FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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YAM’S SUMMERFAIR MOVED TO THE CLOUD AND
BSOC’S SYMPHONY IN THE PARK CANCELED

[Billings Montana]

Dear Arts Enthusiasts,

We all know how excited everyone was when we announced the major collaboration with Summerfair and Symphony in the Park for 2020, and it is with great sadness that we share the difficult decision made by both the staff of the Yellowstone Art Museum and the staff of the Billings Symphony Orchestra and Chorale to modify these community-favorite events.

When we announced the joining of events, we never anticipated having to maneuver through a pandemic and social distancing. These events were scheduled to complement each other from June 26 – 28, 2020 at Pioneer Park. The YAM has chosen to move Summerfair from the Park to the “Cloud.” Throughout the dates of June 22 through June 28, the YAM will be hosting an online Summerfair, featuring both national and local artists. For more information please visit: https://www.artmuseum.org/special-events/summerfair/. To keep with the spirit arts, craft, food, and fun, the YAM will also be inviting food trucks to park onsite at the YAM, so that you may experience the culinary treats or the area. The YAM will also be partnering with the Billings Symphony to bring you music on the Summerfair website for your virtual listening pleasure.

The Billings Symphony Orchestra & Chorale unfortunately has made the difficult decision to cancel Symphony in the Park this year. The safety and health of our patrons, musicians and community is our main concern at this time. In a gathering
the size of Symphony in the Park, we feel we would not be able to adhere to social distancing practices and keep everyone safe. In the meantime, the BSOC invites you to visit billingssymphony.org and listen to our Connection Concerts, Symphony Favorites, and Billings Symphony Live.

This decision was made after weeks of careful deliberation between both organizations’ board, staff, and community leaders about the challenging and evolving impacts of COVID-19. Both have been working with local and state authorities in order to make this difficult decision. As dual events that rely on the regional and national travel of over 100 artists and musicians and hosts over 10,000 people over three days, we are confident this is the best decision to ensure the safety of you and our community during this time of social distancing.

We look forward to our future collaboration next year, when we plan to celebrate these amazing events of visual and performing arts with you all once again at Pioneer Park.

We hope you and your loved ones are staying healthy and hopeful. Thank you for your constant and steadfast support.

Bryan W. Knicely, Executive Director, Yellowstone Art Museum
Ignacio Barron Viela, Executive Director, Billings Symphony Orchestra and Chorale