

# University Technical Assistance Program 2018 Annual Report



**COLORADO**  
Department of Local Affairs



Colorado Center  
for Community Development  
COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER

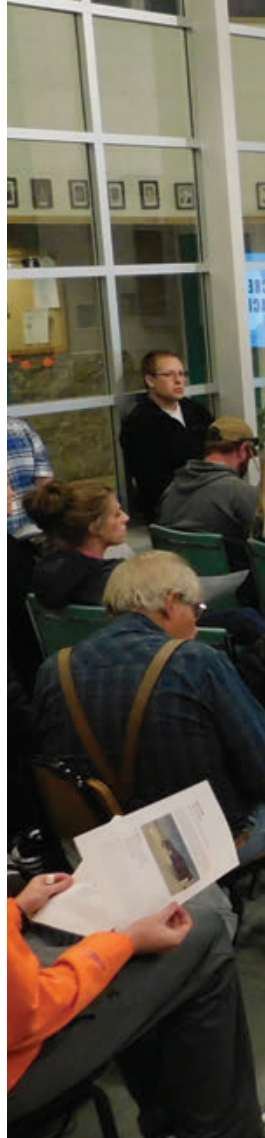
# DOLA

*& the* University *of*  
Colorado Denver

The Division of Local Government within the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) was created, in part, to provide technical assistance and information to local governments on available federal and state programs and act as a liaison with other state agencies concerned with local governments. With eight regional managers around the state, local government needs are identified, and resources channeled to help meet those needs.

# UTA

The University Technical Assistance Program (UTA) is a unique partnership between CCCD and DOLA that provides technical design assistance to rural communities that may not have access to resources needed for public improvement projects. UTA offers graduate students in architecture, landscape architecture and planning, opportunities to transform knowledge into hands-on experience by working with clients on real projects. Communities see projects move forward from ideas to concepts that can be used to build local support and seek funding. An estimated 75% of UTA projects are ultimately implemented.





# CCCD

The Colorado Center for Community Development (CCCD) is a clinical teaching practice within the College of Architecture and Planning at the University of Colorado Denver. Our mission is to provide students with real world experience in architecture, landscape architecture, planning and other disciplines as they provide communities with needed technical assistance to move public improvement projects forward. Communities benefit as CCCD strives to enhance quality of life through collaboration, innovative design and research. Together, we become partners in the assistance process, expanding our shared capacity to envision and realize projects of significant public impact.

**92**  
public meetings  
in front of over  
2300 local  
residents in 2018

## Our Mission

Every day, through the University Technical Assistance program, students and staff collaborate across disciplines to help Colorado communities realize their potential through creative placemaking solutions.

**52% of  
Coloradans  
have benefited  
from UTA  
projects**

An architectural rendering of a modern, multi-story building with a courtyard. The building features a mix of wood and metal siding. A large tree stands in the courtyard, and a colorful mural is visible on the wall. People are shown walking and standing in the courtyard, and a dog is visible in the foreground. The background shows a mountain range under a cloudy sky.

**Completed  
projects are  
expected to provide  
at least 42 new/  
permanent job  
opportunities with  
a total income  
potential of over  
\$2,000,000!**

# A Letter from the Director



This year, in preparing this particular report, the UTA team took on the task of doing a five year retrospective. We wanted to be forward looking, even as we recounted our experiences, and yes, lessons learned. That led us to some fundamental questions. Boiling it down to the essentials: What do we ‘make’? For whom? Why?

Such questions can lead to claims so abstract as to be useless. However, in the course of this exercise, I came across a new book entitled *Palaces for the People: How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequality, Polarization, and the Decline of Civic Life*. While an ambitious claim, the argument resonated quite well with what we do here at the Colorado Center for Community Development through the University Technical Assistance program. Eric Klinenberg, the author, specifically illustrates the importance of community centers, pocket parks, civic gathering spaces, town halls, libraries, etc. as not just niceties, but as the essential social infrastructure for allowing neighbors to meet, help, and learn from each other. He chooses the word infrastructure carefully. While not roads nor sewers, the places he describes make communities better places to live.

The connection to our work here is that not only do our projects (many highlighted in this report) result in a “nice amenity,” but they can also contribute to healthier, more

economically robust, and we hope, happier communities across Colorado. Our student employees come to understand and appreciate the value and potential of these communities. We hope these experiences will be transformative for them as well.

