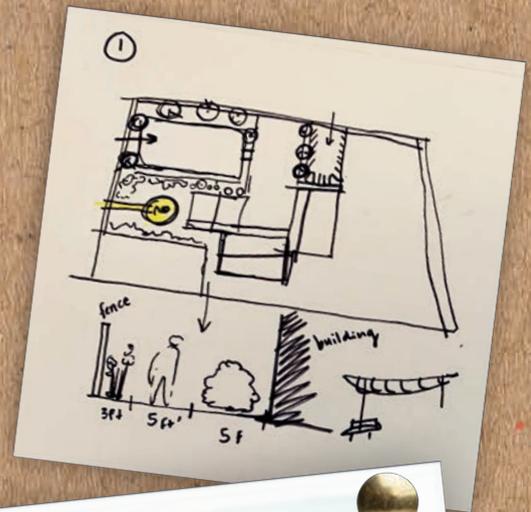


UNIVERSITY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM 2019 annual report



UTA in Kersey



Keenesburg Town Hall

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

 **COLORADO**
Department of Local Affairs
Division of Local Government


UTA
UNIVERSITY
TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE

DOLA



**THE UNIVERSITY OF
COLORADO DENVER**

OUR HISTORY

The University Technical Assistance Program is a partnership between the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) and University of Colorado Denver – College of Architecture and Planning that provides assistance to the entire state of Colorado's rural areas. Projects from this program have helped numerous communities to set goals, make decisions and create conceptual designs to meet the unique needs of their communities for decades. There have been many types of projects completed by the program, some examples of these are:

we have served
51 out of 57
rural Colorado counties,
with a total population in excess of
2,500,000

**Architecture • Landscape Architecture • Urban Design •
Research and Planning • Community Buildings
and Facilities • Parks, Trails and Landscapes •
Downtown & Corridor Design • Technical Assistance •
Historical Preservation • Community Surveys •
Master Plans • Feasibility Studies**

OUR MODEL

The University Technical Assistance program provides high quality design services to rural communities throughout the state, for reasonable fees that acknowledge the budgetary challenges faced by outlying areas. Communities benefit from the lower cost of technical assistance and initial development plans compared to professional assistance. The University Technical Assistance Program employs professional staff and University resources to assist the local governments in Colorado's rural communities. Projects are typically completed on a first come first serve basis; however, priority is given to those communities directly affected by energy development.

There are a number of ways the program provides assistance to the communities it serves. Typically, student interns are hired to work under a field supervisor supervision. The field supervisor visits communities that inquire about services in order to determine cost, size and scope of the proposed project. Once these goals are set, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is drafted. The MOU breaks down project costs, goals and each party's responsibilities.

The field supervisor, the community requesting the project, and the appropriate DOLA manager all must sign the MOU before work on the project can begin. Once the MOU is signed, the field supervisor then accesses the appropriate resources for completing the project. It is common for DOLA to provide internal expertise and referrals to external resources for assistance. University resources usually take the form of students working under the field supervisor. Community resources have a wide scope and can include committees

to help with input and making decisions, local government staff time, and referrals to local assistance. The costs of the projects are typically shared between the UCD-DOLA Technical Assistance Program and the community. This program has become a great example of the cooperation between local communities and their state government.

The assistance provided by the program is usually reserved for, but not restricted to, small or rural municipalities and special districts. The communities in need typically do not have the budget or other resources to complete the projects for themselves. The cost of hiring the UTA program is an economically reasonable route and creative opportunity for the community. This is beneficial to both the students and the community involved in the project. The students get amazing, real life experience to add to their resumes, and the communities get a low-cost alternative to completing their goals. The UCD-DOLA University Technical Assistance Program is a wonderful example of how the state uses its resources efficiently in order to reach out to its small communities to help them deal with the ever-changing populations and other challenges they may face.

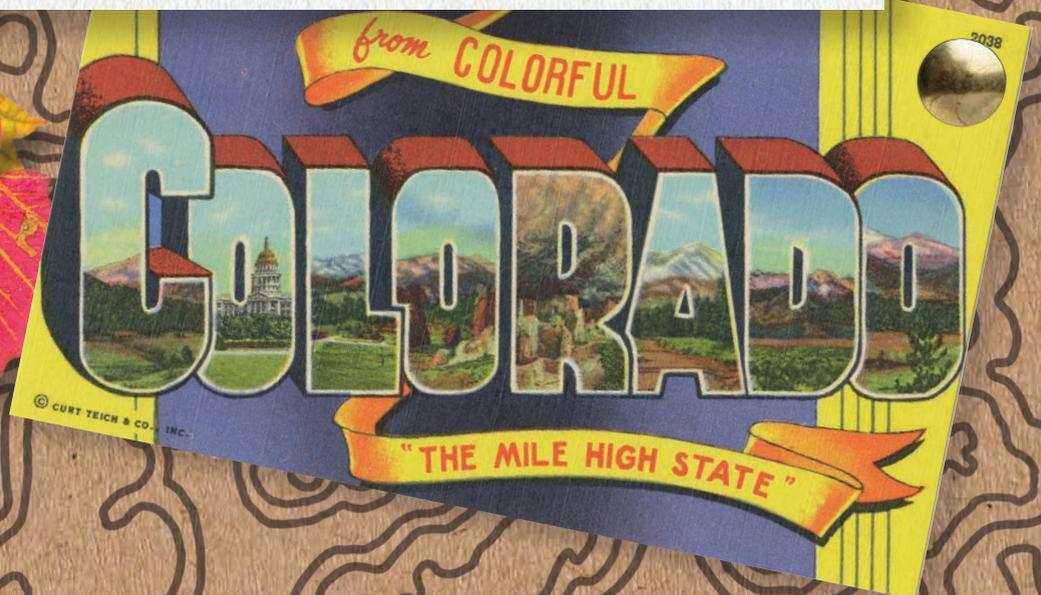


Del Norte Riverfront Park



THE UTA 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



OUR STUDENTS

Our students are the heart and soul of the UTA program, and it is through their eyes and their creative ideas that communities are transformed. Using the talents of over 200 students since the program re-booted in 2013, rural communities have utilized our resources to design parks and trails, town halls and fire stations, recreation centers and libraries, master plans for county fairgrounds and wayfinding signage... and literally everything in between. Our students hail from public universities all over the state, from CU Denver and Colorado State, to Adams State and Metro State...and we are coming soon to a university near you!

In exchange for the hard work and dedication of our students, the supervision, mentoring and experience they gain from their time in the UTA leads to great employment opportunities at firms and public agencies all over the state... and they get hired quickly! Most of our students are hired within the first month after graduation, many are even

hired before they gather their diploma. We have alumni working for regional firms like OZ Architecture, Norris Design Group, DTJ Design, Terracina Design and the Beck Group, but also internationally renowned firms like Gensler Associates in Pittsburgh and Olson Kundig in Seattle. The legacy our alums leave behind is the trust and confidence our client communities and our partners at DOLA place in us, and our current roster of students work hard to maintain that lofty status.

