

2015 Annual Report

MOTUS THEATER

Moving Stories that Move Us Forward



Letter from the Artistic Director

As some of you know, the word Motus comes from the Latin word meaning "to be moved." As a verb, it can mean to be physically moved, emotionally stirred, excited, inspired, troubled. As a noun, it can mean an artistic movement, dancing, a motion, a passion, a political movement, a sudden rising.

2015 was a year of "motus." But we would not have moved far without your support. We raised over \$200,000 in 2015! All this support created tremendous energy, and we are all still spinning from the momentum, emotion, impulse, and inspiration of it all.

Motus inspired over 30 leading arts-cultural and immigrant-serving organizations to collaborate with us on the *One Action 2016: Arts + Immigration Project*. This largest arts-based collaboration in Boulder County history was seeded by the success of our original *One Action 2012: Niwot's Arrow Project*, in which 18,000 people participated, as well as the power of our *Do You Know Who I Am?* and *Rocks Karma Arrows* theatrical works.

We began a collaboration with *Programa Compañeras* of El Centro Amistad. We worked with Latina immigrants to write and perform monologues that reflect the courage, strength, and resilience of Latina immigrants in our community. And with your feedback from the work-in-progress performances, we created a powerful bilingual and Spanish-language performance called *SALSA Lotería* monologues that is touring in 2016.

We continued to expand the audience of *Do You Know Who I Am?*, presenting it as an official event of the Biennial of the Americas, premiering the show in Denver at the legendary Su Teatro, as well as continuing our tour across Boulder County.

We went from a Latino audience of 8% in 2012 to 32% in 2015. And we stretched our young adult audience from 13% to 26%.

And because of our commitment to making films of our award-winning productions, we were able to bring our multimedia history performance, *Rocks Karma Arrows*, beyond Boulder and into the cities of both Lafayette and Longmont.

At Motus Theater, we believe art--and specifically original theater--has a role in creating a stronger and more inclusive community. When you listen to someone's story, not only does your mind discover another perspective, your heart opens as well. The person on stage is no longer a stranger or a statistic but a person whose life, hopes, and fears are wound up in your life. Our common humanity is revealed.

"Moving stories do move us forward." Thank you for being the momentum in Motus. Together we can create great art and an even greater community.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Wilson



Do You Know Who I Am?

was coproduced by Motus Theater and Café Cultura as part of the Biennial.

MOTUS THEATER BOARD MEMBERS

Alexis Halkovic, Co-Chair
Janet Heimer, Co-Chair
Dave Ensign, Treasurer
Maya Sol Dansie, Secretary
Erika Blum
Audrey Fishman Franklin
Lorenzo González
Alexis Miles
Glenda Russell
Sabrina Sideris
Juan Ignacio Stewart

Special thanks to our 2015 outgoing board members.

Flor Marquez, Secretary

Founding Board Members

Kim Decker, Chair
Charlotte LaSasso, Treasurer

MOTUS THEATER STAFF

2015

Kirsten Wilson, Artistic Executive Director
Brook Engebretson-Horton, Executive Assistant
Micheal Moore, Managing Director
Brenda Cleary, Managing Director

2015 Highlights & Accomplishments

AWARDS

People of the Year

Boulder Weekly awards cast of *Do You Know Who I Am?* and Kirsten Wilson.

Artist & Activist Award

Northern Colorado Dreamer's United awards Kirsten Wilson.

Multicultural Action Award

Boulder County Community Action Program awards cast of *Do You Know Who I Am?* with Artist Award.

PROGRAMMING

Tour of *Do You Know Who I Am?*

Performed for almost 4,000 people. Selected as an official Biennial of the Americas Performance with Café Cultura.

SALSA Lotería Monologues created in collaboration with *Programa Compañeras*. Performed in Spanish as well as a bilingual English/Spanish performance.

Premier in Denver with Su Teatro of *Do You Know Who I Am?*

One Action 2016: Arts + Immigration Planning Phase.

Inspired a countywide collaboration on arts and immigration programming with over 30 leading arts, cultural, and immigrant serving organizations participating.

MAJOR GRANTS

\$30,000 given in collaboration with the Boulder County Arts Alliance for the planning phase of the One Action: Arts + Immigration Project and the commissioning of a new performance by Motus Theater on the history of immigration.

