

# News & Success Stories from Around the Region

March 2019



## Breckenridge invests in creative industries with funds from NEA grant

*BreckCreates receives \$65,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts*

source: [Summit Daily News article 2/19/19 by Eli Pace](#)

The National Endowment of the Arts must have its sights set on Breckenridge because the small resort town continues to rack up high-dollar grants from the independent federal agency dedicated to promoting art. Officials at [Breckenridge Creative Arts](#) were naturally thrilled to hear they got the highest amount awarded in the state of Colorado through the NEA's latest round of grant-making, but this is actually the third NEA grant awarded within the past two years for the BCA's work.



*Artist Michael Grab carefully stacks the rocks in Blue River in part of Breckenridge International Festival of the Arts in Breckenridge.*

"For us, this latest award marks \$205,000 in NEA funding that BCA has received between 2018 and 2019 through NEA's Art Works and Our Town funding programs," said Robb Woulfe, the nonprofit's president and CEO, adding that it's a pretty good run for such a young arts organization. "We take great pride in the work we're doing, and how it is resonating in the community." "The arts enhance our communities and our lives and we look forward to seeing these projects take place throughout the country, giving Americans opportunities to learn, to create, to heal and to celebrate," said Mary Ann Carter, acting chair of the NEA, in a statement. With that, the BCA's most recent grant will support the inclusion of contemporary artworks in a series of multidisciplinary festivals, as well as a summer exhibition program.

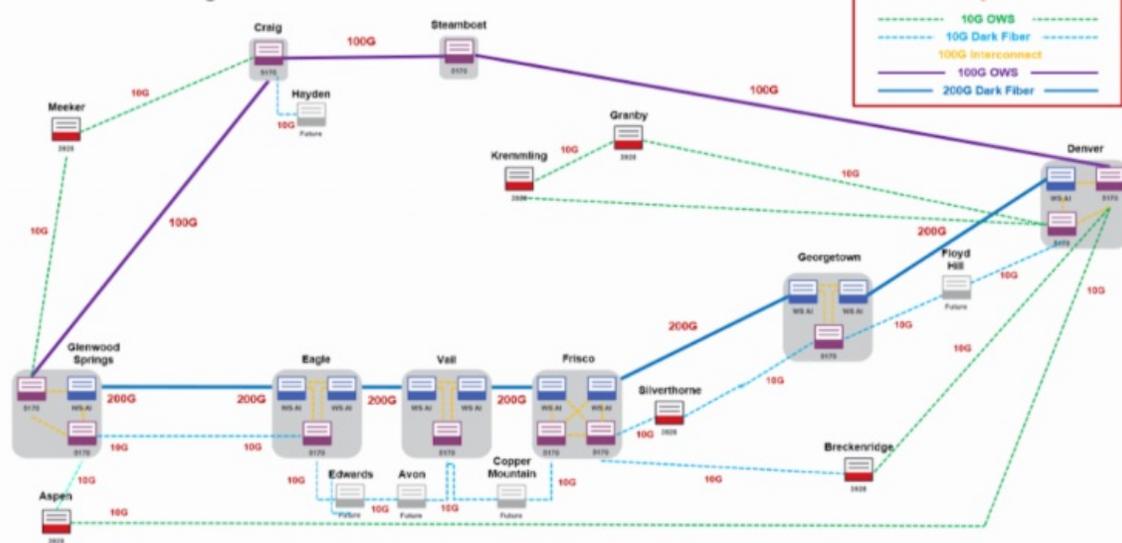
## Rocky Mountain National Park has record-setting year

Officials of the National Park Service reported that 4,590,492 people visited Rocky Mountain National Park in 2018 to establish a new record for visitation. It topped the previous record, set in 2016, by about 73,000, and represented an increase of about 3.5 percent over 2017. Although numbers were down in October, November and December, they were offset by very strong visitor numbers in September. Seven of the 10 busiest days in the park were in September, with the other three in July and August. [Source: 9News](#)



## Town of Eagle buys in to Project THOR

source: [Vail Daily, 3/29/19](#)



*Project THOR's proposed network*

The Town of Eagle Town Board voted in favor of allocating \$308,000 to bring fiber-optic cable to town as part of Project THOR, a "middle-mile" broadband project coordinated by the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments. THOR creates a 178-mile fiber optic loop connecting from Denver through Steamboat Springs, Craig, Glenwood Springs to Eagle and then on to Frisco to Georgetown and Denver. It connects to the fiber-optic already installed along the Interstate 70 corridor by the Colorado Department of Transportation. This loop will reach up to 12 community centers around the region.

### **What is Project THOR?**

THOR would be like an internet version of a high-speed train track around northwest Colorado. The metaphorical stations would be at locations along the route. Right now, nine communities have signed letters of intent to be part of the system. As many as 12 communities might sign on. Eagle's center, for instance, would be the Eagle Town Hall. In exchange for agreeing to host a center, communities get the bandwidth that they may not have. They also get "resiliency," a backup system in case their main system goes down. A system failure can happen with something as simple as a backhoe operator cutting the cable. Roughly \$1 million of the \$2.5 million total pricetag is hardware and startup costs. Colorado's Department of Local Affairs is providing a \$1 million grant to cover part of that. The rest will come from towns and other entities that join the co-op. If more entities join the costs go down; if fewer join the costs go up.

THOR is a project of the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments. NWCCOG contracted with Mammoth, a Gillette, Wyoming firm, to build it. For more information on Project THOR contact Nate Walowitz, NWCCOG Regional Broadband Director, 970.455.1064, [Nwalowitz@nwccog.org](mailto:Nwalowitz@nwccog.org).

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