In the end, though, no labor like the UTA is fully realized without the bonds of friendship between us all...from the supervisors and managers at DOLA, to the new students, our stakeholders and the students about to graduate, there is love, admiration and willingness to roll up our sleeves and get good stuff done! We are proud within these pages to share a few of the comments our past student employees at the UTA have shared with us about their experience and how it has shaped their careers.



Team with Kersey Town Manager



The diversity of tasks and programs encouraged me to reframe our central task as one of careful, tailored design. our job was to attend to the problem at hand with a sense of respect and contextual understanding. I was able to design collaboratively with other team members, produce drawings, graphics and proposals for projects in several different types, histories, financial constraints across the dynamic Rocky Mountain landscape.

Sincerely,
Taylor Carlisle, M.Arch 2019

242
students have put in over
125,000
hours since 2013 on behalf of
community driven projects

The highlights around traveling the communities these experiences time but are still and presenting the time but the needed to take to ease my transition architectural practice at CCD was for some of my best and supervisory journey to become Matthew Bree



It was great fun, real time challenges and exposure to different communities. I loved working there during my school. I update myself with UTA's annual reports and keep appreciating the community work.
Meenon Kastoori - MUD 2017

This year,
35 students
have worked over
10,352
hours on projects
in rural Colorado

POSTCARD
FAR AVION AIR MAIL

No matter how intimidated I am about politics and public speaking, it's important and worthwhile to confront these fears in order to pursue something I truly care about and believe in. It was also incredibly helpful and important that I had the support of my UTA supervisor in this endeavor. If there were questions from the council that went beyond my range of knowledge, such as budgetary questions, my boss Jeffrey Wood was next to me ready and able to address such inquiries with authority.

Kelly Finkowski, M&A (2016)

The University Technical Assistance Program

1250 14th St. Ste 300

Denver, CO 80202

AUG 15 2016



of my time at CCCD were centered
 ing the state and meeting members of
 es we worked with. In hindsight
 s were not only rewarding at the
 ikingly similar to much of the work
 g I do to this day. I did not know it at
 e UTA program was exactly the step I
 at the end of my educational journey
 nsition into the realities of the
 profession. To top this all off, my time
 un! I met wonderful people who are
 st friends to this day and the staff
 rs were cherished mentors in my
 oming an architect."

n, M.Arch 2016

It was at CCCD that I began to develop my
 skills as a designer both from technical and
 creative standpoints. One of the strengths of
 the program is the collaboration of students
 from various years and programs, each with
 different skills, ideas, and processes that
 contribute to one another...It was this
 mentorship opportunity at CCCD that
 provided me with additional growth and
 satisfaction I had not previously thought of
 before joining the program.

Josh Spinner, MLA 2017



It is such a unique and wonderful program that I was
 incredibly fortunate to be a part of. My time there was both
 invaluable to me as a person and for my career trajectory!

Amanda Tharp, M.Arch (2015)

Working with learned licensed architects,
 project managers, and seasoned
 designers that are now leaders at CCCD
 was a blessing. They really helped me get
 footing on the practicalities of what it
 means to serve a client and to design
 holistic and appropriate spaces. I cannot
 recommend CCCD and UTA enough to
 whomever and wherever I go.

-Travis Roubideaux,
 M.Arch 2019

876
 cups of coffee
 consumed



Designers at Work!

Regularly presenting our own work as part
 of the CCCD in front of clients and small
 communities throughout the state was one
 of my inspirations for serving on the AIA
 Colorado Board of Directors as the Colorado
 North President. I wanted to make sure I
 could help advocate for the profession, and
 bring awareness to the important role
 Architects play in our communities. I was
 able to see first hand the positive impact our
 projects made and feel the CCCD is a
 program that brings a high level of energy
 to the communities and provides aspiring
 Architects with real world professional level.

Nathan Pepper, M. Arch (2015)

The University Technical
 Assistance Program

1250 14th St. Ste 300

CO 80202

Supervisors are extremely knowledgeable and the team
 work of students brings out the best outcome to any given
 challenge. I landed in one of my first internships because I
 was part of a unique project that the hiring company admired.

-Ramya Krishna - MUD 2018



STUDENTS OF 2019

Cherryl Agosto – MARCH, MSHP

Areti Athanasopoulos – MLA, MURP

Aneliya Bargon – MLA

Brittany Bona – MARCH

Sofia Bruni – MLA, MARCH

Taylor Carlisle – MARCH

Thomas Cooke – MARCH, MURP

Fiorella Ciuffardi – MLA

Gregory Davidson – MLA, MARCH

Aria Dellepiane – MARCH

Chandler Dolan – BFA

Katherine Farrington – MARCH

Isra Fakruddin – MLA

Krista Flynt – MURP

Alena Gagnon – MLA

Chelsea Gieryic – MLA, MURP

Sarah Goldblatt – MSHP

Kortney Harris – MLA, MURP

James Hogden – MARCH

Sara Hubbard – MSHP

Shane Krenn – MARCH

Germaine Low – MARCH

Hannah Lynch – BFA

Gaelen Means – MLA

Tatum Moorer – MLA

Juan Perez-Argueta – MARCH

Kevin Small – MLA

Sarah Smith – BFA

Ivy Steele – MLA

Justin Trammell – MARCH

Fernanda Arangua – MARCH

Maddi Waneka – BFA

Kendrick Wyman – MLA



On the road!

60,388
miles
driven

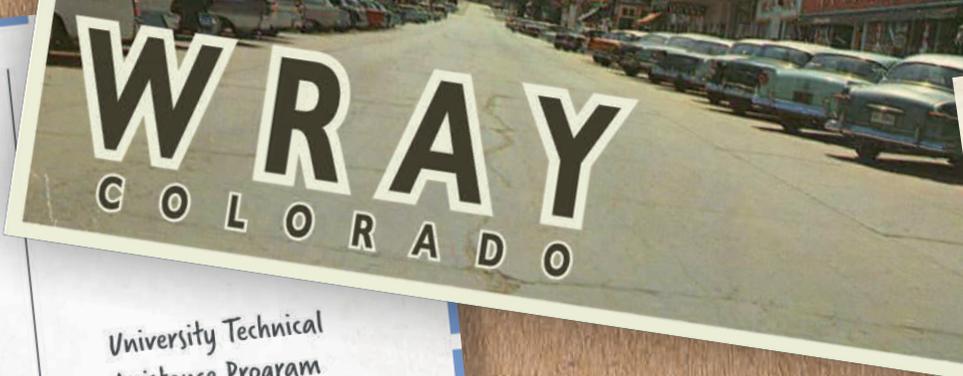
In every corner...

Drive 50 miles in any direction from the metroplex of Denver, and you will be there...unlocked front doors, the walk down a block or two takes half an hour because you know everyone that walks past...and there's catching up to do. To some, rural Colorado is the only lifestyle they would choose. Few stop lights, no rush hour, and ample room to stretch out. But it is not always an easy way of life when one considers the infrastructure that makes communities thrive. Though rural communities afford a welcome alternative to the city's hustle and bustle, they also need some of the trappings of modern life in America. From broadband access and bike trails to fire stations, town halls and libraries, even a small community needs to provide for the needs of the residents... and it is a population that tends to be aging, placing greater import on things such as ADA accessibility recreation centers, and parks with walking trails and wellness gardens.