Clearly, we, as professionals and educators at the University of Colorado Denver, could do none of this without our partners at the Colorado Department of Local Affairs and those many communities across the state, with which we have had the privilege to work. The “win-win-win” here is evident to us, and for that we thank our many colleagues. So to answer my initial questions: we make our partners’ vision be better understood through the images, plans, presentations, and reports we prepare; and we do it because the future will be better as a result of the next generation of “citizen makers” working for and with the legacy and vision we find in the many towns and counties in which we work.

With best wishes,

**2018 Program Funding:**

**\$667,582**

**Salaries & Benefits: \$331,176**

**Travel & Operating: \$89,134**

**Student Salaries: \$247,272**

# Project Map

In 2018, 23 projects were completed throughout Colorado, with the majority of them being design and planning projects. The state is served by three UTA field supervisors who work in partnership with DOLA managers in their regions, as shown on the map. Since 2013, a total of 132 design projects have now been completed. Currently, 30 of those projects are built or are under construction. The map indicates the locations of current and past projects.

## Western Slope

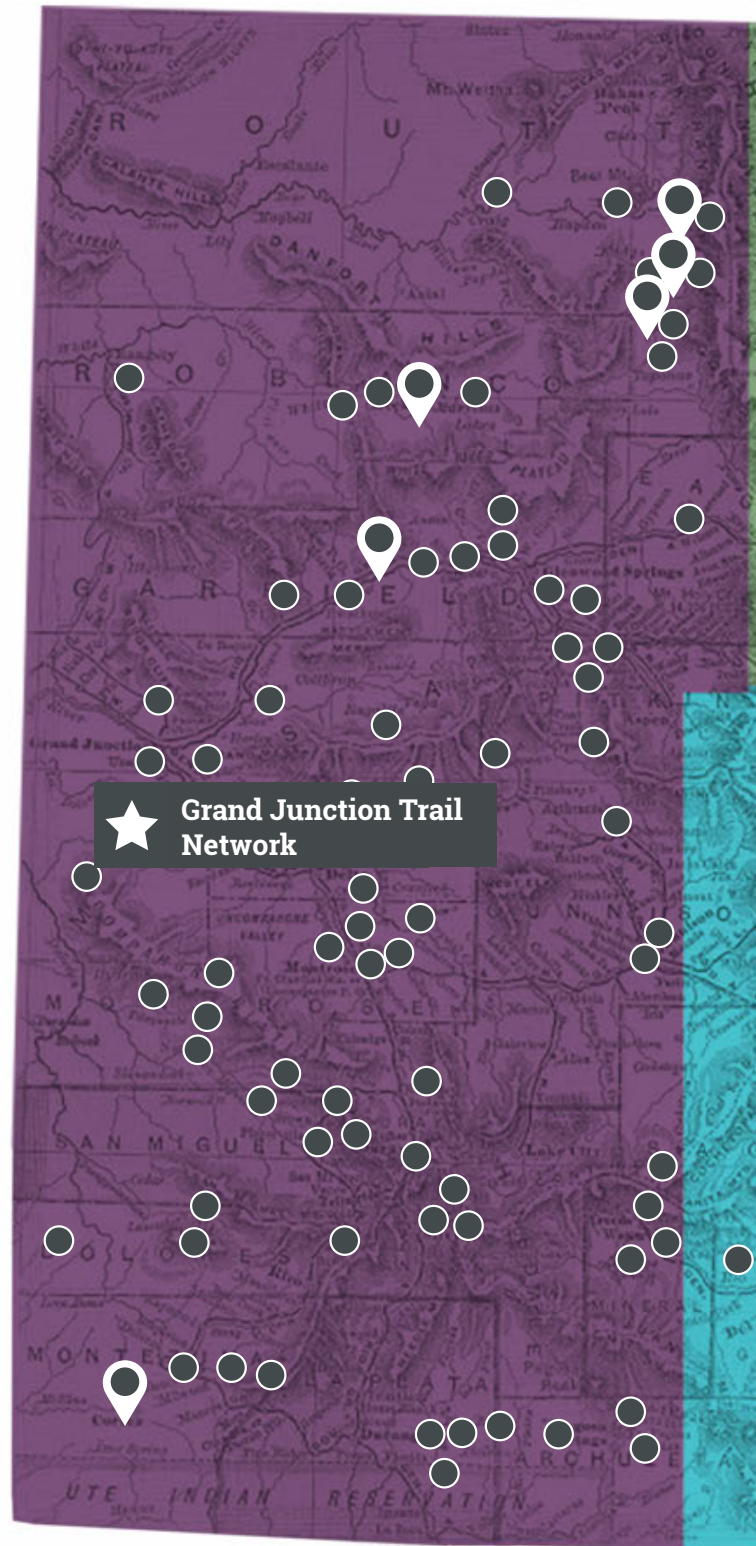
**Chris Endreson**  
Technical Supervisor  
(Architect)

