Join us as we explore connections and community!

NETS help us catch good things, and let other things pass through. They also are, literally, a weaving of different strands. A net needs to be sized correctly...too small, and you cannot catch a lot, and too big and it is unwieldy to use. Like nets, networks catch good things, and help to weave communities together.

Conference: Every 2 years CBA people gather somewhere in the USA, for 3 days of full-on engagement, presentations, and hands-on projects. Conference goers gather and share skills, strengthen old connections, make new connections, and increase their ability to "catch good things". It is a venue to enjoy old friends, make new BFFs, and get energized about what we do in the world. Participants will meet at various locations around Colorado Springs, with the center of operations at the Penrose Library in downtown Colorado Springs.

Bootcamp: Initiated in 2014, the Bootcamp kicks off 5 days in advance of the conference, and is designed for emerging community-built professionals, and offers tons of growth, 13 hour days, and FUNFUNFUN. Bootcampers will cook together, learn together, and rub elbows with experienced practitioners of the community-built world. Bootcampers will help facilitate many aspects of the conference, and will gain many new skills. The Bootcamp will be centered at the Manitou Art Center in downtown Manitou Springs. (see below for full schedule, testimonials, and registration info)

Conference Schedule

THURSDAY APRIL 28 Penrose Library - Carnegie Room
5–6pm: Welcome and dinner, with Bootcampers, and Birgitta De Pree of the Millibo Art Theater
6 - 6:30pm: “Community Built Improv” by Jared Harp and Lacey Maynard, of Stick Horses in Pants
6:30-7:15 pm: “The Art of Play” – by CBA Board President Tom Arie Donch
7:30 - 8:30pm: “Two years later”: 2014 Bootcampers Roundtable
8:30 to 9pm: Conference schedule reviewed, followed by sign ups for designated
networking hubs for Friday’s lunch.
9pm: Lets meet at Phantom Canyon (brew pub across the street from the library).

Friday, April 29: Penrose Library – Carnegie Room
8am to 9am: coffee and meet-up
9am to 10am Keynote Address: Jun-Li Wang: Working with Local Artists to Tackle Community Challenges
10:30 to 11:30am choice of two presentations:
A Group: Working with Schools Laurie Wood/Mark Rivera/Jeff Mather (Carnegie Room)
B Group: Nature Play: Re-wilding Playgrounds Leon Smith (PPCC Downtown Studio)

11:30 to 1pm: meet-up lunch groups, or brown bag at the mural site or Pueblo Avenue (CC office)
(PARKS and PLAYGROUNDS) Leon Smith, Sam Kornhauser at MCCABES (15)
(PLANNING) Ryan Tefertiller, Mark Lakeman at NOSH (15)
(SERVICE) Steve Ramussen-Cancian, Art Goodtimes at RICOS (12)
(MURALS) Caryl Yasko, Jerry Lapham, Niki Glen at MED CAFE (8)
(CREATIVE COMMUNITY) Jun-Li Wang, Deborah Thornton, Brian Elyo at SEEDS (12)

1 to 4PM: afternoon groups:
-meet-up at Carnegie room for presentations: John Pitman Weber and Sonja Henderson: Carving brick and an update on CPAG mosaics*, Meg Tilley Anderson: THE LONG AND THE SHORT OF IT: using planning tools for projects ,Sam Kornhauser: Playgrounds and Participation
-work at either site
-CSFAC/CS downtown art tour with Blake Milteer of the CS Fine Art Center (meet at front of Library at 1:30pm)

4 to 5pm: Informal meet-up at CC office, 214 East Vermijo Avenue, 80903
5 to 5:45pm BBQ dinner @ Community Prep School
5:45pm to 6:30pm: Who Does our Work Serve? by Steve Rasmussen-Cancian of Shared Spaces and Union de Vecinos. Who do you hope to serve in terms of class, culture, race, gender and age? How can you be sure to serve who you set out to reach? What would it take to serve everybody? This talk will engage the audience in answering these questions for their own work and the Community Built effort.