The UTA program was founded to provide technical expertise to these outlying communities, and over the past six years we have assisted with the design, planning and funding of scores of projects that have made rural life that much better. In fact, we have worked in over 50 Colorado counties, touching the lives of over half the population of the state. What is less easy to calculate is the number of friends we have made along the way. Communities that we

have only visited a handful of times become places where we too might stop along the walks down main street to catch up with the fire chief, say "hi" to the mayor, or have a cup of coffee with a council person. We make it a point to spend time in the communities we serve...we eat the food in their local diners, stay in their hotels, even enjoy a beer in the local watering holes, so we can, in so far as possible, know the places that we work. It give us unique insight when it comes time to put pencil to paper to consider what this park, this art center or this town hall, should look like and how it should function, and most importantly, what other functions can be overlaid which will make the project even better for those that call this place home.

We are designers and planners... but in some sense, we are bridge builders, making connections between our university community and those communities that we serve. We bring along not just our creativity, but also our sense of humor, our curiosity, our willingness to listen, to be empathetic, and to learn and grown. What we leave behind varies from place to place depending on what is required. Hopefully it is an attitude that what can be dreamed can be made real, a road map that shows how an idea can become a building or a park, and the sense that working together, we can do most anything!



What I most value from the VTA program is the learning process that the program embraces in working to achieve the needs of a community project, while fostering the learning process for future architectural professionals. I would also commend you for the manner in which you demonstrate for your student's professional skills, and the importance of developing rapport and relationships within communities.

-James W. DePue
Wray City Manager

University Technical Assistance Program

The VTA program and Jennifer are a great asset for rural Colorado. It provided technical assistance and resources needed that is not available locally so that Sterling can continue the interest in redeveloping and investing in our "Historic Downtown Sterling."

-Donald J. Saling, City Manager

STERLING
A Colorado Treasure

University Technical Assistance Program
1250 14th Street
Suite 300, Denver
80202

3 5 6 7
CONVERSATIONS
with residents in the field
and at community meetings

The result of their work was very impressive, we now have conceptual designs and cost estimates for the chosen designs. The Board of Trustees made the decision to purchase the school property based on the designs and public input that we received throughout the process of working with the VTA program. on behalf of the Town of Keenesburg I highly recommend that this program be continued as it is an invaluable resource for local governments and gives the students an excellent opportunity for hands on experience.

-Debra Chumley, Town Manager



University Technical Assistance Program
1250 14th Street
Suite 300,
Denver, CO 80202

The expertise of the presenters gave a clear picture of our id our community and its leadership. The work of the VTA team gave the foundation needed to proceed our dream of re-inventing Theatre Walsenburg so that it continues to provide cultural and more for generations.

-Carl Young
Economic Development
and Tourism Director

-Mike
Ex

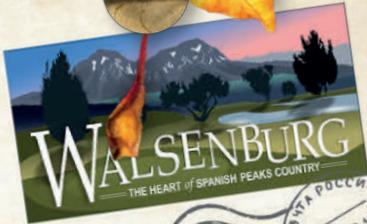
They made the process seem so easy and it was a pleasure working with them. The town is grateful for their vision and how well they put the plans together. On our own, we never would have come up with our dream park. They went above and beyond even after the final presentation. They helped with tracking down playground equipment companies that fit with our plans and answered other questions as they came up. Thanks to Ivy, Alena, and Aneliya we have a fantastic park to build and a professional presentation to use in seeking grants to make it all happen.

- Connie Gjelsness
Rockvale Town Clerk

Town of
Rockvale

The Town of Collbran has benefited greatly from the efforts of Chris Endreson and the graduate students. The UTA student generated masterplan is the blueprint for the project. Downtown Collbran has a new appearance that is a point of pride of area residents. It is unique that this small rural community has been able to implement an innovative design that started with the efforts of the CCD program. Collbran cannot say enough positive things about the work that was completed by the students and Mr. Endreson. Without the guidance of the masterplan, it is probable that none of the community enhancements would have occurred.

-Davis Farrar
Collbran Town Administrator



This program provided designs and information which was a major part of our application to DOLA for a two million dollar grant which we were awarded. The success of both of our projects lies fully in the foundation that Chris and his students provided for us from the beginning. Dolores County would like to thank you for providing this service. This is a great program and it is being handled in a very efficient and knowledgeable manner.

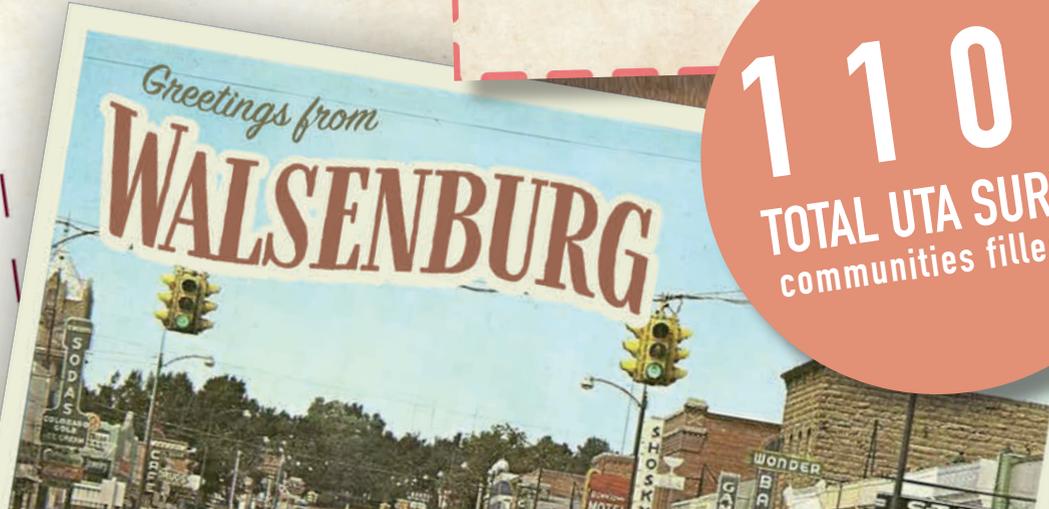
-Julie Kibel
Dolores County Commissioner



DOLORES C

University Techn
Assistance Progr
1250 14th Street
Suite 300, Denve
80202

1101
TOTAL UTA SURVEY
communities filled out



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the Fox
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to come.

