

GOVERNMENT

Au Revoir to a Colorado Channel Legend!



After nine incredible legislative sessions, we are bidding a bittersweet farewell to an absolute bedrock of our control room. Since 2018, she has been the heartbeat of The Colorado Channel, ensuring that the legislative floor work of the House and Senate makes it from the microphones to the masses.

Now, she is trading late-night filibusters for late-night croissants as she retires to France! But before she packs her bags, we have to look back at the incredible legacy she leaves behind.

The Master of Operations (and Intern Bootcamp) If you were a new (or existing for that matter) staff member or intern stepping into the control room over the last nine sessions, you know Catherine has expectations. Some might say rigorous expectations. She demanded we all strive for excellence, ensuring absolute continuity of operations. The Channel never skipped a beat because she wouldn't let it.



The Bipartisan Knitter-in-Chief Despite the tough-love training and high expectations, she single-handedly made the office a more comfortable, welcoming place for everyone. She opened vital lines of communication with legislative staff, breaking down walls while simultaneously knitting her way through hours of floor debate. She produced countless baby blankets for expecting members on both sides of the aisle. After all, if there's one thing that bridges the partisan divide, it's high-quality yarn and a perfectly executed purl stitch.



A Guardian of the Process When the clock struck midnight and the legislative body was still debating, she didn't just stick it out, she lived it for it. She was right there in the trenches with the staff and the lawmakers, fueled by Diet Doctor Pepper and a profound respect for the institution. She truly believed in the legislative process, taking her role as a steward of the official public records incredibly seriously. Democracy was happening, and she made sure it was captured perfectly.



So, to our favorite control room maestro: Your legacy is institutional. Thank you for your dedication, your uncompromising standards, and your cozy blankets. We will miss you in the control room, but we couldn't be happier for your next great adventure.

Félicitations pour ta retraite. Eat plenty of cheese, drink wonderful wine, and enjoy every moment in France!

Thank You 2026 Colorado Channel Intern



The team at the Colorado Channel would like to extend a sincere thank you to our outstanding intern, **Christen Aldridge**, for her dedication, professionalism, and positive impact during her time with us. We are grateful for Christen's time, energy, and commitment, and we wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

"My time at the Colorado Channel has been an exciting and educational experience. I've learned so much about local politics and gained confidence that I'll carry with me into the future."

Pitkin County, CO on Open.Media

Pitkin County is located in the heart of Colorado's central Rocky Mountains, with its county seat in Aspen. Established in 1881 during Colorado's silver mining boom, the county was named after Frederick Walker Pitkin, who served as governor from 1879 to 1883. Early prosperity was driven by silver extraction, but the collapse of silver prices in the 1890s led to a period of decline. The region later reinvented itself in the mid-20th century as a world-renowned destination for skiing, tourism, and outdoor recreation. Today, Pitkin County is known for its dramatic alpine landscapes, including parts of the Elk Mountains and iconic natural features like the nearby Maroon Bells.



Maroon Bells in Pitkin County

Pitkin County is internationally recognized for its outdoor recreation and cultural offerings. Maroon Bells draws visitors year-round for hiking, photography, and scenic views. They are often cited as one of the most photographed mountain ranges in North America. The White River National Forest provides extensive opportunities for skiing, mountain biking, and backcountry exploration. In Aspen, visitors can experience world-class ski resorts, arts institutions like the Aspen Music Festival and School, and a vibrant downtown filled with galleries and historic sites. Together, these attractions make Pitkin County a hub for both recreation and cultural tourism.



Pitkin County Courthouse

Pitkin County operates under a Board of County Commissioners system and is widely recognized for its commitment to transparent governance. Public meetings of the Board are held regularly and are accessible both in person and online, with livestreaming and archived video available to the public. Agendas, meeting packets, minutes, and supporting documents are published in advance through the county's official website, allowing residents and stakeholders to stay informed. The county also provides digital access to planning, environmental, and community development meetings, reinforcing participation across a geographically dispersed population. These practices align with Colorado's open meetings laws and demonstrate Pitkin County's emphasis on accountability, accessibility, and civic engagement.



