



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Colorado State Historical Fund Awards Grant to the FAC

COLORADO SPRINGS (**March 8, 2016**) — The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center (FAC) is proud to announce that it has been awarded a grant of \$200,000 from the History Colorado State Historical Fund (SHF). This grant will allow the FAC to complete the *Exterior Restoration Project*, which is a significant phase in an ongoing effort to repair and address areas of concern related to the 80-year old historic building. This phase focuses on three main components: weatherproofing from the elements, the integrity of the exterior, and the safety of our patrons.

SHF grants are awarded through a competitive process. This grant signifies that the FAC values high-quality historic preservation and demonstrates strong public and community support. The *Exterior Restoration Project* will increase preservation awareness in Colorado Springs and throughout Colorado.

The project will focus on urgent repairs to the exterior of the building that must be addressed before further damage to the historic building is caused, or that are crucial because they present a safety issue to both patrons and the building. All aspects of the *Exterior Restoration Project* are related to the original historic building. The Fine Arts Center will match the grant with \$67,584 to address the following key areas:

- The Exterior Masonry Stairs
- The Stone Foundation Wall
- The Original Balconies: Deco Lounge, The Library, and El Pomar Corridor
- Exterior Doors and Windows
- The Café Balcony

The completion of this *Exterior Rehabilitation Project* will ensure long-term preservation of the exterior and provide a weather-tight shell in which to begin interior rehabilitation in the future.

“This preservation work is integral to our history as a unique cultural pillar of the Rocky Mountain region and our mission of providing innovative, educational and multi-dimensional arts experiences. As a significant destination for residents and tourists, this building is at the heart of our community, and contributes to the soul and distinct sense of place for this region,” said FAC President and CEO David Dahlin.

To follow the *Exterior Rehabilitation Project's* progress, please sign-up to receive [e-news](#) from the FAC and follow us on [Facebook](#).

History Colorado and the State Historical Fund

History Colorado comprises the Colorado state history museum as well as the Colorado State Historic Preservation Office. By mandate of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, every state must maintain a State Historic Preservation Office to monitor the treatment of historic resources, administer

preservation programs, and uphold historic preservation laws. In Colorado, this office is called the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

Fine Arts Center

The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center's story begins as a burgeoning art colony at the foot of Pikes Peak. Colorado Springs founder Gen. William Jackson Palmer had envisioned a city he nicknamed "Little London" — an oasis of culture and refinement amidst the untamed rugged landscape — and from 1919 to 1935, artists from around the country streamed in to make that happen. In the former home of philanthropists Julie and Spencer Penrose, they established 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 Fine Arts Center came to be. Julie Penrose donated the land. Alice Bemis Taylor donated her Southwestern art collection and library. Elizabeth Sage Hare volunteered to serve as the first President of the Board of Trustees. They enlisted acclaimed architect John Gaw Meem to design a cutting-edge arts center, one that wove elements of Pueblo structures and Native American iconography with Art Deco styles into a grand building that would later earn a spot on the [National Register of Historic Places](#).

Today, the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center remains a privately funded, non-profit art museum, performing arts theatre and arts education center. One of 16 charter members of the American Association of Museums, the FAC offers the best in the world of visual arts via its permanent collection and travelling exhibitions, as a TCG member theatre company, and arts education with the Bemis School of Art. For information, visit csfineartscenter.org.

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