\$30,000 in-kind donation from the Daily Camera to market One Action 2016: Arts + Immigration project.

\$20,000 from the Millennium Trust for One Acton: Arts + Immigration Project.

\$10,500 from the Three Swallows Foundation for organizational support.

\$10,000 from the Boulder Arts Commission- The City of Boulder for creation of SALSA Lotería.

\$5,000 from the Jared Polis foundation for Motus Theater's arts programming focused on immigration.

\$4,000 from The Community Foundation Serving Boulder County for Motus Theater organizational support.

\$1,700 from the Chinook Fund for the One Action: Arts + Immigration Project.





Do You Know Who I Am?

The Film

With the generous support of the prestigious Puffin Foundation and individual donors like you, *Do You Know Who I Am?* (DYKWIA?) was made into a film. DYKWIA? is an award-winning performance comprised of true stories from undocumented youth leaders who are also the performers. The show is followed by a talk-back with the performers who are professionally trained to lead non-violent conversations on immigration.

This project creates an unusual opportunity for learning about and discussing immigration reform issues and how they impact the lives of immigrants and their families. The goal of this project is to educate community members unfamiliar with immigration issues and to inspire youth in similar situations not to give up on their educational futures and life hopes.

The performance stars Juan Juárez, Victor Galvan, Hugo Juárez, Ana Cristina Temu and Oscar Juárez with music by Brian Mullins. There is great demand for this performance, but the performers are working across the nation on immigration reform and going to college. Thus, a film seemed like the best way to meet the demand. DYKWIA? has been **shown to almost 4,000 people live**, and to almost 500 as a film presentation. In 2014 & 2015, the cast and director won several **major awards**, including **People of the Year** from the Boulder Weekly, **Peacemakers of the Year** from Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Weekly, the **Multicultural Action Award** and **Artist Award** from the Boulder County Community Action Program, and **Artist & Activist** award from Northern Colorado Dreamers United.

The film will be released as a DVD to the public in the summer of 2016.



Cast of *Do You Know Who I Am?* receiving the *Multicultural Action Award* in the Artist category from Boulder County Community Action Programs.

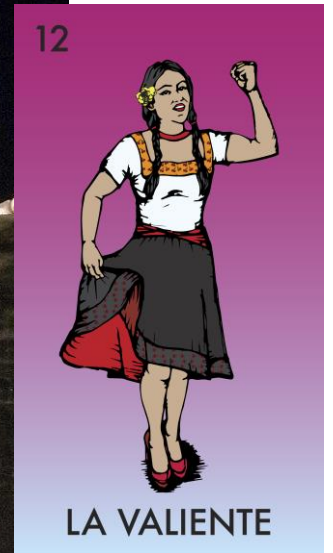


DYKWIA?

"I went to an AMAZING, sold-out performance last night. Equal parts cheering and crying. If you ever had doubts about the need for immediate immigration reform, you won't anymore."

Boulder County Commissioner Elise Jones

SALSA Lotería Monologues



With funding from the Boulder Arts Commission and the Lafayette Cultural Arts Commission, Motus Theater created a new performance, SALSA Lotería Monologues. The performance was inspired by, "Historias con Sabor de Salsa," a project of *Programa Compañeras*, directed by Elena Aranda. The performance was developed through the Motus Monologue process. In **Motus Monologues**, our artistic director, Kirsten Wilson, works with individuals from the community to teach them to write and perform their own autobiographical monologues. SALSA Lotería, premiered in Spanish last October as a work-in-progress at the Cumbre (Summit for Latina Women produced by Amistad), and then in English at the Dairy Center for the Arts in December. SALSA Lotería weaves autobiographical monologues in Spanish and English into a performance detailing the struggles, resilience, and courage of the Latin American immigrant women who perform them. At the heart of the performance is a woman from Mexico, Rosa Elena Valle, making her family's salsa recipe live on stage while she talks about her experience of immigration. All the other stories, as well as dancing, circle in and out of Rosa's story. The piece concludes with a talkback with the audience and sharing of Rosa's salsa. The Lotería images throughout this program were created as a collaboration between Kirsten Wilson and artist Sebastián Sifuentes as part of this project.