Pitkin County seat Aspen

[Watch Pitkin County Public Meetings Live and On Demand](#)

Advocacy and Engagement

From Dial-Up to On-Demand Democracy: How Technology is Expanding Civic Engagement

Technology has a long history of becoming more powerful, more affordable, and more widely available over time, and the transformation of internet access is one of the clearest examples. Not long ago, high-speed internet was a luxury. Early broadband connections were expensive, unreliable, and limited to certain areas, while many households relied on slow dial-up connections that made streaming video nearly impossible. Today, that reality has completely shifted. High-speed internet is now accessible in homes, workplaces, and public spaces, and even more remarkably, it exists in the palm of our hands. Smartphones and widespread wireless networks have made it possible for people to access high-quality video content anytime, anywhere. What was once a technical challenge reserved for large institutions is now a standard expectation for everyday communication.



This evolution has major implications for civic engagement and government transparency. Just as streaming video has become commonplace in daily life, the public now expects the same level of access to their local government. Posting a meeting recording on YouTube is no longer the finish line, it's just the starting point. Today's technology allows municipalities, regardless of size, to go further by integrating platforms like Open.Media that transform passive viewing into active engagement. Residents can search within meetings, jump directly to agenda items, and access transcripts and translations that make content easier to understand and share. This shift empowers communities to engage more deeply with public decision-making, turning hours of video into accessible, actionable information. As technology continues to improve and expand, so does the opportunity for governments to strengthen trust, increase participation, and ensure that transparency is not just accessible, but truly usable for everyone.

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CAREER ENGINE



Our **Open Media Career Engine** is a service offered to Employers in the Media & Journalism sector to help you find and hire more diverse jobseekers. This program has helped over 40 employers in Colorado's Media & Journalism field hire POC jobseekers at more than the double the industry average. We help craft your job description to appeal to diverse applicants, post it to over 20 job boards proven to generate more diverse jobseekers, and manage the screening process so that even the smallest HR team can afford a broad and inclusive hiring process developed by industry leaders.

Email careers@openmediafoundation.org to explore how the OMCE can help you with your next hire.

Join an Open Media Committee
Fundraising Committee - Contact Tony Shawcross at tony@openmediafoundation.org

EVENTS



Lafayette Electronic Arts Festival
Tenth Anniversary 2026



Lafayette Electronic Arts Festival in May

[LEAF] is the Lafayette Electronic Arts Festival. It is a showcase of electronic and new media arts that bridges the classical music and traditional art worlds with contemporary electronic and emerging new media, including sonic and visual elements combined in new and novel ways.

Augurs Wand is a visual music duo (Mike Cassidy and Kristian North) from Montreal working with audio-controlled lasers.

Field Theory is an improvising electroacoustic chamber trio exploring the sonic intersections of acoustic instruments and electronic processing. Drawing inspiration from ambient music, free jazz, and classical traditions, the trio features Phil Panos on musical saw and electronics, Jess Garrett on violin and electronics, and Sarah Christiansen on flute and electronics.

Eliza and Izaiah Miller will perform Purification, a work originally developed after a Signal Culture artist residency. The live work incorporates real-time video processing and a mix of traditional instrumentation and electronic sound. Purification focuses on the beauty of familial bonds between blood relatives and chosen family.

[Visit LEAF Website](#)



Interwoven: Creating Community by Supporting Artistic Innovation in Textile Arts and Fashion on May 15

This inaugural symposium of the Avenir Institute of Textile Arts and Fashion features directors and curators from leading textile arts and fashion organizations who share a common thread of being community-driven innovators.

This event will be held in person at the Sharp Auditorium in the Hamilton Building. For those who can't attend in person, it will also be livestreamed online.

[Visit Denver Art Museum Website](#)

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