ke Peters
ective Director

2019 PROJECTS C

2019 Projects Completed	Bold Initiatives	Location City/Town	County	Population Served
Arts & Culture Combined Campus Study	\$	Grand Junction	Mesa	64191
Concept LA Designs	+ \$	Lyons	Boulder	2066
Rio Grande Riverbank Restoration	+ \$	Del Norte	Rio Grand	1554
Pool House Design	+ \$	Julesburg	Sedgwick	1165
Downtown and Main Street Placemaking	+ \$	Hayden	Routt	1963
Main Street Beautification Plan	+ \$	Naturita	Montrose	519
Music Hall	\$	Grand Lake	Grand	505
Parking Lot and Festival Space	\$	Lamar	Prowers	7486
Urban Park Design	+ \$	Sterling	Logan	13971
Town Hall Expansion Design	\$	Keenesburg	Weld	1228
Search and Rescue Facility Plan	+	Canon City	Fremont	16690
Main Street Beautification Plan	+ \$	Nucla	Montrose	701
Main Street Pocket Park	+ \$	Delta	Delta	8951
Community Park	+	Granada	Prowers	496
Highway 40 Landscape Design	+	Craig	Moffat	8972
County Courthouse ADA Entry Concepts	+	Craig	Moffat	13178
Walsenburg Downtown Revitalization	\$	Walsenburg	Huerfano	3044
Prowers County Fairgrounds	+ \$	Lamar	Prowers	12081
Shoreline Project	+ \$	Grand Lake	Grand	505
Community Center Improvements	\$	Nucla	Montrose	701
Community Center Design	+ \$	Strasburg	Adams	2447
Community Park/Historic Cabin Preservation	+	Rockvale	Fremont	506
Monumentation & Memorial Park Design	+ \$	Kersey	Weld	1611
Art Master Plan	\$	Windsor	Weld	29053

24 Projects	21 Communities	20 Counties	193,584
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over
406
meals eaten in local
establishments.
9000
french fries shared!

55
TUMBLEWEEDS
run over and
destroyed

Bold Initiatives Legend	Symbol
Energy & Renewables	
Education & Workforce	
Health	
Tax Reform & Economic Development	

COMPLETED

Project Type	UTA Staff	DOLA Region	Cost Share	
			DOLA / UCD	Community
Architecture	Chris Endreson	Northwestern	\$5,450.00	\$8,175.00
Planning, Landscape Architecture	Jennifer Kovarik	North Central	\$3,100.00	\$3,100.00
Landscape Architecture, Planning	Jeffrey Wood	South Central	\$4,250.00	\$4,250.00
Architecture, Landscape Architecture	Jennifer Kovarik	Northeastern	\$1,200.00	\$1,800.00
Landscape Architecture, Planning	Chris Endreson	Northern Mountains	\$2,580.00	\$3,870.00
Landscape Architecture, Planning	Chris Endreson	Southwestern	\$3,800.00	\$3,800.00
Architecture	Jeffrey Wood	Northern Mountains	\$870.00	\$1,305.00
Landscape Architecture, Planning	Jeffrey Wood	Southeastern	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Landscape Architecture, Planning	Jennifer Kovarik	Northeastern	\$1,200.00	\$1,800.00
Architecture, Landscape Architecture	Jennifer Kovarik	North Central	\$1,600.00	\$2,400.00
Architecture, Landscape Architecture	Jeffrey Wood	South Central	\$1,650.00	\$2,475.00
Landscape Architecture, Planning	Chris Endreson	Southwestern	\$4,425.00	\$4,425.00
Landscape Architecture, Planning	Chris Endreson	Northwestern	\$2,100.00	\$3,150.00
Landscape Architecture	Jeffrey Wood	Southeastern	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
Landscape Architecture	Chris Endreson	Northwestern	\$1,560.00	\$2,340.00
Architecture	Chris Endreson	Northwestern	\$1,780.00	\$2,670.00
Landscape Architecture, Planning	Jeffrey Wood	Southeastern	\$1,710.00	\$1,710.00
Landscape Architecture, Planning	Jeffrey Wood	Southeastern	\$2,750.00	\$2,750.00
Landscape Architecture, Planning	Jeffrey Wood	Northern Mountains	\$1,040.00	\$1,560.00
Architecture, Landscape Architecture	Chris Endreson	Southwestern	\$3,225.00	\$3,225.00
Architecture, Landscape Architecture	Jennifer Kovarik	North Central	\$2,600.00	\$3,900.00
Architecture/Pres., Landscape Arch.	Jeffrey Wood	South Central	\$3,000.00	\$1,800.00
Landscape Architecture	Jennifer Kovarik	North Central	\$1,900.00	\$1,140.00
Landscape Architecture, Planning	Jennifer Kovarik	North Central	\$3,920.00	\$6,700.00
Total			\$58,410.00	\$71,045.00
Average			\$2,433.75	\$2,960.21
Percent Share			45.12%	54.88%

DOLA Regions Legend

Southwestern	Patrick Rondinelli
Northwestern	Kimberly Bullen
Northern Mountains	Greg Winkler
North Central	Don Sandoval
Central	Clay Brown
Northeastern	Greg Etl
South Central	Christy Doon
Southeastern	Tara Marshall

PROJECT MAP

In 2019, 24 projects were completed throughout Colorado, with the majority of them being design and planning projects. The state is served by three UTA supervisors who work in partnership with DOLA managers in their regions, as shown on the map. Since 2013, a total of 151 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