6:30 to 7PM meet and greet with Donna and Diane at Packard Hall, Colorado College (902 North Cascade.
7pm to 8:30pm Art Science Fusion presentation Expect the Unexpected Donna Billick and Diane Ullman at Packard Hall, Colorado College.
8:30: Announcements and sign-up for Saturday designated networking lunch groups.
8:30 to 10:30pm: After-party at McCabes Tavern 520 South Tejon, 80903, with the CC Jam Band (BRING YOUR INSTRUMENT!!)

Saturday, April 30 - Penrose Library - Carnegie Room
8am to 9am: coffee and meet-up
9 to 10am keynote address: Mark Lakeman: Creating Community (Carnegie Room)
10:30 to 11:30: two choices:
This panel will address (among other things) placemaking, “build a better blocks”, public-private partnerships, creative fundraising, competitions for designing and building parks, working (and not working) with municipalities. Moderated by Steve Rasmussen-Cancian.(Carnegie Room)
B Group: The Critical Craftsman: The Importance of Penelope. Craft, making, and stewardship will be examined in direct context with the conference theme “Nets and Networks” via three short and unique tales: The Olive Tree, a tale of mythical origin; Ice + Sand, a commissioned installation; and People and Faces, a community design+build project. Each will provide a specific thread that ultimately weaves a discussion highlighting the importance and necessity of critical craftsmanship and its capacity to concretize communities.

11:30 to 1pm: lunch with networking groups, or Walkabout (see below), or brown bag at project sites
WEST) Steve Rasmussen-Cancian, Mark Lakeman at LUAUS TACO SHOP (10)
(SOUTH) Meg Anderson, Jeff Mather, and Helen Helwig at MCCABES (15)
11:30am to 4pm: afternoon groups:

**Movies at the Library!** 2pm: **Talking Walls**, 23 minutes, a film by Nancy Bentley about the Colorado Springs mural movement, and a call for more funding for arts. Nancy will be on hand for Q and A. 2:35pm: **Called to Walls**, a film by Amber Hansen and Nicholas Ward about mid-west community-built murals, and the CBA muralist David Loewenstein. Amber will be on hand, along with featured muralist Katherine Hart, for Q and A.

- 1 to 4pm: **Outside the Wire: Building Community After War**: Ben Morgen and Candace Younghans, at Penrose Library front patio by Cascade Avenue.
- 1 to 4pm: work at either site

4 to 5pm: informal gathering at CC office 214 East Vermijo Avenue, 80903
5pm to 6:15pm: **Invitation** to join the CBA board (voting at 8pm), dinner/theater/poetry/mime/mash-up
6:15 to 6:45pm: **CBA movie** This 20 minute segment has been compiled by Amanda Larson from old CBA film footage.
6:45 to 7:30pm: Tom Arie Donch slideshow of awardee’s work, followed by **Jimmy Jolly Award presentation**. 7:30pm to 8pm: Prospective Board members **speak**, followed by **voting**.
8 to 8:30pm: Presentation by Bootcampers on planning groups for CBA 2018 and mini conferences, and discussion.
8:30 to 9pm: announcement of new board members
9 to 11pm: Dance to the music of the **Phat Horn Doctors** at the Gold Room, 18 South Nevada, 80903

**Sunday, May 1: In Manitou Springs at The Manitou Art Center, 515 Manitou Avenue, Manitou Springs 80829**

8 to 9:30am: breakfast and networking
9:30 to 10am: conference evaluations by Bootcampers.
10am to 11am: Breakouts:
A) Walking tour of Manitou Springs community built projects, mineral springs, and other sights.
B) Meet the Manitou Springs Arts Council and hear about their multi-media community art project called “Manitou Soules: A Spirit Journey in Colorado” presented by Shanti Toll. Following Shanti’s presentation get a tour of the MAC, including Makerspace, galleries, art studios, and Outbac Studio.
C) Visit the Manitou Springs Heritage Center; Tour giver is Michelle Anthony, Manitou Springs Planner.