## Northeastern

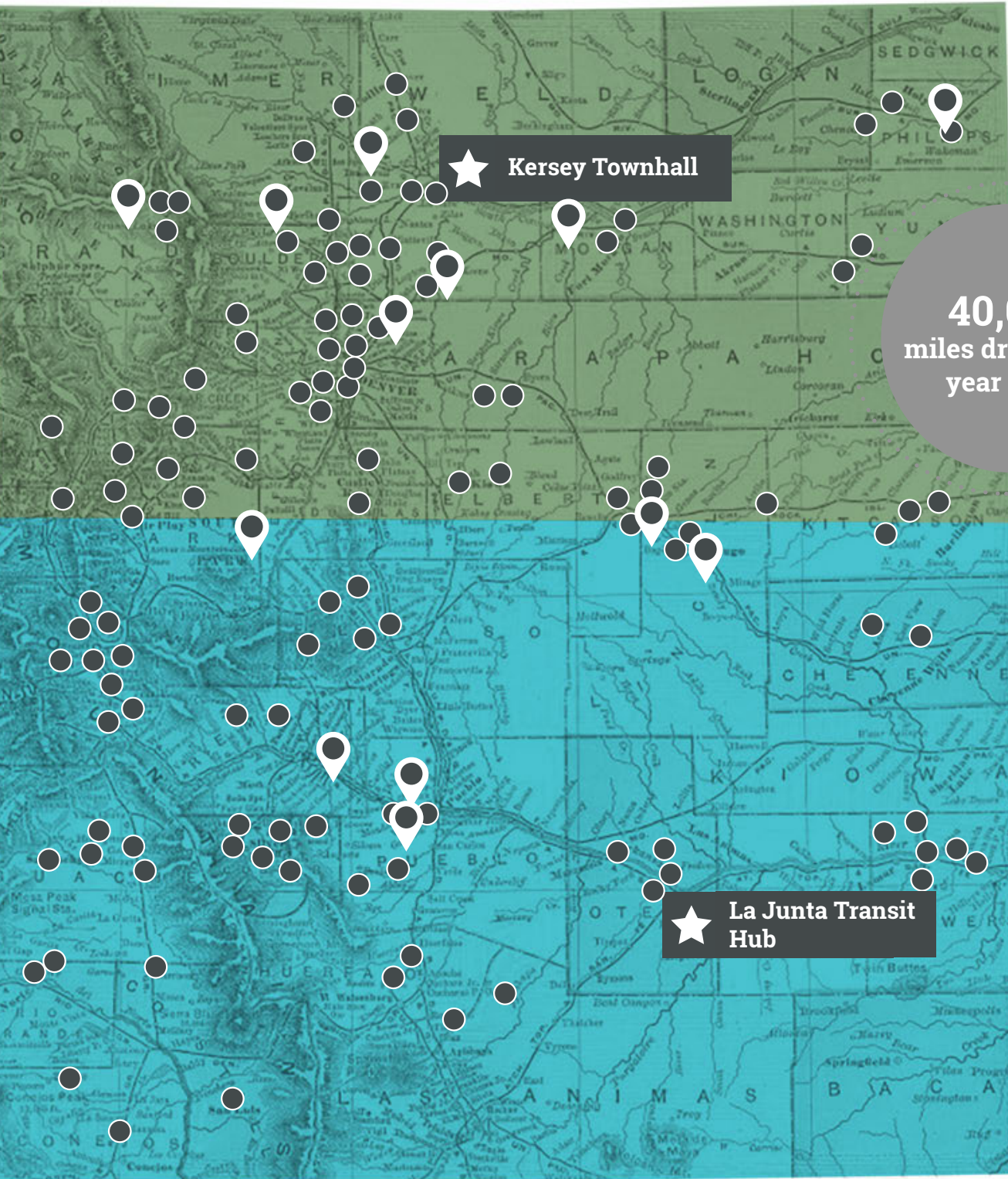
**Jennifer Kovarik**  
Technical Supervisor  
(Landscape Architect & Planner)