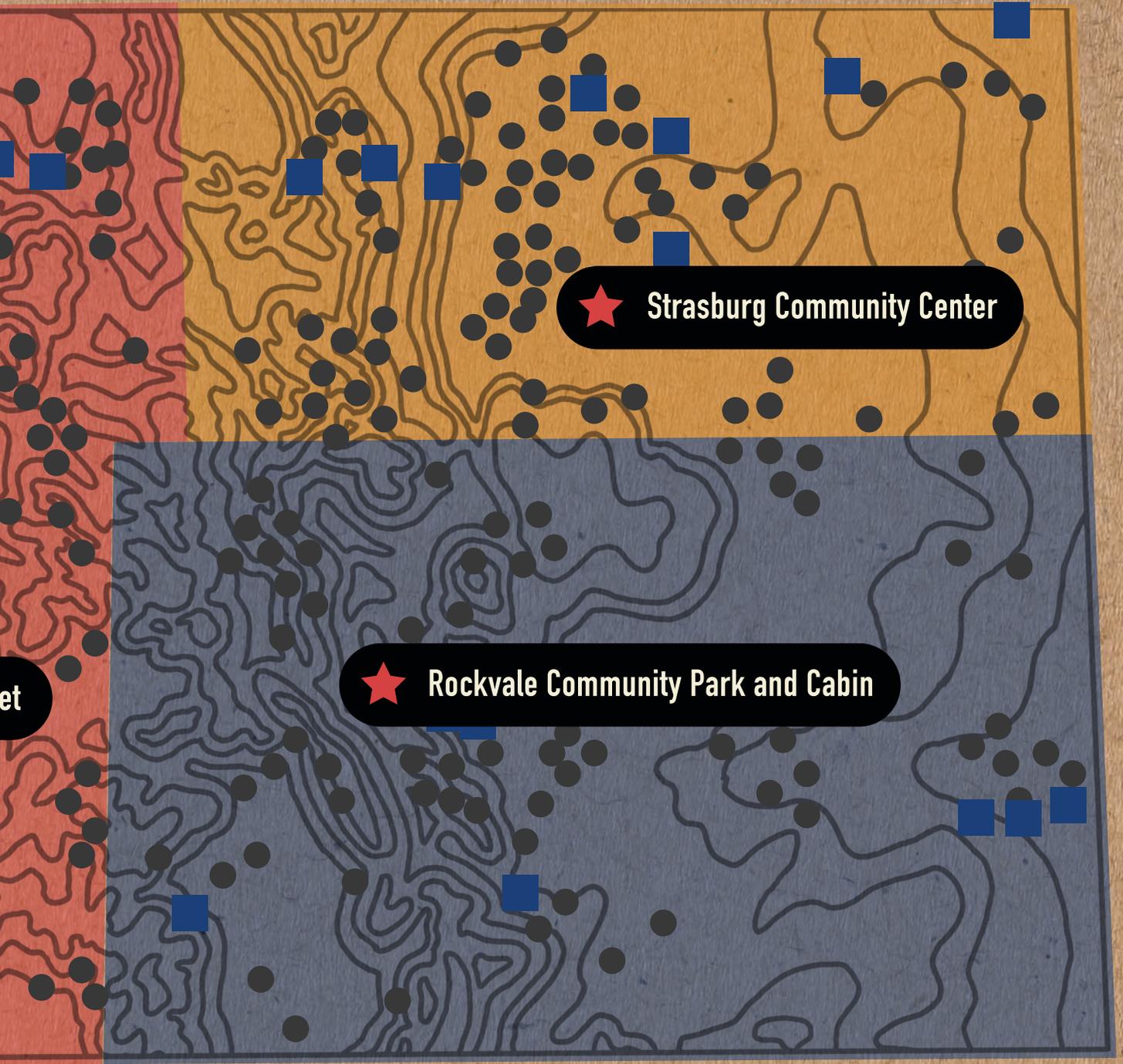
Jennifer Kovarik
Technical Supervisor
Landscape Architect & Planner

SOUTHEASTERN

Jeffrey Wood
Technical Supervisor
Architect



FEATURED PRO



PROJECTS



PAST PROJECTS



CURRENT PROJECTS



RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONIES



Kersey Ribbon Cutting

\$36
Million Dollars
of Construction Activity
since 2013
(Nearly \$10 million in construction
underway in 2019 alone!)



Norwood Ribbon Cutting



FEATURED COMMUNITIES

Every year there are projects, or communities that somehow capture our attention...we love all the communities that we work in, but somehow there are stops along the way where the project seems noteworthy, the residents more involved, or the result is more transformative...we highlight, each year, three projects from each region that sort of exemplifies this status. They are not the "best" project (we love all the work we do!), but there is a synergy between designers, residents, location and the final result that puts that extra bounce in our step...

In year's past, we have highlighted projects from Del Norte, La Junta, Kersey, Grand Junction among many others...this year, we invite you to consider projects completed in Rockvale, a small hamlet in the foothills south of Canon City. Fiercely private and tightknit, the community came together to facilitate the design of their new community park...a place that would welcome residents of all ages, and provide a sort of outdoor living room for the town.

In the far reaches of the west end of Montrose county you'll find the community of Nucla, a rustic and rough around the edges kind of place that has maintained

itself since the late 1800's as a place to create your own way. The area is in the heart of what was once a booming uranium mining hub. You might think the town name was derived from that but on the contrary the name stems from being the nucleus of a cooperative society of individuals trying to create a utopia. Nucla is used to bust cycles and the most recent with the departure of the coal industry brought the community together to rally around their downtown. They knew that focusing on beautification and enhancements downtown they would open the door to economic development and creating a better "community living room" for residents and visitors.

Just 42 miles from CU Denver, the Town of Strasburg Parks and Recreation Board and Staff identified a building that could be adaptively reused to become a much needed community center. The UTA team helped create a sustainable design for the building and site that welcomes community members, will be the setting for a wide range of events and allow for revenue generation from rental events. The central location and proposed amenities in the design will reignite the community with a new enticing space in a building that is currently overlooked.



NUCLA STREETSCAPE

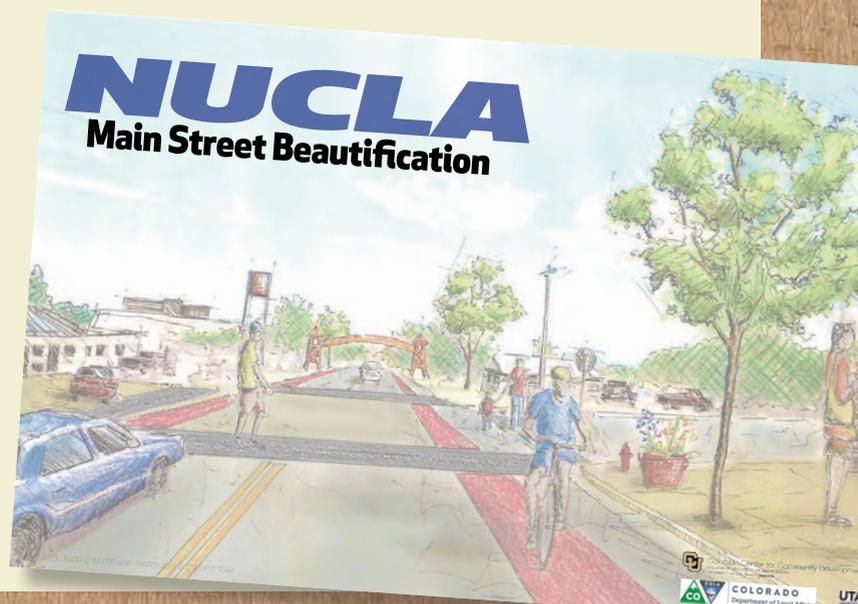
There are many great things about the area widely referred to as the West End of Montrose County. Some might say it's the vast swaths of BLM land, others will point to outdoor recreation and the feel of being in west. What's evident though are the communities which are made up of resourceful and passionate people and that is especially true in Nucla Colorado. Nucla, over the last few years, is working to set itself up for positive change to create a better community for its residents and visitors. Much of that momentum came from the news of the coal industry shuttering its doors and Nucla wanted to react positively.

The town identified it's downtown as a key component to focus on. This led the town to the UTA program through DOLA and past projects there. A major priority was the downtown streetscape and the vision needed to bring it all together to create a downtown that fit the town character. Over the years there have been changes made and then taken out that reflected various eras of Americana. Also, main street happens to be a state highway, (97). But more interestingly it is a dead-end highway. Lastly, and one major component is the highway has an extremely wide right-of-way which placed the opposite side of the main street far from the other.