11 to noon: **Talking Gourd ceremony** – Art Goodtimes (if nice weather at Seven Minute Springs amphitheater)

The **Talking Gourd Ceremony officially ends the 2016 CBA conference, but please stick around for afternoon activities and tours. Visit the Garden of the Gods, Manitou Springs, soak in the tubs at the Sunwater Spa (see below), hike Red Mountain, etc. See below:**

Noon: Soup at the MAC, our treat!

Noon to 9pm: soak at the **Sunwater Spa** 514 El Paso Blvd. (The soak is complementary for conference attendees, but please bring a suit, towel, and be prepared to spend 5 minutes filling out their waiver form at the front desk).
The 2016 CBA Conference Bootcamp is an opportunity for 25 prospective or emerging community builders and leaders to learn about community built practices, through hands-on experiences and interactive presentations. Who are potential Bootcampers? People who are working at an organization where they need more group facilitation skills; artists or musicians or gardeners who hope to engage their community more in their practice; established professionals who are seeking more refined skills in the area of community building; and others who want to engage, learn and have an empowering week with like-minded people!

The Bootcamp staff members are engaged people from many different fields, who all revel in engaging the community in what they do. The seven staff members include: Jun-Li Wang, Steve Rasmussen-Cancian, Amanda Larson, Art Goodtimes, Donna Billick, Mark Lakeman, and Steve Wood.

Fees for the Bootcamp are $500, inclusive of housing, meals, CBA membership and conference fees.
We encourage prospective Bootcampers to seek out an organization or granting agency from your local community to help subside these fees: you will return energized and ready to make a difference in your community! Additionally some scholarship money is available through CBA.

Participants must talk with a CBA organizer prior to registration, to ensure that the program is a good fit.
Call or text Steve at 719-373-7694 or e-mail steve@concretecouch.org to set up an interview.

Bootcampers will live cooperatively, assist with food preparation and be ready to perform whatever jobs need to be done. They will attend and facilitate the regular conference, including hosting the kick-off evening, assisting presenters, orienting others to project locations and operations, and facilitate an end-of-conference evaluation process. Each day starts at 8am and continues until 9pm.

Bootcampers are expected to show up, work hard, and bring their “A” game to the table.

Bootcampers will learn various construction skills, how to develop and make presentations, group facilitation skills, engage in various learning modalities, (including role-plays and discussion groups), evaluation strategies, fundraising skills, asset mapping and general
community building practices.

We want your Bootcamp experience to be exemplary, and we will work with you before the conference to plan for any component of the experience, including framing goals and expectations, funding, and travel.

**Testimonials:**

“The CBA Bootcamp was an incredible experience! Such a positive atmosphere with outstanding instructors and a fantastic group of individuals coming together to build community through creative projects. The instructors gave us great insights and strategies from their work, and we learned new techniques in the hands-on workshops. So many new experiences that sparked inspiration and which led to a collaboration with another bootcamper (We created a community mosaic in Germany) and there are more projects to come”. – Bianca Nandzik, 2014 Bootcamper

“I attended the 2014 CBA Bootcamp and Conference in Davis, CA. During that week, I learned the skills necessary to run and execute a community build by working alongside 25 young professionals from all over the country making 4 art benches, a street intersection mural and a 100 ft long bike tunnel mural. We all mentored under well established and respected community builders, who led both the projects and lectures on various aspects of community builds. That week inspired and excited me to pursue my own projects and continues to this day.”

