Our New Strategic Framework
Mission & Vision

MISSION

Bonfils-Stanton Foundation invests in inclusive, diverse, and equitable arts & culture and nonprofit leaders to create a thriving and just Denver.

VISION

Denver is a diverse, vibrant community where arts and culture are essential, relevant and accessible to all, and nonprofit leaders have the tools and support they need to lead with vision, creativity, compassion and equity.
Values

Champion Equity
Take action to undo systemic inequities – racism, ableism, and LGBTQ+ discrimination, and their intersections, and more. Examine assumptions that inform institutional, cultural, political, and economic norms, and counter them in a manner that promotes belonging and justice.

Better Together
Work collaboratively with community members and partners toward solutions that nurture connection, honor our shared future, and deepen our impact.

Continually Learning
Listen, reflect, and respond to what we learn from the community. As we evolve, we acknowledge and learn from our history but are not bound by it.

Steward Responsibly
Carry out our work and manage our resources with integrity, honesty, and transparency.

Imagine What is Possible
Pursue opportunities to encourage creativity and innovation and catalyze change.
Our Strategic Vision

Our new Strategic Framework began by identifying Bonfils-Stanton Foundation’s big questions which included:

1. **What impact is the Foundation working towards, and in what timeline?**
2. **How should we prioritize or increase resource allocations to achieve impact goals?**
3. **How can we best reflect the organization’s commitment to racial equity in our work?**
4. **What are the best ways to focus with equal passion and purpose on both arts and leadership?**

**Why a new strategic framework now?**

Strategic planning helps us ensure that our work makes sense in the context of a changing world, and is achieving the desired impact. We reflected on events in recent years, from changing demographics in the community, COVID, the urgent need to combat racism, inequity and injustice, to evolving perspectives on how best to practice equitable philanthropy. Our reflection reshaped our current thinking around the foundation’s potential in a unique and transformational way. The time had come to translate our aspirations to use our resources to maximize impact into a new strategic framework.
Our Journey of Transformation

Bonfils-Stanton Foundation invests in inclusive, diverse, and equitable arts and culture organizations and nonprofit leaders to create a thriving and just Denver. For the past ten years, we have been on a journey of transformation, first through implementing a targeted philanthropic focus on arts and culture, a commitment to continue our focus on nonprofit leadership, and a commitment to prioritize equity in every aspect of what we do.
Informed by Community

This strategic framework is a plan born of collaboration, informed by the community, deeply rooted in equity, self-reflection and humility. It is a guide and not a blueprint, and supports our belief that we must be flexible and nimble to be effective. As we continue to learn, we will adjust. We are more dedicated than ever to championing arts, culture and leadership and elevating awareness of the importance of the arts to inspire, connect, impact our economy, build bridges between cultures and create a community where all people can thrive.

We reached out to a wide array of stakeholders to inform our strategic framework – including grant partners, Fellows, community leaders, and other funders.
As a result of the commitment and collaboration between the Board, staff, and community, Bonfils-Stanton Foundation has emerged from this process with new clarity on our strategy to invest in the arts, culture, and nonprofit leadership, our role as a leader in elevating the visibility of the arts to expand investment in the sector, and our commitment to equity and systemic change to create a thriving, just Denver community.
goals

GOAL 1
Strengthen cultural organizations and increase arts engagement through grantmaking.

GOAL 2
Nurture creative, transformational nonprofit leaders and artists.

GOAL 3
Elevate the visibility and value of the arts, cultural heritage and identity.

GOAL 4
Intentionally investing our financial assets to align with our values and support our programmatic objectives.

GOAL 5
Operationalize the foundation’s values in every aspect of our work.
GOAL 1
Strengthen cultural organizations and increase arts engagement through grantmaking.

We are committed to creating and implementing innovative and accessible grantmaking initiatives that support our values around championing equity. We offer several grantmaking initiatives that are designed to support organizations and projects at levels that are most appropriate and comfortable for their scale, stage of development and future trajectory. Many are designed to specifically support historically underrepresented and under-resourced communities. Some highlights include:

- Technical Assistance Grant Program
- Inclusive Communities Grant Program
- Capacity Building Cohort Program
- Creative Community Resiliency Program
- Collaborative Funding Programs
**GOAL 2**

Nurture creative, transformational nonprofit leaders and artists.

Our communities are more vibrant and welcoming due in large part to the creativity, care and commitment demonstrated by Denver Metro's nonprofit leaders and artists. In recognition of the vital roles each play in leading transformational change, our strategic framework continues Bonfils-Stanton Foundation's long-standing tradition of investing in visionary leaders.

- Livingston Fellowship Program
- Artist Recognition Awards Program
- Arts+ Grants supporting arts-based Fellow collaboration
- Grants to support other equity-based leadership eco-system programs
- Collective vision impact – foster more collaboration among Fellows towards systemic change
GOAL 3
Elevate the visibility and value of the arts, cultural heritage and identity.

We know that beyond our philanthropy, we can play an important role in communicating and advocating for the critical value of the arts in our community and the importance of the arts being equitably available. With a dedicated focus in this area under a new staff position, we strive to be storytellers, not simply funders. We are committed to advancing a strategic, comprehensive approach to strengthen the Foundation’s leadership role advocating for the arts and to expand community investments in the arts, culture and nonprofit leadership, as well as heighten the visibility of grant partners and Livingston Fellows.

- Create new Communications Director position and function
- Engage in field research and advocacy
- Utilize our space and voice as a convener
GOAL 4
Intentionally investing our financial assets to align with our values and support our programmatic objectives.

Alongside our traditional grantmaking we are investing our endowment in support of our mission and in alignment with our values; intentionally driving positive impact while continuing to achieve our financial objectives.

- Mission Aligned Investments
- Program Related Investments
GOAL 5
Operationalize the foundation's values in every aspect of our work.

As part of our strategic planning and focus, we have reimagined our Foundation's Core Values and are dedicated to bringing them to life in all areas of our work, our culture, and our interactions with the community. The first of these values, to “Champion Equity,” is especially important as we are deeply committed to becoming an anti-racist organization. We are dedicated to these values and will hold each other accountable to these in all we do, from how we serve the community to how we steward and invest our assets.
Visit these pages of our website to learn more about our strategic framework:

- Mission, Vision and Equity/Values
- The Process
- Goals and Actions
- Glossary of Terms