The mission of Motus Theater is to create original theater to facilitate dialogue on critical issues of our time. We aim to use the power of art to build alliances across diverse segments of our community.



SALSA Lotería is an incredibly heartfelt and compelling performance of testimonials by everyday Latinas giving voice to the challenges of being immigrants in the United States. It was eye-opening, heart-rending, and something I would strongly urge everyone to go see - just be sure to take your Kleenex." - Boulder Mayor Suzanne Jones



Salsa Lotería is a moving and colorful tapestry that interweaves the lives of six strong and resilient women, their love, pain, sorrows and longing. These are universal stories of family and the triumph of the human spirit. They will move you to tears and at times will make you smile remembering the warm stories of your own family and your own history. - Mayor Pro Tem of Lafayette, Gustavo Reyna

Arts + Immigration Project



one action 2016 arts + immigration project

In 2015, over 30 leading arts, cultural, educational, and immigrant-serving groups joined the collaboration and together planned over 50 arts and cultural events to be presented in 2016. Participating organizations are using their expertise to make exhibitions, performances, presentations, music, films, displays, and readings designed to raise the community's level of knowledge and engagement with the topic of immigration.

Highlights of the planning phase include:

- Unprecedented cross-county collaboration: 33 arts, cultural, immigrant-serving and educational organizations are collaborating across Boulder County in 2016
- Unprecedented collaborative efforts to ensure the monolingual Spanish community has access to arts funding and art spaces: The Boulder County Arts Alliance and The Lafayette Cultural Arts Commission translated grants into Spanish, and the "Call to Artists" for the Dairy Center's Crossing Borders exhibit was

translated into Spanish for the first time. In addition, submission fees were waived.

- Unprecedented support from an arts-granting organization: The Lafayette Cultural Arts Commission prioritized arts proposals for the Arts + Immigration Project in their grant guidelines in 2015.

In early 2015, staff were hired to run the project. Staff now consists of only a Project Director handling most of the One Action direction and communications. Project branding was developed in early 2015 along with a website and Facebook page to reflect the design.

Along with an overall project Steering Committee, individual community working groups were formed in each of the participating Boulder County municipalities. Monthly meetings of these working groups were held to establish processes and develop events for the initiative's January 2016 launch as well as collaborative events for throughout 2016.

ONE ACTION STEERING COMMITTEE

Jose Beteta
Jorge De Santiago
Marcelo Fernández
Janet Heimer
Laurel Herndon
Wes Jessup
Charlotte LaSasso
Bill Obermeir
Carmen Ramirez
Elvira Ramos
Karen Raforth
Gustavo Reyna
Karen Shimamoto
Kirsten Wilson

ONE ACTION STAFF

2015 Project Director
Manuela Sifuentes
2015 Communications
Director
Nikki McCord
2016 Project Director
Mary Dolores Young
2014-2016 Strategic Advisor
Wendy Baring-Gould

Rocks, Karma, Arrows- THE FILM!

The Lafayette Cultural Arts Commission sponsored a lunch and day-long workshop built around showing the *Rocks Karma Arrows* Film. Almost 100 people saw the film, ate together, and discussed the history explored in the film. The film includes a companion documentary called **Arrows in Motion**. In this documentary, 15 historians, educators, and community leaders reflect on *Rocks Karma Arrows* and discuss the value of learning the histories of our diverse communities. This documentary, along with *Rocks Karma Arrows*, will be the inspiration for a curriculum project on the Sand Creek Massacre created for Boulder County Public Schools and the community. *Rocks Karma Arrows* is an award winning multimedia contemporary theater performance looking at Boulder history through the lens of race and class. Historical figures, like the great Chief Niwot, come alive to tell the story of the early founding of Boulder and the final massacre at Sand Creek. Interviews with local historians and Buddhist monks are woven with historical photographs and film into the drama.

