Center and Georgia Michelle's studio, but also at Alchemy of Movement, Streetside Dance, Salsaville Dance Studios, local schools, through Boulder County Arts Alliance, and more.

BSN will be presented at The Studio Boulder and feature a live band reinterpreting the classic Tchaikovsky score and integrating it with jazz and world music. The event will be a hybrid performance event and celebration, giving Georgia and her cast and crew the opportunity to build community around the event, and to set up a new holiday tradition for years to come.

Cultural equity*

Among the goals of the Boulder Arts Commission is to encourage the equitable, fair, and just distribution of funds in support of the community. This includes providing support to applicants whose organizational leadership or audience represent groups who are typically underrepresented, i.e. culturally diverse groups, organizations focused on age diversity, etc.) Describe how your project does or does not fulfill one or several of these categories. Describe how your project will address affordability, availability, accessibility, accommodation, and acceptability to diverse groups. For reference, please review the Boulder Arts Commission and Americans for the Arts Statements on Cultural Equity.

References:

Boulder Arts Commission Statement on Cultural Equity Americans for the Arts Statement on Cultural Equity

As articulated in the Commission's Statement on Cultural Equity, Racial Equity is a generational project that requires a shift "in language and visual images, the stories that we tell, and the heroes we celebrate." BROWN SUGAR NUTCRACKER is emblematic of that shift, taking a holiday tradition usually infused with Eurocentric dance styles, music, and cultural signifiers and instead integrating dances of non-European cultures (belly dancing and samba, for example) and non-white subcultures (hip-hop and break dancing).

By using the audience's familiarity with the story as a jumping off point, BROWN SUGAR NUTCRACKER will replace the visual imagery the audience has grown accustomed to associating with the Nutcracker and the holidays with imagery from other cultures and traditions. It will provide access to performers who are not necessarily trained in ballet, but in other dance styles, and will be open to a wider swath of performers in the community. It will center non-white performers, and celebrate multi-cultural holiday traditions. It will begin a new Boulder tradition that reflects the lived experience of our non-white citizens, and will begin the process of de-centering European aesthetics associated with the holidays.

Proposed outcomes and evaluation strategy*

Describe your evaluation strategy for this project and how you will collect data. Please also include your goals for this project and how the benefit to the community will be measured.

The primary goal with producing this inaugural iteration of BROWN SUGAR NUTCRACKER is to launch the project in a way that will ensure it can successfully become a new, valued holiday tradition for years to come. The producer and creatives will evaluate their efforts in achieving this goal by:

1. Measuring the number of community members who audition, the number of tickets sold, and the speed at which they are sold to gauge community interest in the new tradition;

2. Administering audience surveys after the performances to gauge the audience's reception of the piece. In these surveys, the team will ask respondents: "What about your overall experience did you find especially positive or appealing?" and "Were there any aspects of your overall experience that were problematic or could have been improved?" and use answers to these questions to inform the creation and production of the full piece in 2024.

3. Conduct post-production feedback interviews with the cast, creative team, and designers to evaluate the experience of participating and its overall value to the community members participating.

4. Assess critical reception of the piece and general media interest.

Additional Questions

Encouragement Points

Among the goals of the Boulder Arts Commission is to encourage the equitable, fair, and just distribution of funds in support of the arts community. Panel members use these "extra points" to balance the scoring, emphasizing applications which tend to score lower in standard categories or historically are underrepresented in grantmaking. Commissioners will be looking for these elements in your responses above.

Examples include:

- First-time applicants and those who have never been awarded a grant.
- Youth applicants who are applying with the help of a mentor of legal age.
- Have the potential to support community and participatory culture and non-professional artmaking.
- Applicants for whom English is not their first language.
- Non-western European art forms or other forms of culture that have typically been disadvantaged by the systems and traditions of grantmaking.
- Elements of the application that the panel member determines will significantly advance stated priorities of the Arts Commission, important issues in the community outside of the arts, or other impacts that are not expressed in the other scoring criteria.

Encouragement Points 1*

Please check yes if any of these are addressed in your application.

Yes

Encouragement Points 2*

Are you a first time applicant or have you not been awarded a grant before from the Commission?

No

Attachments

ATTACHMENTS

The following attachments are required. Please title your attachments according to the headings listed below.

Budget summary*

Provide a brief budget summary for this project including all revenue (monetary and in-kind contributions, including this grant) and expenses. Please title the attachment "Budget summary". Permitted file types: xl, xlsx, pdf.

