At Margulf, we have the unique opportunity to be in conversation and community with talented and passionate leaders throughout Colorado and beyond. We strongly believe we don’t have the answers. Instead, we partner with leaders who are genuinely in touch with the assets and opportunities in their communities and who are designing innovative approaches to tackle the challenges their communities face. We’re excited to share a glimpse of our evolving approach to transforming the education landscape for all kids and to highlight some of our phenomenal grantees.

Liz
The Margulf Foundation has been dedicated to supporting innovative approaches to education in Colorado and beyond since 1977. Our work is grounded in the understanding that the American education system wasn’t designed to meet the needs of all students when it was formed 150 years ago.

Today’s students live in a world that looks dramatically different: our country is more racially diverse, technology is reshaping almost every aspect of our lives, and we’ve learned an enormous amount about how kids learn. The education system, with few exceptions, hasn’t caught up to these realities. If all children are going to reach their full potential in this rapidly changing world, the landscape of education must change. In the past couple of years, Margulf honed in on a clear vision and mission for how we hope to contribute to the community.

We believe that through working with community-based leaders who are tapped into the assets and needs of students and families, we can truly provide the educational opportunities necessary for all kids to be successful. Through their direct impact on students or on the people who are creating and redefining learning spaces, Margulf’s grantees are truly transforming the educational experience for students, families and educators throughout Colorado and beyond.
2019 GRANTEES

The grantees we partner with value students holistically, think innovatively and are incredibly reflective. We admire and value the impact our grantees are making in Colorado and beyond.

Below are some of the phenomenal organizations Margulf has the honor of supporting.
1 4.0
2 American Indian Academy of Denver
3 Aurora Community School
4 Camelback Ventures
5 Collaborative Healing Initiative within Communities
6 Colorado Education Initiative
7 EdLoC
8 Empower Community High School
9 GripTape
10 HadaNôu Collective
11 Launch Network
12 Mi Casa Resource Center
13 Moonshot edVentures
14 New Legacy Charter School
15 NewSchools Venture Fund
16 Pahara Institute
17 ReSchool Colorado
18 RISE Colorado
19 Roaring Fork School District
20 Surge Institute
21 The Equity Lab
22 Transcend Education
23 Transforming Education
24 Visions Performing Arts College Prep
25 Vocal Coalition
26 We Are FARMily
27 Youth Empowerment Broadcasting Organization

New Orleans, LA
Denver, CO
Aurora, CO
New Orleans, LA
Denver, CO
Denver, CO
Los Angeles, CA
Aurora, CO
New York, NY
Denver, CO
Denver, CO
Denver, CO
Aurora, CO
Oakland, CA
Walnut, CA
Denver, CO
Aurora, CO
Glenwood Springs, CO
Chicago, IL
Washington, DC
Hastings-on-Hudson, NY
Boston, MA
Aurora, CO
Denver, CO
Pueblo, CO
Denver, CO
WHAT WE STAND FOR
OUR VISION:
Transforming the education landscape by expanding learning opportunities for all children

OUR MISSION:
To ignite a passion for learning in diverse education environments by partnering with communities engaged in creative design

OUR PRINCIPLES:
• Leadership We trust and support experienced leaders who share our passion and who have the knowledge and potential to create transformational experiences for learners.

• Innovation We look for creative opportunities that push the boundaries of what others believe is possible.

• Holistic We support partners who nurture students into well-rounded human beings, preparing them to contribute positively to the world.

• Community We actively partner with and build community through our giving.

• Reflection We learn from everything we do and - while we do not seek it out - we expect and value failure as one of our greatest learning opportunities.
PRIORITIES

WHAT WE INVEST IN
INVESTMENT AREAS
Most of Margulf’s grantees are working in two areas:

LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS
Innovative educational spaces, both in and outside of school time, that help all children grow into well-rounded individuals capable of making a positive impact in society

TALENT
All of the human resources necessary to deliver the learning experiences students deserve, including efforts to expand current definitions of what it means to be an educator

INNOVATION STAGES
Margulf grantees are in all stages of developing their ideas, including:

DESIGN
Incubating and developing new ideas before moving into broad implementation

PILOT IMPLEMENTATION
Early testing of innovations with potential

SCALING AND SUSTAINING
Established, ongoing work to transform the education landscape
HOW WE’VE GROWN
IT ALL BEGAN...

1977
Margulf Foundation founded by Martin (Marty) Flug

2010
Liz Aybar Conti joins Margulf as Executive Director

2015
Current Board of Directors formed

2017
Margulf completes strategic plan with clear mission, vision and investment areas

2018
First grants under new investment areas awarded
Two additional staff members join the team

2019 & BEYOND
Margulf partners with dozens of transformational education leaders in Colorado & beyond

MARGULF STAFF MEMBERS

Liz Aybar Conti
Executive Director

Sonya Marques-Correia
Director of Finance & Administration

Logan Boon
Grants Lead
We learned early in our piloting that we had to disrupt the hierarchy of human value in order to achieve a safe, affirming and inclusive learning environment. Much of schooling revolves around adults telling youth how to talk, think and act. But if we are saying to young people that they are the future and are agents of change, then we must create conditions in our schools, programs and communities that help them drive their own learning experiences. We must see youth as powerful decision makers who are capable of directing their own lives and helping those around them to learn what it means to be hopeful, audacious citizens living in the 21st century.

- Cory Minkah Montalvo  
Founder & Chief Plug, YEBO

Capstone projects give students the opportunity to be in the driver’s seat. For many students, this is the first time they are asked what they’re interested in; what they want to know; and how they’re going to figure it out. This experience allows students to stretch their learning and build essential skills to succeed after high school.

- Rob Stein  
Superintendent, Roaring Fork School District

4.0 has created a community that supports, encourages and passionately believes in the possibility of changing education through each person they work with. Their support has been a catalyst for the creation of my organization (Project Peaceful Warriors) and integral to my development as an entrepreneur and leader.

- Chelsea Hylton  
Fellow, 4.0