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 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
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 Action: 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.

AWARDS

People of the Year

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.

Do You Know Who I Am?
was coproduced by Motus Theater and Café Cultura as part of the Biennial.
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 Center, 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.

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
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
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.

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.
### 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

### 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 Younghans
- Scott Simpson

### Motus Arrows

**$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. Ensing
- 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 Arrows Cont...

- Isolde Stewart
- J. Akiyama
- James Hoskins
- Jan Kohn
- Jane Houssiere
- Jean Hertzberg
- Jennifer Allyn
- Jennifer & Peter J. Merlin
- Jersey Community
- Joan Bruegger-Holden
- John Shapiro
- Jon Thompson
- Juan Juarez
- Judith Sumner
- Judy Ann Ulrich
- Julie Piller
- Julie Rostchild
- Karen Raforth
- Karen Sherman Perez
- Kappi Hall
- Isolde Stewart
- Lee Lazar
- Linda Jones & Cheryl Doughtery
- 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
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.
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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BOULDER CO 80304