## Southeastern

**Jeffrey Wood**  
Technical Supervisor  
(Architect)



## ★ Featured Projects



★ Kersey Townhall

40,000  
miles driven this  
year alone

★ La Junta Transit  
Hub

○ Past Projects

📍 Current Projects

# Projects Completed in 2018

| Project Name   | Location                          |  |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| Child Care Feasibility Study & Design                            | Holyoke, CO                       |  |
| Community Activities & Event Center and Conceptual Trails Design | Limon, CO                         |  |
| Community Athletic Complex                                       | Pueblo West Metro District, CO    |  |
| Downtown Beautification  | Town of Yampa, CO                 |  |
| GIS Data Parsing & Database Mapping                              | Oak Creek, CO                     |  |
| Horizon Drive Bid Trails Master Plan                             | Horizon Drive, Grand Junction, CO |  |
| Lincoln County Fairgrounds Barn Design                           | Lincoln County, CO                |  |
| Lyons Landscape Designs  | Lyons, CO                         |  |
| Music Hall   | Grand Lake, CO                    |  |
| Ouray Public Library Renovation Concepts                         | Ouray, CO                         |  |
| Parachute River Park   | Parachute, CO                     |  |
| Park Master Plan and Outdoor Pool                                | Wiggins, CO                       |  |
| The Pinion Project HQ & Design Renovation Concepts               | Cortez, CO                        |  |
| Pueblo West Administrative Offices                               | Pueblo West Metro District, CO    |  |
| Historic School Adaptive Reuse & Site Design                     | Keenesburg, CO                    |  |
| Search and Rescue  | Fremont County                    |  |
| Skate Park Redesign  | Lochbuie, CO                      |  |
| Town Facilities Needs Master Plan                                | Meeker, CO                        |  |
| Town Hall Parcel Analysis and Design                             | Morrison, CO                      |  |
| Town Hall and Streetscape Design                                 | Kersey, CO                        |  |
| Trails Update to Recreation Master Plan                          | Oak Creek, CO                     |  |
| Transit Hub  | La Junta, CO                      |  |
| Wayfinding Plan and Design                                       | Windsor, CO                       |  |



| Regional Manager  | UTA Coordinator  | Budget  | Local / DOLA Match |
|-------------------|------------------|---------|--------------------|
| Greg Etl          | Jennifer Kovarik | \$4,400 | 60/40              |
| Greg Etl          | Jennifer Kovarik | \$6,800 | 60/40              |
| Crestina Martinez | Jeffrey Wood     | \$2,600 | 60/40              |
| Greg Winkler      | Chris Endreson   | \$8,845 | 40/60              |
| Greg Winkler      | Chris Endreson   | \$3,830 | 50/50              |
| Don Sandoval      | Chris Endreson   | \$7,702 | 50/50              |
| Greg Etl          | Jennifer Kovarik | \$1,000 | 60/40              |
| Don Sandoval      | Jennifer Kovarik | \$6,200 | 50/50              |
| Greg Winkler      | Jeffrey Wood     | \$2,175 | 60/40              |
| Ken Charles       | Chris Endreson   | \$6,800 | 50/50              |
| Elyse Ackerman    | Chris Endreson   | \$5,810 | 50/50              |
| Greg Etl          | Jennifer Kovarik | \$6,600 | 60/40              |
| Ken Charles       | Chris Endreson   | \$9,594 | 50/50              |
| Lee Merkel        | Jeffrey Wood     | \$3,000 | 50/50              |
| Don Sandoval      | Jennifer Kovarik | \$5,100 | 60/40              |
| Christy Doon      | Jeffrey Wood     | \$4,125 | 60/40              |
| Don Sandoval      | Jennifer Kovarik | \$2,800 | 60/40              |
| Kimberly Bullen   | Chris Endreson   | \$9,875 | 50/50              |
| Clay Brown        | Jennifer Kovarik | \$2,800 | 60/40              |
| Don Sandoval      | Jennifer Kovarik | \$4,000 | 60/40              |
| Greg Winkler      | Chris Endreson   | \$4,140 | 50/50              |
| Crestina Martinez | Jeffrey Wood     | \$4,438 | 50/50              |
| Don Sandoval      | Jennifer Kovarik | \$4,000 | 60/40              |

