

BRECK CREATE PRESS RELEASE

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Breckenridge International Festival of Arts • Aug 11 – 20 **Community Events + Family Activities**

BIFA 2023 creates intersectionality between art, nature and creativity while offering a full menu of engaging family-friendly activities plus several opportunities for Breckenridge to come together as a community.

More Information visit breckcreate.org/bifa and view the [program guide](#)

Breckenridge, CO - The 2023 Breckenridge International Festival of Arts (BIFA) promises an unforgettable experience for locals and visitors alike. As one of the most anticipated events of the year, BIFA is proud to offer a series of exciting community events as well as engaging activities for youth and families. From Friday, August 11 through Sunday, August 20, the 2023 BIFA will captivate audiences with a diverse range of performances, installations, workshops and interactive experiences that combine multiple art mediums with nature.

BIFA is a 10-day celebration of Adventure + Creativity + Play. Local, national and international artist talent and organizations, both traditional and unconventional, mingle together to create an eclectic mix of music, dance, film, visual arts and family entertainment. Throughout the festival, Breck Create produces dozens of events across the Town of Breckenridge's cultural venues, public parks, trails and open spaces. BIFA debuted in 2015 and, outside of a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, has since been held annually. BIFA aims to create a nexus between art, community, innovation and environmentalism.

“BIFA underscores our belief that art is accessible to everyone,” says Tamara Nuzzaci Park, president and CEO of Breck Create. “The programming goal behind BIFA is to create community experiences that feel like found treasure. All across town, residents and guests will stumble upon art within nature through interactive experiences that are by and large free. BIFA helps make Breckenridge a truly unique and wondrous place.”

The diversity of the festival's programming this year is electrifying and provides ample opportunities for community engagement and family fun. Read on to find more about these experiences. BIFA also features ticketed performances at the Riverwalk Center that include the extreme physicality of BIFA 2023 resident artist Circa contemporary circus, the musical theater of *Schick Machine* performed by world-renowned virtuosic percussionist Stephen Schick, *Exuberant Moderns: A Gallery Guide to the Modern Concert Stage* (written, narrated and conducted by Schick and produced in partnership with the National Repertory Orchestra) and a performance by legendary humorist Fran Lebowitz. For more information regarding all of these performances and to purchase tickets, please visit breckcreate.org/bifa.

BIFA 2023 Exhibiting Artist Sharon Louden

Art Exhibitions: [Barriers to Entry](#), *Seen and Heard*, *The Bridge* • Free • Old Masonic Hall • Aug 11 – 20
Workshop: [Glowtown: Youth Workshop](#) • \$15 • Ages 7+ • South Branch Library • 1:30 p.m. Aug 19 + 20
Art + Performance: [Wonder Hour](#) • \$15 • Ages 21+ • Old Masonic Hall • 6 p.m. Aug 14 – 18

BIFA 2023 welcomes exhibiting artist Sharon Louden. Louden, who is based in New York, creates abstract installations, and her piece *Barriers to Entry* will be on view at Old Masonic Hall. BIFA attendees can enjoy music paired with Louden's work during the Wonder Hour series. Louden will give a public artist talk during the August 17th Wonder Hour event. She also will offer a workshop for kids and their parents called Glowtown that develops individual creativity and teamwork within a community-building environment.

Barriers to Entry is a site-specific, abstract installation that uses multiple media including vinyl, raw aluminum and oil-on-paper to shape colorful and reflective forms that symbolize spaces made difficult to enter, especially to women and other underrepresented individuals in mountain communities. This installation is free to view at Old Masonic Hall.

At night, two digital works by Louden, *Seen and Heard* and *The Bridge*, project on the south facing wall of Old Masonic Hall. Animations of Louden's mark making, combined with expressions of gratitude, connect the installation's exterior and interior and convert the physical barrier of a building wall into a meditation on collaborative art-making.

Glowtown: Youth Workshop with Sharon Louden is an art-making workshop that develops individual creativity and teamwork within a community-building environment. By using every-day, simple, cast-away materials, along with the magic of glow-in-the-dark paint, participants come together to invent a fantastical world that never existed before.

The Wonder Hour series invites festival attendees to join festival artists for 30-minute talks and performances in an intimate setting at Old Masonic Hall surrounded by Louden's exhibition, *Barriers to Entry*. Participating festival artists include the National Repertory Orchestra (NRO) Chamber Ensemble (concert), Sharon Louden (artist talk) and Chirp! (concert). Each evening features one of the three festival artists previously mentioned.