A master plan of the entire length of Main Street was requested to provide a plan of vision to update the downtown. This process led design students and community member

through multiple public input sessions and design options presentations for concept development. Theme, character, uses, and so much more was discussed in order to create ideas for sidewalk extensions, paving patterns, crosswalk locations to name a few. The plan was completed covering every aspect of downtown streetscaping and highlighted flexible and sustainable design to create a unified vision for Main Street and Downtown. The work proposed and accepted varied from major construction to minor things like unified amenities such as trash can and planters. Gateways were suggested to mark key points and reflect on the heritage of the town.

The town was so energized about the final plan that they decided within months to pilot a one block section and submit for funding from DOLA through the EIAF grant program. They were successful and were awarded the monies and will soon be embarking on construction drawings and implementation.





Contents: Conceptual Amenity Base Option Examples, Material Construction, Count

Benches	Trash Cans	Planters	Seating
Lighting	Post-Office	Chairs	Tables

General Notes: The bracketed amenities and the base options only...
 following priority placements are our recommendations and are open...
 pedestrian safety - see the RCP board for an alternate option...
 systems, and relevant design recommendations. The vector/rendering...
 of the block.



102
 nights
 spent in local lodging



Beautiful Nucla!

STRASBURG COMMUNITY CENTER

The small, but rapidly growing Town of Strasburg owns a 1950's building in the heart of town that has had several additions over time and required a redesign. The Parks and Recreation District Board reached out to DOLA/UTA with the requested vision "by updating the building, we would like to provide an actual community center for our town and a potential revenue source for our District through rental opportunities."

The prime one-acre lot location was currently used for a childcare center, meetings for the American Legion Post, Boy Scout Troop, and seniors as well as classes for youth dance and fitness. The childcare is getting relocated off-site so the program for the new space was to be a large room for a wide variety of flexible year-round recreational uses and events such as anniversaries and birthday parties along with adequate restrooms, kitchen, and one private meeting room. The current dark interior, along with

aged plumbing, out of code features, dated insulation and lack of windows easily justified a remodel of this building. In addition, the exterior of the building and unprogrammed site also supported site improvements. This project rearranged the interior space so it could be divided into a multipurpose community space along with one separate meeting room for the Legion and Boy Scouts to have a more honorable space to meet, as well as a communal kitchen, adequate restrooms and welcoming community-oriented exterior elements and amenities. The plans reflect the desire for the facility to have seamless transitions from the indoor and outdoor space, which aids in the flexibility for private events and community functions.

The vision for a flexible, energy-efficient, indoor-outdoor multipurpose community design was achieved! The students vision transformed the space with a design that contains natural daylighting, solar panels, covered patio space, an improved recycling center, improved site drainage with permeable pavers and detention, up to code restrooms, a community kitchen with an exterior service window, a beautiful flexible community room with high ceilings and roll up window doors to the patio space, a private meeting room with built-in display cases for the Legion, an iconic entry that makes the building easy to access, a community front porch, flexible back patio, a small amphitheater, multipurpose lawn and improved parking both within and around the property. The students' presentation to the Board was energizing as the plans proudly met the Town's needs can now move forward to achieve the funding and see the project realized.



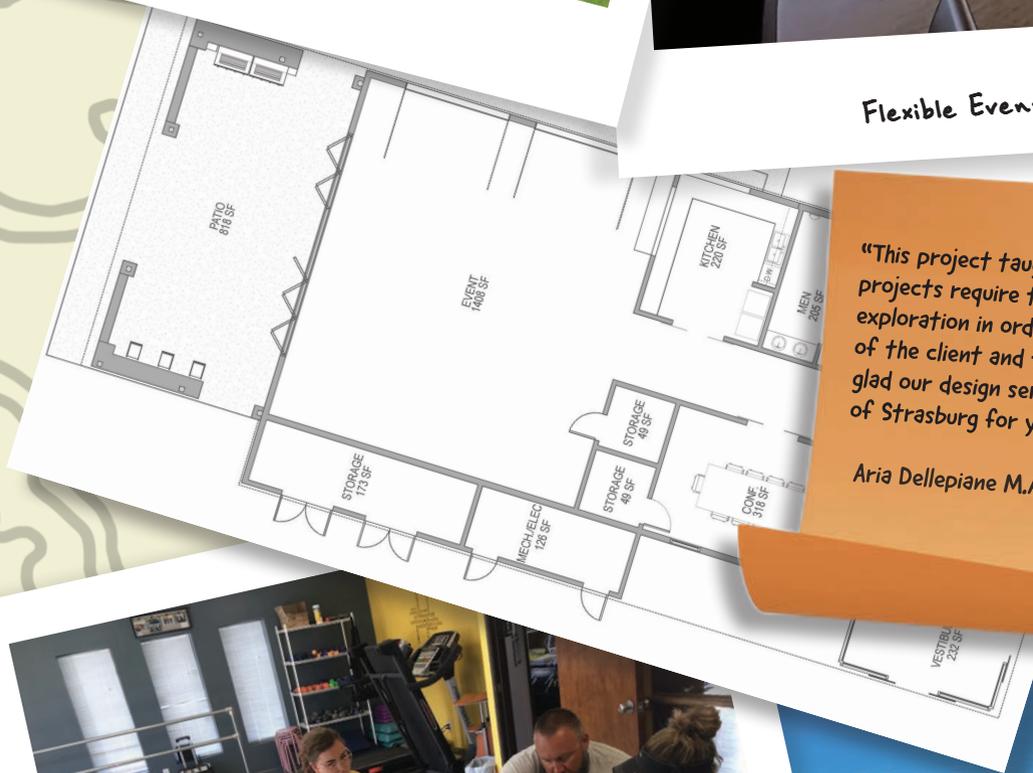
Strasburg Community Presentation



Flexible Event Space

"This project taught me that even small projects require thoughtful analysis and design exploration in order to best meet the needs of the client and the larger community. I am glad our design services will impact the town of Strasburg for years to come."

Aria Dellepiane M.Arch 2020



Working meeting with town staff



98

ice cream
cones consumed

ROCKVALE COMMUNITY PARK

Rockvale keeps to itself really well. Nestled in the foothills above Florence, it is off the beaten path and on the way to nowhere else, and the residents like it that way. Though they may seem shy and unassuming to the outside world, the residents of this small town of about 500 welcomed us with open arms and participated in the dreams and designs of their community park like few other communities. Undeterred by hail storms, goat heads (a particularly difficult seed head), or summer heat, the residents came out in impressive numbers and discussed and cajoled and argued and inevitably placed their faith in the students in the UTA program and their town clerk Connie Gjelsness, who managed to oversee the evolution of the project, take a grant writing class, and apply for grants all in less than a year, all the while listening to her community, and visualizing a ribbon cutting in spring of 2020. It was not impatience, it was instead determination, as well as a general dislike of the goat head weeds (aka Puncture vine) that had taken up residence in the currently under loved community park.