**23**  
Completed  
Projects  
in 2018

**Total  
Community  
Investment for  
2018  
\$105,996**

**Total DOLA  
Match  
\$49,242**

Seven  
exhibits with  
exposure to  
over 15,000  
residents and  
visitors

# A Letter from the Dean



In the College of Architecture and Planning at the University of Colorado Denver, students engage directly with our vibrant city, dynamic community, and magnificent landscape. The grant we have been fortunate to receive from DOLA has allowed more than 200 students over the last five years to complete 150 projects throughout Colorado. In addition to providing students hands-on professional experience, the DOLA grant has provided them significant earnings that support their college careers. Our partnership with DOLA has been a win-win-win-win!

As the only university in the State of Colorado offering accredited masters degrees in Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Urban Planning, and as a public university, we feel a strong duty to serve our state and aim to transmit that sense of responsibility to our students. The UTA program is a perfect vehicle for accomplishing this, as students from Colorado and elsewhere work together to directly engage rural communities, experience their unique qualities, and positively transform them. The trust that DOLA places in our students encourages a deep investment on their part in these projects, invariably leaving them with a sense of pride in their state, their emergent abilities as professional placemakers, and the indelible marks they are making.

UC Denver  
contributed  
\$235,874  
toward the UTA  
program in  
2018

Our college mission is to ignite evolution that enriches places for people and the planet. We are honored to partner with DOLA and grateful for the opportunity to fulfill this mission by contributing to enhance the health, well-being, vitality, and vibrancy of communities and places in Colorado.

- **Nan Ellin**, *Dean of the College of Architecture and Planning, University of Colorado Denver*



# Take a look back at our last 5 years

In 2013, after a hiatus of a couple of years, the UTA program rebooted in its new home in the Colorado Center for Community Development at CU Denver. Armed with three new supervisors and a handful of talented graduate students from the College of Architecture and Planning, the UTA program quickly renewed the mission of serving outlying communities with outstanding design work and public engagement. Over the last 5 years we have served 152 communities in most every county in the state, designing 132 projects and appearing in over 200 public meetings in front of thousands of residents. As great as that experience has been for all who participated, the most rewarding thing is to see these projects move from drawing board, to public meetings, through fundraising and then finally to actual construction. It isn't always a quick process, but as we have arrived at the 5 year milestone of the new UTA, it seems fitting to look at some of the projects that have been built (or are being

built) ready to become part of the fabric of the communities we serve and improve the quality of life for the folks who live there.

The types of projects that have gone from inspiration to bricks and mortar range from signage, trails and parks, to renovated and repurposed schools and other public buildings, to new or expanded fire stations, libraries and town halls...and of course everything in between! As rewarding as it is to design a project and work with the community to refine and tailor it to their needs, it is even more so to see these projects come to life! And did you say "economic development"? Well DOLA's investment in the UTA program has led to construction activity totaling \$26.6 million, a return of \$7.75 per dollar invested... that means jobs, materials bought and sold and eventually new employment for those hired to staff the new facilities or maintain the parks and such.

**30**  
projects designed by  
the UTA program are  
built or currently under  
construction.

Completed projects  
are expected to  
provide at least 42  
new/permanent job  
opportunities with a  
total income potential  
of over \$2,000,000!

Total completed project  
costs to date (2013-  
2018):  
\$ 675,720 (\$294,891  
billed to communities)



**Bayfield Pine River Library Park:** a joint effort between the library district and parks and recreation department to create an outdoor, after school activity zone for students and community use.



**Chaffee County Administrative Offices:** interior remodel of outdated county offices



**Salida Renovated/Restored Scout Hut:** renovation of a 1950s building built by the Boy Scouts for a satellite community facility.