Motus Theater is committed to making a film of each of our award winning productions so we can continue the conversation after the run of the live theater production is over

The People who Make it Possible

Executive Producers

\$5000 +

Audrey Fishman Franklin
Boulder Arts Commission
Boulder County Arts Alliance
Bradford Armstrong & Julie Dolin
El Centro Amistad
Gini Coefficient Fund
Jared Polis Foundation
Kim & Ethan Decker
Margery Goldman
Millennium Trust Endowment
Nancy Lee & Marie C. Wilson
National Endowment for the Arts
Three Swallows Foundation

Producers

\$1000- \$4999

Barbara Dobkin
Chinook Fund
David J. Kirk
City of Lafayette
David W. Ensign
Eugene Wilson Senior
Human Relations Commission of
the City of Boulder
Londa Weisman
Mountain Sun Pubs & Brewery
M.O. Dines
Margaret Harris
Puffin Foundation LTD

Motus Catalysts

\$250- \$999

Alexis Miles
Alex & Grant Besser
CCM Foundation
Community First Foundation
Community United Church of Christ
Doug & Christy Speirn-Smith
Felicia Furman
Gail Hollander
Glenda Russell
Harry A. Doyle
Israel Family Foundation
Janie Oakes
Janet Heimer
Jared Polis
Jenny Warburg
Joann M. Hyle & Kathryn Kolbert
Lynn Israel
Nicky Wolman
Scott Raderstorf
Shifra Bronznick
Teresa Myrwang Holum
The GE Foundation
The Hope Fund
Vin Alabiso & Pam Tibbets
Wendy Baring-Gould
Boulder County Community Services Dept.

Motus Members

\$120- \$249

Aicila Lewis & Tim Murray
Erika Blum
Fidelity Charitable
Gina Lasky
Helen Rowe-Drake
Janis Bohan
John Heckscher
Laurel and Steve Herndon
Michael Moore
Michele Stephenson
Rollie & Josie Heath Family Fund
Sally Powell-Ashby & John Ashby
Sandy Youngmans
Scott Simpson

Motus Arrows

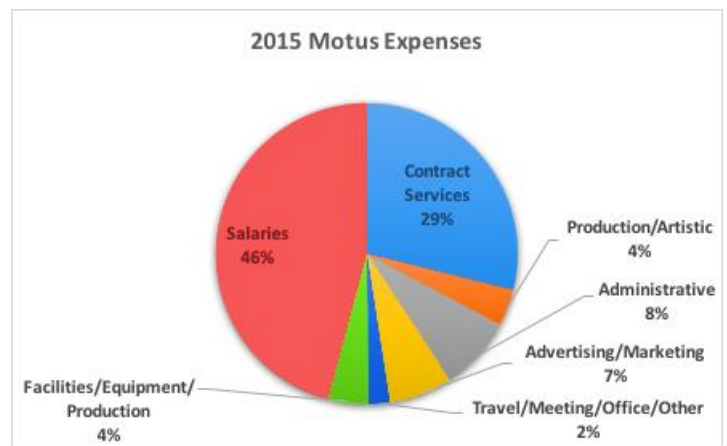
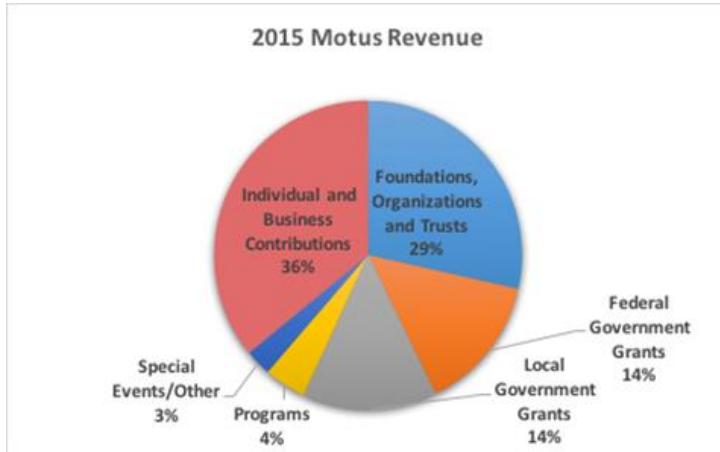
\$1- \$119