The present day park features a historic cabin now used as a storage building, a modest cover for the picnic area, and the kind of swings and playground equipment that those of us of a certain age recall with some affection, and insurance

companies attempt to remove with dispatch. The community wanted a kind of outdoor living room...a place to come together, watch the kids play (on safe equipment!), play checkers, maybe even sit around a fire pit on cool spring or fall evenings. Basketball, volleyball and music appreciation would all find a place in this park, and the old structure, the historic May cabin, would become a museum and a place to appreciate the lifestyle of some of Rockvale's first residents. In all cases, the activities were intended to suitable to a wide range of ages, so that anyone going to the park would find something fun to do or a comfortable place to sit and watch or talk to neighbors.

From our first meeting, under the aluminum picnic cover, in a hailstorm that all but drown out the discussion, to the final meeting and acceptance of the design by the town, there was a pervasive "can do" attitude. Each meeting was only concluded when decisions were made and we had our marching orders to prepare for the next meeting. The community's willingness to convey what they liked and what they didn't like was a breath of fresh air for those of us in the UTA program, and it is a testament that in about a year's time, this project will go from "what if" to "welcome home."



Volleyball Court



Checkers Table





May Cabin

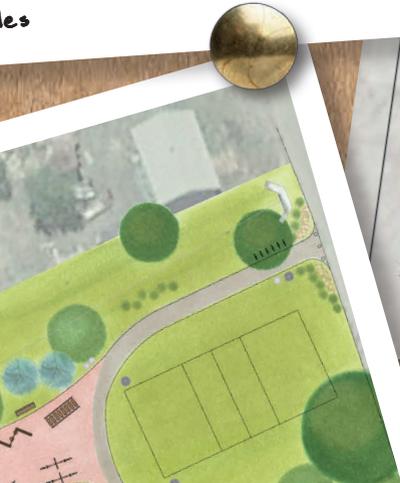
The Town of Rockvale was homesteaded by William H. May in 1863. Nicknamed “Colonel” May, the trained geologist and “mineral speculator” arrived in Fremont County from Vermont and first farmed in the Beaver Creek area near Florence, Colorado. After getting flooded out twice, he moved to higher ground and settled in what is now Rockvale where he built the town’s first known dwelling near Oak Creek from hand-hewn cottonwood logs. The cabin walls had portholes for defense “through which a rifle could be shot without exposing the shooter.” Historical notes suggest that there is no evidence that Colonial May had unfriendly dealings with the local Ute who passed through his pastures, and the portholes (still visible) could have provided protection from the legendary grizzlies that roamed the area. The cabin may have been moved more than once but was officially relocated in 2003 to its current location in the town park--the William H. May Memorial Town Square Park. In 2018 it was designated a Fremont County Historical Landmark by the County Heritage Commission.

and were often referred to as “log houses” instead of “log cabins.” Although conspicuously missing from the May cabin, horizontal joints between logs were typically filled with a combination of materials that together is known as “chinking” and “daubing” that sealed the exterior from driving wind, rain, snow and blocked entry to vermin.

As a result of the community’s exemplary stewardship, the May Cabin continues to reflect the spirit of the town’s first settlers and remains a significant example of the type of buildings found in Rockvale during its early mining years. Few buildings from this era have survived so well intact, making preservation of the May Cabin even more important. To ensure its future in Rockvale, top priority should be to replace the cabin’s missing exterior wall materials (chinking and daubing) to protect against further deterioration from the elements. Placing the building back into service for uses such as an educational or interpretive center is also recommended so residents and visitors have a unique chance to experience a small slice of what life was like for Colorado’s pioneers.

The rectangular, one-room homesteader cabin represents one of the basic house forms constructed during the 18th and 19th century. The “full dovetail” notching at each corner is a signature feature of log construction and considered to be one of the most time-consuming to accomplish. Colonel May used large cottonwood logs—up to 22” diameter— to construct the structure. These popular “hewn-log” structures, versus round-log construction, suggested permanency

Historical details of May Cabin taken from *Rockvale Nuggets* written by Martie Williams La Casse





A HEARTFELT FARE THEE WELL...

A victim of shifting budget priorities, the UTA program such as we know it today went on hiatus in the aftermath of the great recession. Were it not for the vision, commitment and a fervent desire to do good for the communities of rural Colorado of Don Sandoval and Chris Koziol, the work we have shared in these pages might never have happened. As we move on to a new decade, we want to pause and wish them both the best as they move on from the UTA.

A note from Don Sandoval

The University Technical Assistance Program (UTA) is a wonderful partnership with the University of Colorado at Denver (UCD) Colorado Center for Community Design (CCCD) and Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). This partnership has been around since the 70s.

I have had the privilege of working with the folks from UCD for many years. Bob Horn and John Schler, the original service providers, worked with me on projects when I was a town administrator in Hotchkiss, Cedaredge and Windsor. They helped define elements of projects that made them better with their counsel and expertise. They were also good people who wanted to help a community be better. We became good friends.

From those first experiences with John and Bob, it was clear their work helped a community determine if and how to proceed with a project. It also provided students with real project experience, with real clients which made the students a better prospect for work in their respective fields.

The folks who have worked in the UTA program made a tremendous difference in the make-up of communities throughout Colorado, whether it was John or Bob or Tim

Katers, Mike Tupa, Dick Mahalik, or Diana Loughlin. Today's folks, Chris Enderson, Jeff Wood and Jennifer Kovarik continue the great legacy of those that came before them. They are making a difference in communities. They are helping achieve local government goals and giving students a chance to be better. These are people who make a difference; they are passionate about their work with the students and projects they work on. They are dedicated to what the goals of the program are: Helping students become better at their craft; Helping communities make good decisions about their projects; and promoting the partnership between DOLA and UCD.

I am proud to have been the leader of the UTA program over the last 19 years. It has been great to see how this partnership has made a difference in the lives of the students involved in the program, the lives of citizens of this State, the lives of the supervisors who have seen projects become reality. I am proud in the friends I have made associated with the program.

Chris, Jeff, Jennifer - Continue the legacy - of the great work you do.

Don Sandoval had been spearheading the UTA program as a DOLA manager for many years prior to its suspension, and he was determined to see it rise again; he found a willing partner in Chris Koziol, who from his position at CUDenver had the university resources, student talents and a fervent interest in rural communities. Together these two “true believers” resuscitated that which had gone dormant and the UTA program sprang once more to life in 2013. Their vision and hard work has made all that we do possible. We will miss them and their absence will be notable as we move forward, but we will honor them both with continued hard work and a commitment to the causes they placed in such high regard.



A note from Chris Koziol

November and early December is a busy but also reflective time for the University Technical Assistance (UTA) Program. Much of our summertime field work has been synthesized into recommendations, reports and designs, and new projects are always on the horizon. However, a good share of our time is spent looking back and looking forward. Assembling the Annual Report has become a ritual and a learning opportunity around here. It's not uncommon to hear interjections like the following. We really did that many projects? Our students and partners said that about their experiences? That project came out even better than I hoped!

Amidst the accolades and backslapping we also have cause for reflection and for renewal. As with any program that has been around for as long as we have, it is sometimes challenging to push the envelope even further. However, we are proud to say that we will be doing just that in 2020. Our partners and patrons at the Department of Local Affairs are embarking on a refreshed set of agency goals in how they can better serve the local communities of the state. They've asked us to be part of that effort in exploring new initiatives and providing a wider range of services in new and innovative ways. So, “stay tuned” for the years ahead.