328 fast food meals vs 2100 meals at locally owned eateries

**Olathe Main Street:** streetscape beautification overlay to enhance the downtown



**Carbondale 3rd Street Center site:** a masterplan to revise the parking and site circulation for better pedestrian safety and biking access along with school district housing



**Cedaredge Wayfinding:** town-wide wayfinding and signage masterplan



**Dolores County New Public Service Center:** combination new facility for road and bridge, GIS, and emergency services for county operations

We have attended and arranged nearly **400** public meetings in front of over **7500** residents



**Salida Parks Masterplan:** renovation plan for five parks



**Walsenberg New Miner's Plaza:** conversion of an empty lot for a park for concerts, community events, and farmer's markets



**Meeker Heritage Culture Center:** rehabilitation of a funeral home into a cultural heritage center for the county



**Montrose Wayfinding signage:** update the city-wide wayfinding and signage



**Craig Breeze Park:** a masterplan to activate the neighborhood park with playground and other amenities for the community



**Poncha Springs New Town Hall:** modern town hall for growing community



**Carbondale 3rd Street Planning:** a high-level masterplanning effort along the 3rd Street corridor encompassing beautification

**132**  
projects have been completed by UTA employees over the past 5 years (and we still have 20 ongoing projects to keep us busy as we roll into 2019!)



**Mancos Downtown pocket parks:** downtown beautification to transform vacant lots into pocket parks.



**Norwood New Lone Cone Library:** new library and community center for library district to replace an outdated facility



**Dolores County New Senior Center:** a new senior center with commercial kitchen that is a planned as a senior hub for the county.



**Lamar Pocket Parks:** conversion of a parking lot into the community living room

**Ouray Public Library:** renovation plans for the library to update and optimize space and provide meeting rooms

**Westcliffe/ Silver Cliff:** new welcome gateway signage for sister cities.

**Rocky Ford Police and Fire Station:** New hybrid station to replace outdated facilities

26.6 million dollars in construction activity...that's \$7.75 for every dollar invested by DOLA

**Collbran Downtown Streetscape:** downtown streetscape masterplan enhancing the pedestrian experience and sense of place

**Gypsum I.K. Bar Ranch Park:** master plan for fully activated 13+ acre park as outlined in the parks and recreation masterplan. Amenities include bike park, sports fields and multi-purpose community pavilion.

**Meeker Fairgrounds:** fairground masterplan development to optimize use and plan for future updates



# La Junta Transit Hub



**53**  
overnight  
trips  
spent in  
Colorado  
lodging







Like the “little engine that could” of children’s literature, so too the City of La Junta is always up for the challenge. Whatever is thrown their way, they simply shrug off the problem and chug determinedly toward the solution. So it was when the BNSF railway sought to evict their only tenant, Amtrak, in favor of an expanded freight terminal, La Junta sprang to action seizing the loss of an important resource as an opportunity for improvements that would ripple across many user groups.

The loss of an Amtrak terminal in this Lower Arkansas River Valley city would strike a blow to a community with a railway tradition so deep it is in their very name (La Junta means “the junction” and the myriad train sidings and railyard speaks to a tradition that quite literally put this place on the map!). The city happily embarked on a project to replace the terminal and while doing so, sought to include a bus terminal creating a transit hub that would enhance local and long distance travel up and down the valley. La Junta City Manager Rick Klein reached out to the University Technical Assistance program with the hope of creating a facility that would maintain Amtrak’s service commitment to the city, while giving the student employees of the Colorado Center for Community Development (where the UTA program resides) the chance to design for and with the residents of the region. “Every student was smart, dedicated and very professional,” says Klein.

For the students and UTA Supervisor Jeffrey Wood it was a chance to work with Amtrak and utilizing their input and guidelines, we merged their needs with those of the bus lines, the city and principles of good design to arrive at a solution that was enthusiastically embraced by the city council and the supportive residents that attended a series of council meetings. At some point though, another need crept in...A VISITOR’S CENTER situated right along State Highway 50. Back to the drawing board for another group of students who took the initial design, stretched it, expanded it, and morphed it into something completely different and yet equally well received by the community. In June of 2018 the City Council embraced the design and we hope in the months to come to see the project move through fundraising into construction. A welcoming beacon for bus, automobile and train travelers to La Junta.