BIFA 2023 Exhibiting Artist Camille Hoffman

[Art + Nature](#): Trail Mix featuring *Soft Gaze* by Camille Hoffman • Free • Accessible via the Illinois Creek, Iowa Hill and Moonstone trails • Aug 11 – Sept 4

[Artist Talk](#): Camille Hoffman discusses *Soft Gaze* • Free with Registration • Moonstone Trail • 11 a.m. Aug 11

[Wellness + Art](#): Guided Mindfulness Hikes • Free with Registration • 10 a.m. Aug 11 at the Moonstone Trail • 9 a.m. Aug 13 + 10 a.m. Aug 14 at the Illinois Creek Trail

Camille Hoffman, also currently based in New York, comes to BIFA as the featured Trail Mix artist. Trail Mix combines art and nature whereby hikers follow a trail to an art installation, in this case, Hoffman's *Soft Gaze*, accessible via the Illinois Creek, Iowa Hill and Moonstone trails August 11th through September 4th. Guided Mindfulness Hikes that journey to *Soft Gaze* will be offered as part of BIFA and were developed in partnership with Building Hope, a nonprofit that promotes emotional and mental health.

Soft Gaze reimagines gold as an ancestral symbol for interdimensional vision and protection. It is a meditation on the sacred nature of this precious metal, as well as the notorious social and environmental impact that greed from gold mining has had on Indigenous lands of the Philippines and Colorado. *Soft Gaze* invites an eye-to-eye meeting between forest and humans, as well as an offering of appreciation and protection from unnatural cycles of destruction.

BIFA 2023 Chirp! featuring The Waulking Trio

[Music + Art + Nature](#): Illinois Creek Trail • Free with Registration • 10 a.m. + 1 p.m. Aug 19 + 20

Chirp! is a musical installation and vocal soundscape performed along the Illinois Creek Trail to *Soft Gaze*. The Waulking Trio reimagines traditional folk music from Scotland, Ireland and the Balkans, performing their own contemporary compositions using vocal harmonies, fiddle, cello, banjo and guitar. The trio features Joy Adams, Kali Paguirigan and Enion Pelta-Tiller—classically trained Front Range musicians whose shared love of exploring musical genres outside of classical brought them together.

Concrete Jams: Skateboarding + Jazz featuring pro skater Jordyn Barratt, Many Colors, DJ Mikey Thunder

[Music + Sports](#): Concrete Jams • Free • Breckenridge Skate Park • 10 a.m. Aug 12 + 13

Created in partnership with Breckenridge Recreation Center, Concrete Jams allows BIFA to bring together athletes and artists in an unexpected way by mixing skateboarding with jazz. Essential to both disciplines is the ability to find an individual groove. Therefore, this 360-degree immersion showcases the art of improvisation in both music and sport, offering a new kind of performance art: the bowl as a bandstand.

Concrete Jams begins with an open skate featuring music by DJ Mikey Thunder. Next, nationally celebrated professional skateboarder Jordyn Barratt and friends will demo and improvise to live music by Denver-based band Manycolors. Afterward, the community is invited to join in for an open-skate party. This event will happen rain or shine, however if conditions are poor, the safety of the athletes will

be the top priority. Barratt plans to arrive in Breckenridge early to participate in Breckenridge Recreation Center's skate camps; contact [Breckenridge Recreation Center](#) for more details.

Barratt is a member of the inaugural US Skateboarding National Team and competed at the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. She has her sights set on the Paris 2024 Olympics and has recently been elected to the Team USA Skateboarding Athlete Advisory Council. Manycolors is a four piece band that opens up new musical space by using a hip-hop format to explore chords and motifs usually reserved for jazz. The band uses lush and spacious lofi soundscapes that surround the listener with layers of subtle textures and heavy backbeats. Mikey Thunder spins a genre-blending, bass-driven party rock, fusing banging electronic beats with funk, hip-hop, soul, jazz, blues, swing, reggae and more.

***Schick Machine* Featuring Virtuoso Percussionist Steven Schick**

[Music + Theater](#): Family Concert • Free with Registration • Riverwalk Center • 11 a.m. Aug 16

In *Schick Machine*, author, conductor and composer Steven Schick plays a musician/percussionist who, because of his obsessive focus on sound, endlessly collects the many objects and instruments that carry the vivid memories of his lifetime of sonic experiences. He has become weighed down by these objects and memories and, now facing eviction from his warehouse that is being razed in the name of progress, he must choose just a few objects, sounds and memories to take with him, all the while exploring a visually compelling world of mechanical devices, invented instruments and seemingly infinite sonic possibilities.

