



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Generous Gift Paves Way for an Interactive Discovery Gallery

COLORADO SPRINGS (April 26, 2016) — The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center (FAC) is pleased to announce it has received a major gift of \$1,000,000 to develop and launch a 21st-century interactive museum gallery space. The FAC will immediately begin the process of researching, planning, designing, developing, and ultimately launching the new exhibit. The gallery in which the new discovery installation will live will be named for the generous couple whose gift is making it possible, **Catharine and Bart Holaday**.

“We’re thrilled to embark upon this journey with the Fine Arts Center. The opportunity to transform the museum experience for the Colorado Springs community is a really exciting one,” said Cathy Holaday.

“Cathy is really passionate about the Fine Arts Center, and we want to be a part of ensuring it has a long and successful future,” said Bart Holaday. “It’s important to us that we invest in progressive, unique ways to enrich the cultural offerings and identity of Colorado Springs.”

The vision for the space combines cutting-edge digital technology with hands-on experiential activities to complement the FAC’s museum programming in ways that help make art and art history come alive. “This gift brings to reality an identified priority that has existed for years, but one which the FAC has lacked the resources to make a reality,” said Curator, Joy Armstrong. “We’re ecstatic to see this come to fruition.”

“The Holadays and the FAC share a vision for the organization and for the Colorado Springs community that includes exceptional arts experiences and, in particular, activities that are accessible and relevant to a growing and changing population,” said President and CEO, David Dahlin. “We are indebted to Bart and Cathy for investing in a strong future for the FAC. Whether the proposed merger with Colorado College moves forward or not, we will continue to need strong community involvement to create exceptional levels of programming.”

A definitive timeline for the completion of the project has not yet been developed, but the Fine Arts Center anticipates opening the redesigned space in late spring of 2017.

Fine Arts Center

The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center’s (FAC) story began in 1919 as the Broadmoor Art Academy (BAA). After the Great Depression hit in 1929, the BAA looked at diversifying further, expanding into an entire arts district under one roof. And that’s how the FAC came to be, as it is known today. The name was changed to the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center and an expansive building was created to house a multi-disciplinary center for the arts. The FAC, a privately-funded, nonprofit organization, opened the doors on the exciting architectural treasure in 1936 as an art museum, professional theatre company, and arts education center. The FAC building is considered an architectural landmark in the Rocky Mountain region, designed by John Gaw Meem, and is listed on the National Register for Historical Places. For information, visit csfineartscenter.org.

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