**“...as a small community we can’t accomplish projects of this caliber without the Technical Assistance program.”  
-Rick Klein**

# Grand Junction Trail Network



200 students have worked over 100,000 hours over the last five years



“Getting first-hand experience with the planning process for the BID’s multi-modal trail system has been both fascinating and challenging.”  
-Nick Patin



The City of Grand Junction has long envisioned a multi-modal trails network to connect residents and visitors with local and regional amenities. Over the years, the city has enlisted the University Technical Assistance (UTA) program to provide concepts for the proposed trail system. This year, the UTA's Trails Network project for the Grand Junction Horizon Drive Business Improvement District (BID) advanced the city's trail planning efforts and moved its vision for connectivity closer to reality.

UTA students and Supervisor, Chris Endreson worked closely with the Horizon Drive BID staff and board of directors to define and expand the trail system vision both within the BID boundary and beyond. While the study focus was a feature trail segment between G Road to I-70—envisioned as a welcoming “back porch” to connect businesses and people along a natural drainage basin—the BID also sought to enhance the city's gateway at I-70 and Horizon Drive.

As UTA students analyzed site conditions and reviewed city-wide plans for multi-model routes, they extended their research to the entire Grand Junction valley to better understand how local trails might influence and connect to regional networks.

To conceptualize the larger trail network, the UTA team developed a series of diagrams to present distinct ways for the BID to interpret and organize proposed trail loops and tie the entire district together. This exploratory exercise was an integral step in the students' process of defining the overall trail concepts which included developing design guidelines, phasing diagrams, and cost estimates that ultimately informed the feature trail segment along the drainageway.



This multi-use trail will increase the diversity of user experiences within the BID, provide access points to businesses, and simultaneously improve the ecologically-rich habitats, while capitalizing on the area's surrounding beauty. “Getting first-hand experience with the planning process for the BID's trail system has been both fascinating and challenging,” says UTA team member Nick Patin.

Horizon Drive BID officials agree that the current trails project has moved beyond any previous trail proposal. “Having a concrete plan and images to help people envision the trail system is huge,” explains Horizon Drive BID Executive Director, Vara Kusal. The BID-adopted plan is slated for Grand Junction Planning Commission approval, followed by City Council's adoption as part of its Comprehensive Plan, which will allow the plan to be used for the next steps in implementation and funding identification.

“I do really just want to thank DOLA for having such a program. In these smaller rural communities, it's just the difference between something happening and something never happening,” says Kusal.

# Kersey Townhall & Streetscape



For every dollar DOLA invests in the UTA program \$47 is invested in future economic activity



**T**he UTA team helped launch Kersey's vision to revitalize its historic downtown and reestablish the 1st Street corridor as the community core. Thinking forward, the town acquired a historic agricultural Co-Op building on 1st Street where it plans to relocate municipal offices and services. "We wanted to purposefully insert ourselves into downtown to inject some life and preserve a piece of Kersey history," explains Town Manager, Christian Morgan. Adaptive re-use of this building will provide an anchor to the central business district which has struggled to maintain an identity and attract businesses and patrons. Town officials recognized that relocating the Town Hall to 1st Street was one important step towards downtown revitalization. They also acknowledged a streetscape plan was necessary to address the area's pedestrian experience.

UTA students, along with Supervisor, Jennifer Kovarik, worked closely with town officials and staff to understand their project goals and needs. "It was interesting to understand the staff's inner-workings and create an efficient plan that could be built," says team member Sofia Bruni. With multiple site visits and meetings, the team determined the re-use project should become an icon within the downtown fabric, provide new community spaces, reinforce a sense of place, and restore the building's charm. Students even came up with a tag line to convey the project's character: "Keep it Kersey" that the town loved.

"UTA's effort has left a lasting mark on the Town of Kersey and we are ever so grateful," -Christian Morgan who reports they have now secured funding through DOLA to realize their project.

As the team developed alternative plan configurations and sensitive façade alterations for the Town Hall, they also considered parking and public space. The town's plan to acquire a parcel, adjacent to the future town hall, allowed students to envision how to activate an open plaza with amenities such as performance space, shaded seating, and landscaping.