Performances of *Schick Machine* will take place on Wednesday, August 16th at 11 a.m. and at 7:30 p.m. at the Riverwalk Center, with the earlier performance geared toward families and free with registration. This special 50-minute presentation provides young people the opportunity to see, hear, touch and literally enter the magical world of the Schick Machine. *Schick Machine* has been generously underwritten by Paul Finkel and Barbara Strauss. Additionally, children ages five to 10 can register to participate in the a.m. [BIFA Art Camp](#) where campers will create personalized percussion instruments and then attend the *Schick Machine* family concert. NRO member Dan Howard will lead the campers in instrument creation and teach them how to create basic rhythmic sounds.

BIFA 2023 AirStage Summer Après

[Art + Music + Community](#): ft. Manycolors • Free • Ridge Street Arts Square • 4 p.m. Aug 11

[Art + Music + Community](#): ft. Circa contemporary circus + DJ Between Realms • Free • Ridge Street Arts Square • 4 p.m. Aug 18

Hike, bike or bus to the Breckenridge Arts District to enjoy outdoor drafts, crafts and BIFA performing artists on the AirStage. Bring a picnic blanket, grab dinner to go and let the kids play on the lawn while you catch up with friends and family. Well-behaved pups on leashes are welcome.

The AirStage is a mobile stage housed in the iconic shell of a 1975 AirStream Ambassador Travel Trailer. This authentic Breckenridge platform comes with all the bells and whistles to create a stellar mountain music experience, including "AirViz," a digital, audio reactive graphical backdrop that subtly moves to the music.

Artist-In-Resident Mary Robinson's community fiber-art project *Invitation* will be unveiled during BIFA—the AirStage Après events are a fantastic opportunity to see this piece, which challenges us to contemplate material waste and material appreciation. Throughout the summer, Robinson taught workshop participants how to repurpose fabric and scrap thread to create materials to be used in the project, including beads from repurposed paper and fabric, new fabric from scrap thread and yarn, raw-edged appliqué with repurposed fabric, and repurposed fabric that was then printed upon. The art installation visually reflects the natural surroundings and local community.

BIFA 2023 Classes, Camps, Workshops + Info

[Yoga + Music + Nature](#): Acoustic Flow • Riverwalk Center Lawn • Free with Registration • 8 a.m. Aug 11 - 20

[BIFA Art Camps](#): A.M. + P.M. camps available • Arts District Campus • Aug 14 – 16

[Youth Circus Workshop by Circa](#): Arts District Campus • Free with Registration • 11 a.m. Saturday, August 19

[Creative Classes](#): Topics, location, cost, date and time vary

Rounding out BIFA are Acoustic Flow (daily morning yoga + music in partnership with Blue Iguana Productions and Building Hope) as well as art camps and a youth circus workshop for kids plus a full week of art classes and workshops for folks of all ages.

BIFA Art Camps for ages five to 10 are wonderful opportunities to stoke young imaginations. Morning camps and afternoon camps will be offered August 14 through 16 and are taught by local and visiting artists. BIFA resident artist Circa contemporary circus will lead a workshop for youth ages eight to 18 that explores movement, improvisation and acrobatics.

Creative classes and workshops will be offered throughout the festival, such as Edible Foraging + Cooking, Mini Skateboards, Nature Collages, Mala Making, Drop-in Indigo Dying and Wildcrafted Cocktails. Visit the event calendar on breckcreate.org for more information and to register.

The BIFA Info + Craft Tent is located on the Blue River Plaza and will be open Saturday and Sunday, August 12 – 13 and August 19 – 20 from noon to 5 p.m. Stop by to pick up a daily schedule, to get questions answered and, of course, to create some art. The Blue River Plaza is located at 137 S. Main Street in downtown Breckenridge, right across the street from Old Masonic Hall. Tickets, registration instructions and more information for all of the festival offerings can be found at breckcreate.org/bifa.

About Breck Create: Breck Create aims to build a dynamic, year-round creative community in Breckenridge. The organization's mission is to deliver inspiring creative experiences that enrich the quality of life for all residents and quality of place for visitors. Breck Create supports and serves artists, creatives, cultural enthusiasts, visitors and the community at large by providing a year-round schedule of performances, exhibitions, screenings, art classes and workshops as well as other engagement opportunities.

The organization maintains, manages and operates the Town of Breckenridge's exceptional cultural facilities and also hosts arts-based events in public gathering spaces throughout Breckenridge. Breck Create's core attractions are the Riverwalk Center—a 750-seat, heated, indoor performance venue—and a lively Arts District campus of renovated historic structures that now function as studio spaces for art classes and workshops. These structures also include affordable rentals for local artists and visiting artist-in-residence participants. The Breckenridge Arts District is a certified district within the [Colorado Creative Industries](#) Creative Districts program.

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