– Jerry Lapham, 2014 Bootcamper

**Bootcamp Schedule**

@ Manitou Art Center in Manitou Springs *(Unless Noted)*

**Saturday April 23:** Bootcamp starts in Manitou Springs
5pm to 9pm: Dinner, introductions, schedule, housing, food, and other nuts and bolts

**Sunday April 24**
8am to 9am: Breakfast (meet Becky Pontz, Queen of the Kitchens)
9am to noon: Introductions Part 2; facilitating introductions, ice-breakers; GOALS of Bootcampers.
Noon to 1pm: Lunch
1 to 5pm: Walking tour of Manitou Springs Community Built Projects (community welcome)
MAC-MSES-Main Street-Fountain Creek walk-Safe Routes Bridge- end at Sunwater to soak?
5 to 6: dinner prep
6 to 7pm: dinner
7 to 7:30pm: Meg Tilley Anderson: *Mennonite model of conflict resolution*
7:30 to 9: Mark Lakeman: *gathering your community*
Monday, April 24
9am to 11:15: Steve Wood and Amanda Larsen: conference overview and planning
11:15am to noon: Birgitta De Pree: using theater as a teaching tool
1 to 4pm: projects/install
4 to 5pm: Ben and Candace: The Radical Act of Feeling! Sentimental Planning as the Decision Making Process
6 to 7: BBQ hosted by Collaborative for Community Engagement and Art for Social Change, Colorado College
7 to 9PM: Steve Rasmussen-Cancian: improving your community

Tuesday, April 26
9 to 9:30am: Meg Tilley Anderson: tried n true project planning methods
9:30 to 10:30am: Donna Billick: why we do what we do
10:30 to 11:30am: conference planning part two
11:30 to noon: Art Goodtimes: finding your voice
1 to 4pm: projects
5:30 to 7pm: dinner at CC office
7pm to 8:30pm, Gallery of Contemporary Art (GOCA), University of Colorado Colorado Springs
“Chit Chat” with Mark Lakeman and Art Goodtimes audience participation
Mark: how to make government work for Us. Art: How government works for You (help us help you).

Wednesday, April 27
9 to 10am: Jun-Li: starting initiatives in your community
10 to 11am: Amanda Larsen: moving forward (in life and career)
11:30am to 1pm: brown bag lunch with Jun-Li Wang: Mobilizing Local Artists to Solve Challenges in Your Community at Manitou Springs City Hall
2 to 5pm: Projects on Pueblo Avenue with Brian Elyo and others
5:30 to 7pm: dinner at the MAC
7 to 8pm: conference plan in detail- roles for each Bootcamper
8 to 9pm: Jun-Li, Mark, Steve Rasmussen-Cancian: networking, funding, moving forward

Thursday, April 28
FREE DAY: personal time for Bootcampers until 4:30pm.
9am to noon: Donna and Diane visit the Geo Department at Colorado College.
11:30am to 1pm: Downtown Partnership small group luncheon for Jun-Li Wang
4:30pm: Bootcampers gather for set-up (Penrose Library - Carnegie Room).

CONFERENCE PROJECTS:
Project 1 - Penrose Public Library Mosaic
This large-scale ceramic tile, mosaic and relief steel mural is being implemented during the spring leading up to the conference. Five local "Hub Groups" have been formed and are fabricating mosaic panels which will be installed the week before the conference. Direct application between the mosaic panels will occur during the Bootcamp and conference. Each Hub Group will work on the wall with Bootcampers during scheduled installation sessions. During the conference CBA members and Colorado mosaic artists will join forces to complete the mural. This project is a collaboration between Pikes Peak Library District, Concrete Couch, the 5 Hub groups, local business, city government, other organizations, and many individuals.
Project 2 - Pueblo Avenue Community Build
Like the Penrose Library mural, this project is in operation now, with a weekly Hub Group meeting to design and plan various simple, temporary installations to beautify and enliven a somewhat neglected street in Colorado Springs. Pueblo Avenue was originally platted to be a beautiful promenade towards (and scenic view of ) one of the Spring’s most prominent buildings (originally the county courthouse, it currently operates as the Pioneer’s Museum). The street is now mixed use commercial, and this effort is designed to highlight the unique nature of the area, while maintaining current public usage. Construction and installation of various street enhancements will take place during the conference. There will also be opportunities to design more ambitious street developments, through various design charette processes held during the Bootcamp and conference. This project is a collaboration between Colorado Springs Urban Intervention (CSUI), Concrete Couch, architect and community leader Brian Elyo, local business, city government, other organizations, and many individuals.