Brown Sugar Nutcracker Budget Summary.pdf

Venue confirmation letter*

Attach confirmation from the hosting venue that the project is approved and scheduled. Please title the attachment "Venue confirmation letter". Permitted file types: doc, docx, pdf

Brown Sugar Nutcracker Venue Confirmation Letter.pdf

Service area confirmation*

Attach confirmation to demonstrate that you are headquartered Boulder, reside in Boulder, or are partnered with a Boulder-based artist or organization. Examples of documentation to demonstrate being headquartered in Boulder may include a utility bill, phone bill, pay stub, renter's or mortgage bill, lease, insurance policy, or other official document. P.O. Boxes are not acceptable.

Amanda Berg Wilson Service Area Confirmation.pdf

Partner/Collaborator List

Provide a list of each individual / organization that has a significant coordinating role in this project. Please title the attachment, "Collaborator list". Include their name, contact information, and role. Permitted file types: doc, docx, pdf.

Brown Sugar Nutcracker Collaborator List.pdf

Letters of support

Attach any letters of support that will be useful in understanding community involvement and enthusiasm for the project. This is optional. Please title the file, "Letters of support". Permitted file types: doc, docx, pdf

Brown Sugar Nutcracker Letters of Support.pdf

Other support materials

Attach any documents that will help the jury fully understand the project, including videos and other materials that may help the commission evaluate artistic quality. This is optional. Please title the file, "Support materials". Permitted file types: doc, docx, xl, xlsx, pdf

Brown Sugar Nutcracker Support Materials.pdf

Submission and signature

Application on the website (optional)

I certify that, if funding is awarded, my application may be presented on the boulderarts.org website. The Office of Arts and Culture staff will send a copy of the document to the applicant listed for approval in advance of posting on the website.

Yes

Certification*

I certify that all information contained in this application and attachments is true and accurate. All funded activities must provide equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and may not discriminate on the basis of disability, color, creed or religion.

I certify

Full name*

Amanda Berg Wilson

Submission date*

03/15/2023

TO COMPLETE AND SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION

All required fields must be filled in with the appropriate information and/or attachments. Click on the "Submit Application" button and an email notification that your application has been received will be sent. If you do not receive a confirmation email, please notify staff immediately. Note that once the application is submitted, it cannot be revised or added to. Please make certain that you have included all information and attachments prior to submitting.

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- Brown Sugar Nutcracker Budget Summary.pdf
- Brown Sugar Nutcracker Venue Confirmation Letter.pdf
- Amanda Berg Wilson Service Area Confirmation.pdf
- Brown Sugar Nutcracker Collaborator List.pdf
- Brown Sugar Nutcracker Letters of Support.pdf
- Brown Sugar Nutcracker Support Materials.pdf

INCOME	Budgeted		
Contributed			
Boulder Arts Commission Community Project Grant	\$	5,000.00	
Individual Donations	\$	5,000.00	
TOTAL	\$	10,000.00	
Earned Income		Budgeted	
Concessions	\$	750.00	
Corporate Sponsorships	\$	2,000.00	
Ticket Sales	\$, 3,500.00	
		0.0	
Subtotal	\$	6,250.00	
TOTAL INCOME	\$	16,250.00	
EXPENSES			
Commissions and Fees			
Costume Coordination and Design	\$	500.00	
Creative Director and Choreographer	\$	2,000.00	
Guest Performers	\$	2,500.00	
Quartet	\$	2,200.00	
Producer	\$	2,000.00	
Production Stage Manager	\$	1,000.00	
Writer	\$	500.00	
Subtotal Commissions and Fees	\$	10,700.00	
Production			
Costume Rental and Fabrication	\$	750.00	
Concessions	\$	400.00	
Miscellaneous	\$	300.00	
Scenic Elements	\$	500.00	
Subtotal	\$	1,950.00	
Promotional			
Advertising	\$	500.00	
Graphic Design	\$	200.00	

Photographer	\$	200.00
Publicity Materials	\$	200.00
Toblicity Matchais	–	200.00
Subtotal	\$	1,100.00
Rentals		
Dance Floor Rental	\$	1,000.00
The Studio Boulder	\$	1,500.00
Subtotal	\$	2,500.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	16,250.00
Income Over Expenses	\$	-

The Studio (Boulder)

Tuesday March 14, 2023 The Studio (Boulder) 3550 Frontier Ave Unit A2 Boulder CO 80301

To Whom It May Concern,

Amanda Berg-Wilson has secured The Studio (Boulder) for the following date: December 15 & 16, 2023, for *Brown Sugar Nutcracker*. The price is \$1500 for rent. Please let us know if you have any questions.