Conceptual designs for the Town Hall and 1st Street streetscape were developed simultaneously. Considerations for the streetscape were to alleviate existing challenges along the busy, four-block corridor, including lack of identity, safety issues, and missing shade and seating. With in-depth site analysis, the team developed cohesive designs for welcoming visitors and residents, while connecting downtown to outlying businesses, parks, and residential areas. Each block included new furnishings, wider sidewalks, safe pedestrian crossings, adequate parking and street trees. "The town recognizes that a welcoming streetscape to match the town hall will help create civic identity," explains team member, Kendrick Wyman.

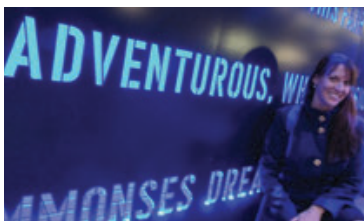
## Field Supervisors



**JEFFREY WOOD**  
Southeast Region  
jeffrey.wood@ucdenver.edu  
719.248.7731



**CHRISTOPHER ENDRESON**  
Western Slope  
christopher.endreson@ucdenver.edu  
970.549.7576



**JENNIFER KOVARIK**  
Northeastern Region  
jennifer.kovarik@ucdenver.edu  
970.305.7805

**95%**  
of our students  
are hired within  
the first month of  
graduation

**49**  
students put in  
22,259 hours on  
43 projects in  
2018

## UTA Program Staff

**Christopher Koziol**

**Director**

christopher.koziol@ucdenver.edu

**Danielle Brunner**

**Assistant Dean**

danielle.brunner@ucdenver.edu

**Michelle Haynes**

**Manager of Grants & Contracts**

michelle.haynes@ucdenver.edu



# Students of 2018

Cherryl Agosto  
Areti Athanasopoulos  
Aneliya Bargon  
Shayla Basinger  
Aalok Bhattarai  
Brittany Bona  
Sofia Bruni  
Taylor Carlisle  
Taylor Chesnovar  
Thomas Cooke  
Claire Dalby  
Gregory Davidson  
Julia Dullien  
Brittany Duncan  
Kate Farrington  
Krista Flynt

Sean Garvey  
Eileen Gehlhausen  
Alexa Geller  
Jason C. Geving  
Sarah Goldblatt  
Kortney Harris  
Aleyda Hawk  
James Hogden  
Zhiguang Hu  
Ramya Krishna  
Max La Rue  
Jordan Markwalder  
Alexander Martin  
Dillon McBride  
Corban McElroy  
Gaelen Means

Tatum Moorer  
Nicholas Patin  
Nicholas Piche  
Juan Perez-Argueta  
Jana Raines  
Travis Roubideaux  
Eric Schankerman  
Kevin Small  
Diana Souders  
Ivy Steele  
Daniel Sugar  
Brittany Wheeler  
Erin Wooden  
Kendrick Wyman

Over **250,000**  
miles driven in  
**5** years ... and  
only **5** speeding  
tickets!

**1** blown  
engine

Over **500**  
bags of chips  
consumed

Thank you to all of our students who have traveled thousands of miles across the state to work in partnership with rural communities on projects that improve life for all.

Annual Report Graphic Designers  
Sarah Smith & Maddi Waneka



## Colorado Center for Community Development

University of Colorado Denver – College of Architecture and Planning

Physical Address: 1250 14th Street, Suite 300. Denver, CO 80202

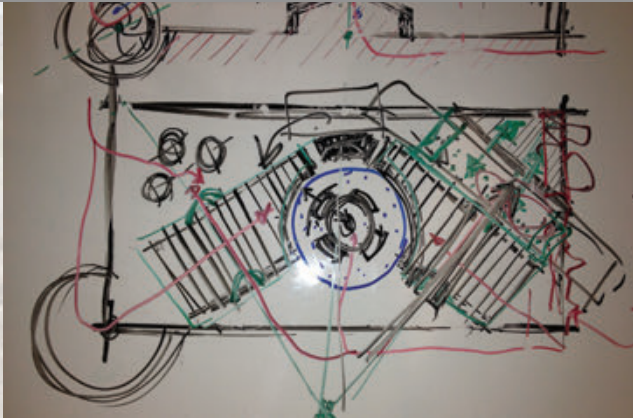
Mailing Address: Campus Box 126, PO Box 173364. Denver, CO 80217

# Community Engagement



We have served  
**50** out of 57  
Colorado rural  
counties, with a  
total population  
of nearly  
**2,500,000**

# Design Concepts



# Research