Abby Hickcox
Adrian & Margaret Vieth
Adrianna Abarca
Aiden Hovde
Alan Schwartz
Alejandro Juarez
Alexis Halkovic
Alice Arrington
Amy & Jonathon Keljo
Andrea Iglesias
Anita Blume Ralph
Barbara Dilley
Barrio E
Bayard & John Cobb
Bob Norris
Cait McQuade & Joe Polman
Carl Gentzel
Carmen & Ray Ramirez
Carole Zimmer
Carrie Siefer
Cedar Barstow
Courtney Banayad
Craig Decker & Susan Haas
Dan Baum
Dana Lobell
Dana James
Daniel Winterhalter
Dave Howell
David Friedman
Dawn & Mary Pat
Deb Gardner
Deborah A. Ramirez
Dena Gitterman
Dennis Berry
Diana C. Haskell
Donald Cristo
Donald Terrell
Eliberto Mendoza
Elise Jones
Eugene Wilson III
Family Robles
Flor Gordivas
Flor Marquez
George K. Weir
Ginger Brown

Motus Arrows Cont...

Isolde Stewart
J. Akiyama
James Hoskins
Jan Kohn
Jane Houssiere
Jean Hertzberg
Jennifer Allyn
Jennifer & Peter J. Merlin
Jersey Community
Joan Bruemmer-Holden
John Shapiro
Jon Thompson
Juan Juarez
Judith Sumner
Judy Ann Ulrich
Julie Piller
Julie Rosthchild
Karen Raforth
Karen Sherman Perez
Kappy Hall
Isolde Stewart
Lee Lazar
Linda Jones & Cheryl Dougherty
Linda Lee
Lois Braverman
Lorenzo Gonzalez
Lorraine Fairmont
Maren Waldman
Martin & Suzanne Oppenheimer
Mary Horrocks
Mary Jarrett
Maya Dansie & Juan Stewart
Milton R. Ospina & Ann M. Morrill
Mim Neal
Monica Breed
Nancy & Fred Garcia
Nicki & Dan Dayley
Nicole Circ
Nicole Hurt
Nicole Lambert
Nicole Neal
Nicky McCord
Noel Rowe
Parent Engagement Network
Philanthropiece Foundaiton
Rebecca Brown Adelman
Regina Gray
Reynold Feldman
Richard McIntosh
Sandra Laursen
Sabrina Sideris
Sally E. Wright
Sondra Blanchard
Sarah Elliston
Schneeweiss Cole Family
Sheila Goetz
Sophia Clark
Susi Windeler
Suzanne Janssen
Suzanne Jones
The Moses de la Vega Family
Vesenia Beascocheu
Virginia Corsi

Financial Statement 2015



2015 Annual Report – Motus Financials

Motus Theater experienced another year of financial stability and growth in 2015, ending the year with \$101,987 in total assets. The organization brought in over \$200,000 in revenue while realizing less than \$150,000 in expenses. Our positive net income of \$50,245 for the year provides us with a revenue carry-over into 2016 that will be used to further our original theater productions as well as the One Action collaboration. With our expanded Board of Directors, we are very pleased to report that the percentage of the organization's revenue from Individual and Business Contributions was increased from 21% in 2014 to 36% in 2015 (a 372% increase in dollar amount).

Motus continues to assure that over 80% of expenses directly support our programs. As we continue to operate as efficiently as possible, we greatly appreciate the support from all of our friends, donors, and community members.

Our Amazing Supporters & Partners



Dates to Remember

Aug 20 Fringe Festival presents *Do You Know Who I Am?*

Aug 27 Fringe Festival presents *Rocks, Karma, Arrows*

Sept 17 Louisville Cultural Council presents *Do You Know Who I Am?*

Sept 24 *SALSA Lotería Monologues*, Spanish Language Live Performance

Oct 10 *SALSA Lotería Monologues*, Spanish Language Live Performance

Dec 06 Colorado Gives Day!

Get involved!

Motus Theater does a lot with a little. And we do that because we have amazing committed volunteers who make so much happen.

We will have 3 board positions opening up this fall. If you would like to be part of the magic of Motus Theater, please contact: boardchair@motustheater.org to learn more about how to get involved as a board member.

We also need Spanish speaking volunteers to support our fall performances of SALSA. If you would like to support our events, please email volunteer@motustheater.org to learn more.



Volunteers provided 1,647 hours to Motus Theater programs and projects in 2015 for a value of \$37,996.

MOTUS THEATER
MOTUSTHEATER.ORG

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