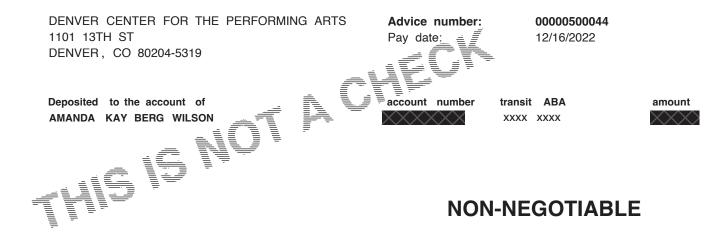
Sincerely,

William Goodrich Co-Owner & Co-Founder bill@thestudioboulder.com

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Your federal taxable wages this period are

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BROWN SUGAR NUTCRACKER COLLABORATOR LIST

Amanda Berg Wilson, Producer

amandabergwilson@yahoo.com 773-368-0614

Amanda is a Boulder-based freelance theater artist and producer and the Artistic Director of The Catamounts, a Boulder-based theater company entering its thirteenth season.

As a freelance artist, she has directed for the Denver Center for the Performing Arts' Off-Center (*The Wild Party*, *Between Us: The Whiskey Tasting*) and for Creede Repertory Theatre (*9 to 5*, *Pride and Prejudice*, and *Steel Magnolias*), and has performed with Curious Theatre Company (*Detroit*) and DCPA's Off-Center (*Sweet and Lucky*).

Most recently, she served as Assistant Director and played one of the Guides in the extended *Theatre of the Mind*, produced by DCPA's Off-Center and written by Mala Gaonkar and Rock and Roll Hall of Famer David Byrne.

For The Catamounts, Amanda has directed 17 of the company's 27 productions, including *God's Ear* (2011 Camera Eye Award, Best Director), *Failure: A Love Story* (2013 True West Nomination, Best Director), *Rausch* (2018 True West award; 2018 Colorado Theatre Guild nomination, Best New Work); *Shockheaded Peter* (2020 True West award), and *Land of Milk and Honey* (2021 True West award). With The Catamounts, she has also performed as Ellen in *There Is A Happiness That Morning Is* (2014 True West Award, 2015 Westword Best of Denver Award), and Warrior #1 in *Beowulf, A Thousand Years of Baggage* (2017 Colorado Theatre Guild Nomination, Best Choreography.)

Under her direction, The Catamounts have been the recipients of eight *Westword* Best of Denver awards, six True West awards, fourteen Colorado Theatre Guild nominations, and six *Daily Camera* Eye Awards, among others.

Prior to moving to Colorado, she founded and was artistic director of Striding Lion, a Chicago-based interdisciplinary ensemble who created boundary-defying work and arts educational programs from 2001-2014.

Amanda graduated *cum laude* with a BA in English and Drama from Kenyon College in Ohio.

Nika Garcia, Music Director

nikagarciasings@yahoo.com 786-546-0630

Nika is a singer, musician, actor, and dancer from Boulder. She began performing professionally in local Denver theater and television as a child. Raised bilingual in Spanish and English, she has added Portuguese to her languages and is trilingual.

She has worked and toured in Europe first in a USO tour with Manual Molina Salsa Band, and later with her own jazz band, the Nika Garcia Band. She has created two full length original records. She founded and ran Five Star Music Productions in Miami Beach, an entertainment company producing jazz festivals and private events from 2003- 2020.

In addition to a robust freelance career as a singer and band leader on the Front Range, she is the part-time Associate Producer of The Catamounts.

Nika holds a BFA in jazz and contemporary music from the New School in New York City.

Georgia Michelle, Director and Choreographer

georgiamichelle@hotmail.com 619-228-3237 Georgia is a professional performance artist, instructor, and choreographer currently living in Boulder, CO. Georgia has a lifetime of dance education and experience allowing her to create an array of authentic and evolutionary styles of dance. She started dancing at the age of four, studying classical ballet, jazz, tap, modern and character. Having played three instruments, she has a solid comprehension of music, providing her with precision and clarity in her teaching and choreography skills. Her childhood years were filled with rehearsals, performances and competitions nationwide. She has won many awards and scholarships in dance and has accepted many invitations to study and perform worldwide with several dance companies.

