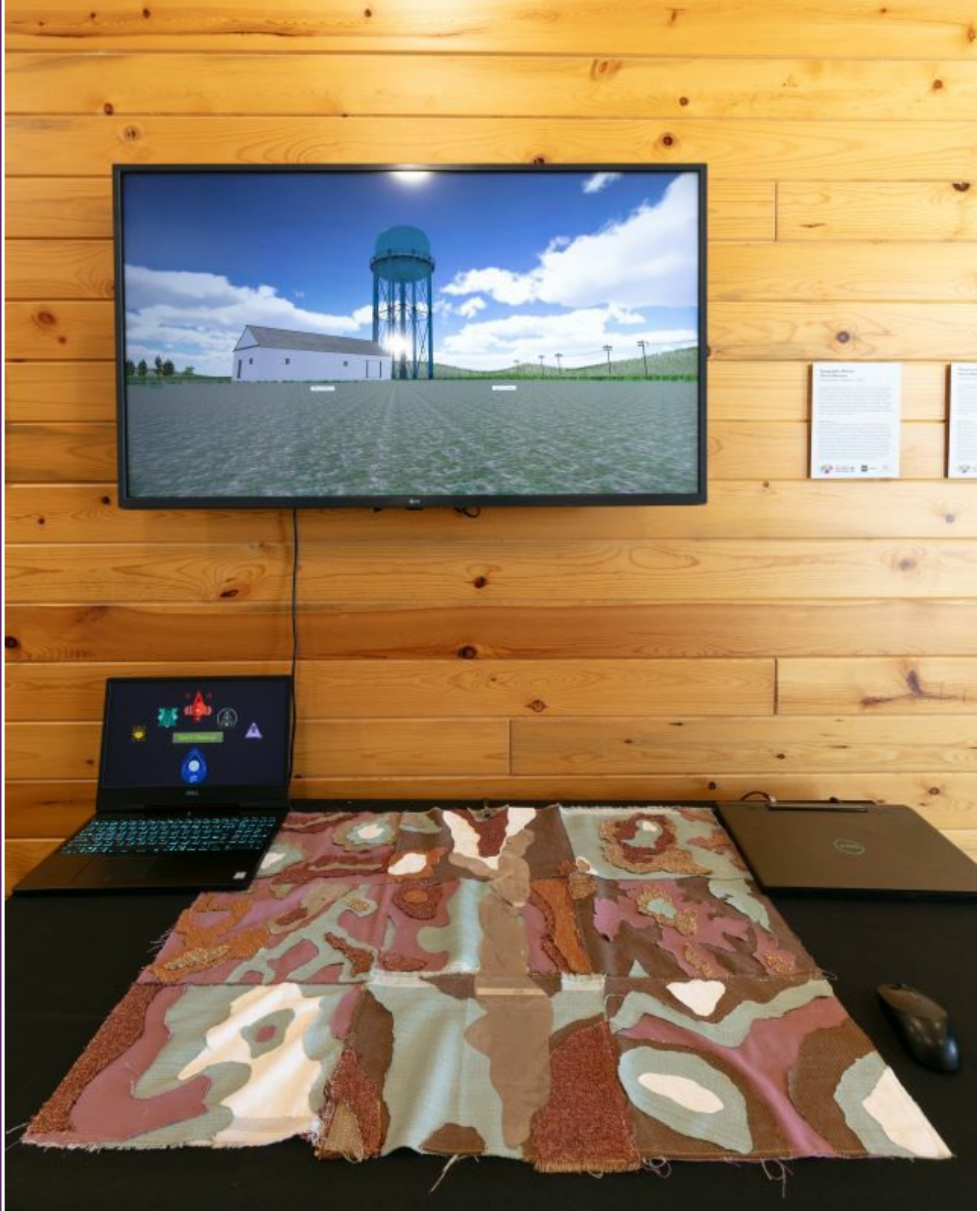




Contemporary Art and Libraries: A perfectly unexpected match



Installation image from BMoCA + Anythink Bennett installation, *Topographic Memory* by artist Cherish Marquez. Courtesy of Wes Magyar and BMoCA.

