



COLORADO SPRINGS

Fine Arts Center

at COLORADO COLLEGE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fine Arts Center announces free school tours program for grades Pre-K-12

Colorado Springs (Dec. 11, 2017) — In an effort to provide greater access to school groups and maximize learning opportunities, the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College (FAC) is proud to announce free school tours for grades Pre-K-12. This is another new offering to come out of the implementation of the FAC/CC strategic plan titled “Excellence, Access and Collaboration.”

Beginning Jan. 2, 2018 the FAC’s free school tours program will enrich the minds and imaginations of students, with the ageless power of art, through a variety of tour options like “Visual Voyages” and “Art: the Poets’ Muse” for school groups of all ages, sizes and abilities.

For decades, the FAC has been providing museum gallery tours led by a corps of trained, volunteer docents; they focus on both special exhibitions as well as the permanent collection galleries.

The goal of the free school tours program is to reduce barriers to participation and make it possible for a significant number of area youth to have the opportunity to visit the museum. The FAC is providing more ways for students to understand the artwork through interactive experiences, discussion and technology, as well as increasing the relevance of the collections for teachers by aligning visits to 21st century skills and Common Core standards in addition to established standards.

The FAC reached out to teachers to determine the barriers to tours among local district educators and, according to the findings, the top two barriers cited are the cost of a tour per student and the cost of transportation. For these reasons, in addition to providing free school tours, the FAC will offer subsidized funding for bus transportation to Pre-K-12 public schools, thanks to generous underwriting support. Buses will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, as funds are limited. Title I schools will receive total reimbursement for bus transportation. All non-Title I schools will receive reimbursement up to 50 percent of the cost of transportation, while funds are available.

Many underfunded school districts are scaling back arts education. At the same time, national cultural programs, like the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities, are at risk of losing federal funding. As a result, the FAC is dedicated to fostering experimentation, growth, and a sense of shared community by ensuring that the arts are a part of the life experience of children in our community.

According to a 2013 study by the Arts Education Partnership, “arts instruction and arts integrated instruction — lessons teaching skills and content of an art and non-art subject in tandem — engage students and increase learning and achievement. Youth arts education prepares students for success by boosting skills such as literacy, mathematics, critical thinking, collaboration and communication, and even community building and civic engagement.” Read

the full study at www.aep-arts.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Preparing-Students-for-the-Next-America-FINAL.pdf.

“This initiative for creating greater access to the museum gives school groups the opportunity to integrate art and learning without financial obligation,” said Kris Stanec, FAC Director of Museum Education. “We appreciate the donors whose generosity increases the chance that every student will experience the connections between art, themselves and what they’re learning in school. We hope that all children living in Colorado Springs will be able to say that they want to visit more museums and see more of the world through the arts.”

To view all tour options, FAQs and fill out the tour inquiry form online, visit <https://www.csfineartscenter.org/visit/tours/school/>.

This new initiative is an additional offering following the well-received *Fourth Grade Passport to the Arts* program which was announced on Sept. 26, 2017. The FAC has already issued over 500 *Passport to the Arts* memberships to fourth grade families and those numbers continue to rise each week. For more information, FAQs and to register for the *Passport to the Arts* program, visit <https://www.csfineartscenter.org/visit/tours/passport-to-the-arts/>.

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College

The story of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College (FAC) begins with the founding of the Broadmoor Art Academy by Julie and Spencer Penrose in 1919. During the Great Depression, three dedicated philanthropists – Julie Penrose, Alice Bemis Taylor, and Elizabeth Sage Hare – envisioned expanding the Broadmoor Art Academy into an entire arts district under one roof. The FAC changed its name, built a grand building, and opened as the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center in 1936. In August 2016, the FAC announced an historic alliance with Colorado College and on July 1, 2017, became the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College. The FAC is deeply rooted in the legacy of its founders, who possessed bold visions, a deep passion for the arts, and dedication to the Colorado Springs community. The FAC honors this legacy and spirit today by providing innovative, educational, and multidisciplinary arts experiences designed to elevate the individual spirit and inspire community vitality, building on its history as a unique cultural pillar of the Pikes Peak region. For more information, visit www.coloradocollege.edu/fac

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