Georgia found Middle Eastern Dance over 13 yrs ago and is profoundly captivated by its many layers. She has grown her knowledge of this ancient art by studying with many of the world's most reputable dance and music teachers, also studying the Middle East from historical and cultural perspectives. She has worked in this area of dance on an international level and continues to hold Raks Sharki as her main area of interest.

Georgia also studied dance at Mira Costa College and completed a teacher training program at American Ballet Theater in NYC. She has also earned certifications from ZUMBA, Belly Dancer of the Universe, and AFAA in group fitness, yoga, step, and dance fusion. Georgia became a Certified Personal Trainer and nutrition specialist in 2017 through ACE fitness. She became certified in Barre Above w/ Pilates focus in 2019.

As an active member of her community, Georgia served as the Dance Representative for the City of Encinitas Arts Commission, and for the California Alliance for Arts Education providing art and dance programming for the people of North County CA. In May of 2020 Georgia was appointed by City Council to become a member on the board of Boulder County Arts Commission to increase awareness and support of the arts. Georgia is passionate towards preserving the art of dance as an important part of history, culture, community, health and expression of the human experience. Most importantly Georgia is a dedicated mother and proud to make a home to three outstanding citizens.

March 15, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of Amanda Berg Wilson's application for the individual community grant project. I had the pleasure of attending one of her events produced through the Catamounts theater company and was delighted at what a professional, unique, and cutting edge performance it was. With Amanda's many years of experience in producing excellent quality shows I have no doubt the funds given will be put to great use. The Brown Sugar Nutcracker has been a dream of mine for 2 years now. I have produced several shows in Boulder over the years, and am really excited to do something new for the community. I am excited Amanda will be supporting my vision for Brown Sugar Nutcracker as a producer, her mission to support local artists with production experience is a generous asset to our community. The project meets several of the community priorities with great passion and authenticity. Combining this project that Boulder desperately needs with Amanda's knowledge will without a doubt give not only a grand entertainment but also a fascinating experience.

Sincerely,

Georgia Schmid

To the Members of the Boulder Arts Commission,
I am writing to express my support for the kick-off, inaugural production of <i>Brown Sugar Nutcracker</i> , and to state my excitement to work on the project as Music Director. I will be assembling a jazz quartet to adapt some of the traditional Tchaikovsky compositions to more contemporary arrangements in keeping with <i>Brown Sugar Nutcracker</i> 's more diverse and inclusive take on the traditional tale. This ensemble will consist of local professional musicians, whose artistry will elevate the performance and establish the idea within the community as both an original one as well as an artistically ambitious and excellent one.
I grew up dancing here in Boulder and am excited to help bring to life a piece which is more expansive in its view of music and dance, and that centers non-white artists like myself.
I am grateful for your consideration of this proposal.
Thank you,

March 15, 2023

Nika Garcia Nikagarciasings@yahoo.com 4235 Amber st. Boulder Co, 80304

Below are links to videos of *Brown Sugar Nutcracker's* two creative principals performing, as well as video and print interviews with *Brown Sugar Nutcracker's* producer, Amanda Berg Wilson.

Amanda Berg Wilson work:

- 1. 2017 Interview on *The Nightly Met*: <u>https://fb.watch/jigKnliOCu/</u>
- 2. 2017 Interview in *Denver Westword:* <u>https://www.westword.com/arts/amanda-berg-wilson-directing-you-on-the-moors-now-the-wild-p</u> <u>arty-9438620</u>
- 3. 2018 Interview with Salt Magazine: https://saltmag.online/2018/06/07/amanda-berg-wilsion/ [sic]
- 4. 2020 Interview with the Office of Cultural Affairs: <u>https://youtu.be/2kAKfSYWK8c</u>
- 5. 2020 Interview with *Denver Westword*: <u>https://www.westword.com/arts/amanda-berg-wilson-of-the-catamounts-on-david-byrne-and-im</u> <u>mersive-arts-11631698</u>
- 6. 2022 Interview for Theater of the Mind: <u>https://youtu.be/OWCvwmKqioU</u>

Nika Garcia work:

- 1. Live in Miami Beach: https://youtu.be/NeCm4dKGsFI
- 2. Singing "Madalena": <u>https://youtu.be/U-HIJuFf4gA</u>

Georgia Michelle work:

- 1. Georgia Bellydancing: https://youtu.be/zPA-eBt4kB0
- 2. Georgia teaching: <u>https://youtu.be/bPWmc8WJBao</u>