As with any move forward, one needs to balance continuity and change. The College of Architecture and Planning is excited to ramp up its effort, and we are fortunate that our technical supervisors, Chris, Jeff and Jennifer are continuing in their roles. As you will read elsewhere in this report, DOLA's Don Sandoval is retiring this year. We will miss his leadership and fellowship.

For my part, I've decided to redirect my focus on what I have sometimes joked about as “my day job”. As a faculty member in the Department of Architecture I am stepping down in my administrative role as director of Colorado Center for Community Development and manager of the UTA grant. All this means is I will stepping-up my commitment to teaching students and addressing the wide range of community design challenges in Colorado and beyond. I'll miss the day to day interaction with the professional and student staff, but as I have reminded them, I'm not going away, just to a new desk down the hall. Associate Professor Jody Beck will be taking over the administration of the UTA for the College. I look forward to seeing the continued and renewed dedication of the College to the UTA.

With all the best wishes,
Christopher Koziol

A LOOK AHEAD...

2020 Vision and Beyond

As we put 2019 into the books, it seems like a good time to also consider what lies ahead...it has been a busy year, with 20 projects completed and in the books and nearly twice that number of projects already underway or soon to join the workload. Among the projects we will be spending our time on in 2020: Six different projects in Las Animas County alone that will transform the city of Trinidad and the surrounding area, a new fire station in Grand Lake, and our ongoing efforts to transform and restore the historic Fox Theatre in Walsenburg...in the west....Downtown and Main Street is a big focus for many communities who are shifting their economic emphasis a bit from oil and gas. We'll be looking to work with Hotchkiss and Norwood on downtown beautification and planning, there is also focus on childcare and housing with Mesa County Libraries moving forward with a new branch library and early childcare facility and Ouray tackling how to assist with (ADU) accessory dwelling units. In the northern part of the state, Jennifer is continuing the work in Stratton on critically needed Child Care and Recreation Facilities, and continuing the adaptive reuse and new construction of

the Town Hall in Cheyenne Wells, plus land planning and design of a new Town Hall and Public Works Facility in Gilcrest, and visioning for a new park in Akron. We will also welcome aboard our new director, Jody Beck, who will bring his passion for rural communities to the program.... Feeding off the fun and success of our September installment of the podcast "CU on the Air", we decided to launch our own podcast...: "In Every Corner..."where we share (and exaggerate) the tales of life and work in every corner of our great state...It should further explain the story we are telling with this report...give it a listen... we promise to bring a smile to your face, a chuckle to your chest and maybe a tear to your eyes now and again.

We will also say good bye to roughly half of our workforce as they graduate and move on to the next step in the careers, and we will welcome a similar number of new student employees from all over the state (and well beyond) who will share in our mission to bring energy and great ideas to those communities that request our help...watch out, we are coming to a town near you!



Chris Endreson

studied architecture at NDSU and discovered during his time spent in the exile of the North Dakota winters that he liked warmer climes. He resides in Fruita and basks in the southwestern climate where sunshine is plentiful and snow is an infrequent visitor. His territory is the Western slope which means he covers roughly half the state and puts a lot of miles on his car!



Jeffrey Wood

is an Architect though he might have been a pilot until he discovered his crippling aversion to flight... now he stays grounded but shoots for the moon whenever he can! He works primarily in the Southeast portion of the state, and anywhere within 30 miles of his cabin in Grand Lake.



Jennifer Kovarik

is a Landscape Architect, Planner, Public Health Professional and Artist who is passionate about integrating health and design. She works in the Front Range foothills, North East portion of the state and anywhere there is a ski area within 15 miles!

JEFFREY WOOD

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CHRISTOPHER ENDRESON

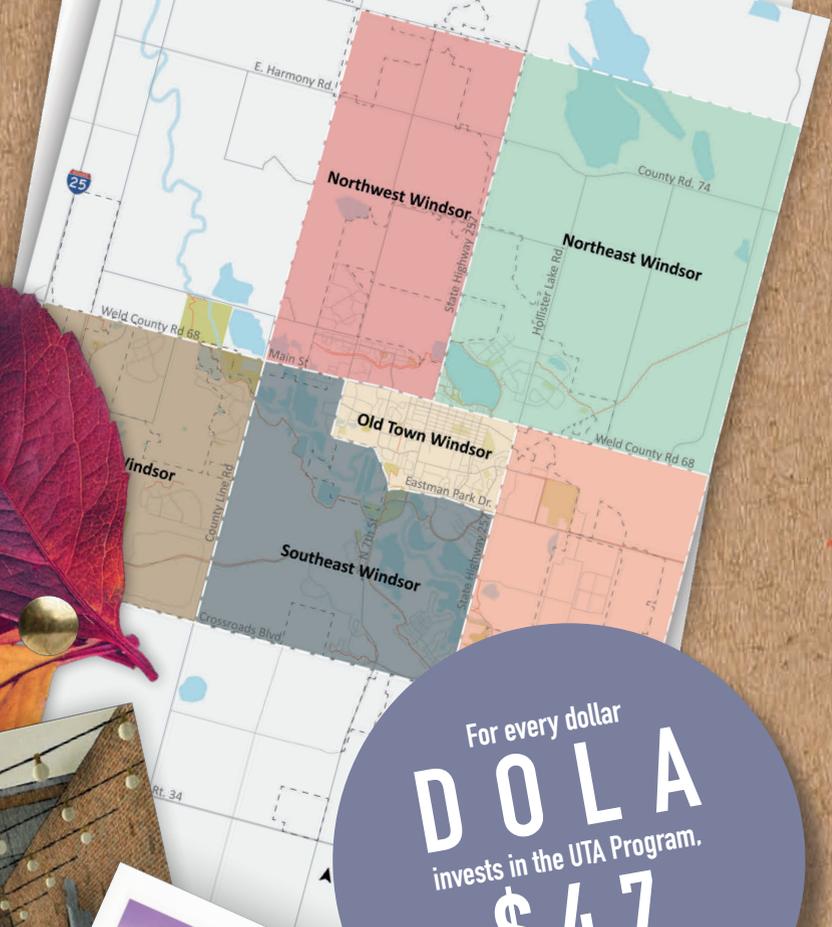
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How this works...

We make it easy...need a new park, a bike trail, or how about a new town hall, or recreation center? Maybe a streetscape or a fire station? Some wayfinding signage, or a library? The one word we try to never say is "no". We invite you to reach out to the DOLA manager in your region and let them know about the project you are considering. They will direct us to you...or you can contact us directly and we will run it by the DOLA manager...either way, we work in concert, assessing our resources and the various ways the project could be funded and then we meet to discuss your ideas, introduce our students to you and the area you live in, and then go about our work. For a minimum investment you will get maximum effort.



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



The Fox Theatre in Walsenburg Team!

Colorado Center for Community Development

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