Kiah Butcher's curatorial career grew because of her commitment to community engagement. Placing contemporary art in unexpected places, like libraries, is the perfect venue to connect Colorado artists to different communities across the front range.

"For years, we have been doing art education in libraries, and the museum decided to expand on the outreach education programs in libraries with dynamic exhibitions that spark curiosity," Butcher said.

In conjunction with BMoCA's downtown Boulder museum space, contemporary art is blooming in libraries across Adams, Arapahoe and the newest partner, Jefferson county library districts.

In the small town of Bennett, in Adams County's farthest eastern reach, BMoCA offers contemporary art that is informed by the community and its residents to explore ideas about their own town and landscape. As part of her project, featured artist Cherish Marquez held two community workshops where participants built a simple video game using Unreal Engine, a 3D computer graphic engine. Participants created their own virtual landscape, while telling stories of Bennett which were embedded in the final game design.

A topographic map was made from recycled fabric, and conductive material, which allowed users to move through the digital community model created during the workshop.

Across the street from the library sits Bennett School District (including the elementary, middle and high school). Melinda Laz, BMoCA Educational Outreach Manager worked to bring these unique art experiences to classrooms and make connections to the art in the library.

"Libraries have a unique connection to community," Laz said. "Students learned about the artwork and artist directly in their classrooms and then could walk across the street to engage even more deeply with the work."

[Read more at SCFD.](#)



We fund culture.

Thanks to the voters and residents of the seven-county metro area, [SCFD](#) has come a long way in its more than 30 years of existence. SCFD is the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District, a tax collected and distributed to more than 300 cultural organizations in our seven-county Denver metro region including Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas and Jefferson counties. Just one penny on every \$10 spent in the district creates vibrancy for us individually and collectively.



21,297
volunteers
in arts and culture

*2021 data

SCFD

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Engage with Us

An SCFD thanks to an outstanding advocate for arts and culture

A heartfelt thank you to Deborah Malden, who has represented Boulder County on the SCFD Board of Directors for six years, as she transitions off the board. Her commitment to supporting and furthering the arts in her own community and across our state is a gift to each of us who values arts and culture in our lives. Among her many accomplishments she is a co-founder of Create Boulder, a past member of the Boulder County Cultural Council, a board member of multiple non-profit organizations including 3rd Law Dance/Theater, where she is a current director, and The Dairy ARTS Center where she also later served as interim executive director. She helped launch Boulder Arts Week in 2014 and continues to serve on the City's Boulder Arts Week advisory group each year. She served on the steering committee for the development of the City's nine-year Community Cultural Plan in 2015. Deborah led the Boulder Chamber's advocacy efforts in support of the City of Boulder's first voter-approved Community Culture and Safety Tax. She later served on the City's advisory committee that recommended capital projects for funding upon renewal of the Tax in 2017.



Don't miss Boulder Arts Week

The City of Boulder is the home to thousands of artists and over 140 arts organizations. In fact, Boulder has the nation's third-highest concentration of artists, right behind Los Angeles and Santa Fe, according to the National

Endowment for the Arts. This year, the Boulder's arts community will demonstrate the reason they are nationally ranked with an incredible array of cultural experiences from murals and installations, to music and dance. Join Boulder's only large-scale, inclusive celebration of arts and cultural offerings at the 10th Annual Boulder Arts Week from April 7 through April 15. In 2023, Boulder Arts Week will feature digital and in-person arts and culture offerings, including art walks, exhibitions, performances, dance, music, theater, public art, lectures, readings, and workshops at venues throughout the city. [You can learn more.](#)

SCFD Board of Directors news

The SCFD is governed by a board of directors with representation from district member counties Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, and Jefferson. The board oversees district funding and ensures the district is running the way voters intended. The board meets eight times a year and all meetings are open to the public.

- The next meeting of the SCFD Board of Directors will occur virtually at 1 p.m. on April 27. [Get information for attending meetings and see the full calendar of 2023 board meetings.](#)